

Second Sunday of Easter



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Now the whole group who believed in Jesus were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of anything. Everything they owned they shared in common. The apostles gave their testimony of Jesus Christ, and God's grace was on them all. There were no needy people there, for everyone who owned lands or houses sold them and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was given to anyone who needed it.
—Acts 4:32–35 adapted

The First Church

After Jesus died, his followers were so sad that they had trouble recognizing Jesus even when he appeared in front of them! But when they realized it Jesus, they had a celebration beyond just the parade of a king coming into a city. It was the celebration of a heavenly friend and savior who has power over everything on earth, including death, and loved us enough to give his life for ours. Jesus loves us enough to be with us always, in every situation and every tough time.

The early followers of Jesus joined together to celebrate Jesus and their new community. Share the story from Acts 4:32–35.

Discuss: The early church community was similar to a club. Kids understand that club members share a common interest or experience and agree to share group resources in common. What clubs do they belong to? Why do they join them? What resources do they share? Encourage kids to share the types of organizations or clubs they belong to: Scouts, Young Peacemakers, Roots and Shoots, etc. Have them imagine a “Jesus” club where everyone shares the peacefulness, love, and healing that Jesus shared—where everyone is welcome and no one is turned away. Even when the leader is not there, the members continue loving, caring, sharing, listening, and understanding. Read Psalm 133: 1. Challenge kids to think of their church and congregation like this, where they are a member who shares with, cares about, and always invites others into the “club.”

Sharing Sticks

Discuss: Would you be willing to share everything you own as members of the first church did? Brainstorm with kids some items that their family owns. Place a pile of large, flat sticks on a table or the floor. Invite kids to take as many sticks as they wish and write on them the name of an item, that they own, one per stick. After all sticks are written on, discuss: Who doesn't have a pet? Now, who has a pet to share? (Put sticks in the middle and discuss pets.) Who has a television we could all watch? Who has a rice cooker so we could eat rice? How about a wagon?

Continue sharing until all sticks are in the middle. Do we have enough things for the whole community? Would we have enough if new people joined us? Discuss: Sometimes people don't share because they don't want to lose what they have. But look! We have more than we had by ourselves. The early church put all their possessions together and all had enough to spare!



Sharing Snacks

Form a production line giving each kid a different ingredient to add to create a snack. Snacks can be ice cream sundaes, sandwiches, tossed or fruit salad, a hiking treat such as “gorp,” or anything with many ingredients. Emphasize that everyone's treat is richer and more delicious because everyone contributed their special ingredient.



How very good and pleasant it is to live together
in unity!
—*Psalm 133:1 adapted*

Draw some things you can share.

Describe how you feel when you share.