

Christians Care for One Another

Psalm 23; Acts 2:42-47

Tip for Children’s Ministry Directors

If you’re sending this lesson to families, send it as is! If you’re recording a video, either pause for the discussion questions or tell families to pause the video while they share.

Bold text is spoken aloud.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
Let’s Praise God!	Worship God along with music videos.	Living Inside Out https://vimeo.com/282558346 Be Strong in the Lord https://vimeo.com/226223871	
Bible Exploration	Biblical Behavior Pretend they’re in Bible times, pray together, and enjoy a snack to learn how early Christians treated one another.	Bible, 1 towel or piece of cloth per person, blankets, snack	
Weaving Faith Into Life	Friends in Need Act out ways Christians can spur one another toward love and good deeds.	Bibles	

► **Bible Point**

God’s family takes care of each other.
.....

Key Verse

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25).
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Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will learn how Christians can take care of one another.
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Let's Praise God!

Play these music videos and have kids sing and do the motions along with the videos.

Living Inside Out

<https://vimeo.com/282558346>

Be Strong in the Lord

<https://vimeo.com/226223871>

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Biblical Behavior

What You'll Do

Say: Today's Bible passage is all about the first Christians in the early church. After Jesus went back to heaven, his disciples began to teach people about Jesus. More and more people came to believe in Jesus, so the early church grew bigger and bigger. The Bible tells us how these first Christians in the early church treated one another, and we'll learn all about that in a minute.

But to help us learn the Bible passage, let's imagine we're Christians in the early church! Everyone will wrap a towel or cloth around their heads as headdresses. Place the blankets on the floor, and invite everyone to get comfortable.

Say: I'm going to read a short Bible passage, and we'll all act out what happens. Listen carefully, and I'll tell you what to do. Ready? Let's begin.

This Bible passage in Acts 2:42-47 is about the first Christians. It takes place not long after Jesus went back to heaven. Here's what the Bible says: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Ask:

- **What do you think the Bible means when it says the first Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching?**

Say: The apostles were teaching the people all about Jesus. Let's each share one thing we know about Jesus!

Everyone will say one thing they know about Jesus, such as "Jesus loves me" or "Jesus is God."

Say: The Bible also says the early Christians devoted themselves to fellowship. Having fellowship can be as simple as being nice and friendly to one another. Let's practice that right now.

If it can be done safely, everyone will shake hands with one another, saying hello and giving friendly greetings to each other as they shake hands. (Can't shake hands? Shake feet instead, by touching toes to each other's toes.) Then everyone will sit down again.

Say: The Bible says that the first Christians broke bread together and prayed together. That means they ate together and prayed together. Let's do that, too! First we'll pray, and then we'll enjoy a little snack together.

Lead a prayer, thanking God for giving us good food to eat and a loving family to share it with. Then everyone will share a snack as you continue.

Say: Now let's see what else the Bible says about how the first Christians treated one another. Listen to what the Bible says: "Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common."

Ask:

- **Tell about some things you've shared with other people.**

Say: The apostles had been given power by God, and they told everyone that their power came from God. That way, more and more people believed in Jesus. And all the believers in Jesus had everything in common, which means that they shared what they had with one another. Let's find things we can share!

Everyone will run to find something they can share, ideally something that requires a bit of sacrifice. Maybe a child will get out a favorite toy or some leftover candy. Or people could bring something that represents a talent to share, such as a book to represent reading to a younger sibling. Have everyone pile their items together.

Say: Let's find out more about how the early Christians treated one another. The Bible says: "Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people." Let's think about how we can help people in need.

Everyone will brainstorm together needs people have, especially needs specific to what's going on with COVID-19. Then everyone will brainstorm ways to help solve the needs.

Say: There's one more sentence in this Bible passage, and it's important. Here it is: "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

We're saved when we believe in Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, he forgives our sins, and we can live with him forever. That's great news! But to believe in Jesus, people need to hear about him first!

Ask:

- **Think of someone you can tell about Jesus. How can you tell that person, even if you can't leave the house?**

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **Which of the ways the early Christians cared for each other means the most to you, and why?**
- **How are those ways similar to or different from the ways you've seen people in our church care for each other?**

- What things can hold people back from giving care to other Christians?

Say: Well, now we know how the first Christians cared for one another. Our Bible passage tells us they cared a lot for each other. But what about today? It can be as true today as it was in the early church that ► **GOD'S FAMILY TAKES CARE OF EACH OTHER**. Let's practice treating each other with great Christian care right now.

Friends in Need

What You'll Do

Say: **Our Key Verse for today is found in Hebrews 10:24-25. Let's take a look at it.**

Have everyone find the passage in their Bibles, and read the verses aloud: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Everyone will repeat the Key Verse a few times.

Say: **This verse says not to stop meeting together with the church...but right now, we had to do that to keep everyone safe. That doesn't mean we can't still encourage each other!**

Each person will take turns thinking of a way to encourage people and then act them out—without speaking. Encourage them to think of ways they can care for others while they are at home because of COVID-19 pandemic and later after they will be back to their normal lives. You can suggest ideas like eating together at school or church, hanging encouraging notes in the window, praying with your family, comforting someone who's sad, praying for someone over video chat, and enjoying meeting together in different settings. Have those not acting try to guess what they're doing.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- **What does it mean to encourage people?**
- **Tell about a time someone encouraged you.**
- **How did you see encouragement in our Bible passage about the first Christians?**
- **What other ways can you learn from the first Christians about how to apply our Key Verse?**

Say: **We can all show love toward others, and we can all do good deeds. And as the Bible says, we can all encourage one another toward love and good deeds. Our Bible passages for today show us that ► GOD'S FAMILY TAKES CARE OF EACH OTHER. It's not always easy to care, but it gets easier with practice. And when others see that we love each other and are kind to each other, they will want to be a part of our group, too. They'll want to have what we have—Jesus' love!**