



9/25/11

Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37

Materials

Heart shaped construction paper and crayons

Opening Activity

Ask the children to tell you about a time when they had to share. Ask them to explain why they had to share and how it made them feel to share. Tell them today we are going to learn about when God's people began to share.

Acts 2:42-47 and 4:32-37

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Summarize the Passage

Once Jesus died, was resurrected, and sent his Holy Spirit to live inside the people who believed that He was their savior, the believers began to behave differently. They behaved like a big family. They began to eat together, pray together, worship God together, and share everything they owned. No one was needy and everyone shared everything with anyone who needed it. They even sold everything they owned and gave all their money to the other believers that needed it. God also allowed wonderful signs and wonders to be seen as a result. Because they responded to the Holy Spirit in this way many other people saw what the Holy Spirit was doing in their lives and began to believe in God too.

Question 1

Why did the believers begin to behave like a family?

When they believed that Jesus had saved them from their sins, God's Holy Spirit was sent to live inside all of his people. The Holy Spirit lives in your heart and allows you to love others in a way you have never loved before. The believers had come together because God's Holy Spirit was drawing them closer to one another.

Question 2

Why did other people begin to believe in God?

People who lived near God's people saw how His believers were living and knew it was because of God's love. God used the believers to show others how much He loved them. As a result, many people wanted to be believers too.

Question 3

Can we show people that are in our lives the love of God?

Yes. The Holy Spirit lives inside your heart if you believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins. When the Holy Spirit lives inside you, He helps you show love to others just like the believers we learned about today.

Passage Activity

Remind the children that Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we can have a relationship with God. When He died and was resurrected, He gave us God's own Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. This way we can never be apart from God! Have the



children share with the group ways we can show love to others. Give each child a heart shaped piece of construction paper. Allow them to illustrate how they can respond to the Holy Spirit and show love to someone in their life.

Wrap Up

Remind the children that God has given us a very special gift through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection called the Holy Spirit. Explain to them that Jesus lived the perfect life we couldn't live and that He died on the cross to forgive our sins because He loves us so much. If we accept God's promise our reward is the Holy Spirit and eternal life in heaven with God. Pray with the children and encourage them to talk to their parents if they have any questions about the Holy Spirit or what it means to believe in Jesus.