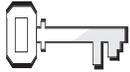


All for One; One for All



References

Acts 2:42-47;
The Acts of the Apostles,
pp. 70, 71



Memory Verse

“Serve wholeheartedly,
as if you were serving
the Lord, not people”
(Ephesians 6:7, NIV).

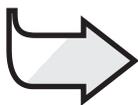


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God’s gifts
are to be used to
serve others.

Feel willing to do
whatever possible
to help others.

Respond by getting involved
in loving service each day.



The Message

God gives us gifts so
we can help others.

Monthly Theme

God gives us skills for service.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Following the day of Pentecost, the disciples continue to teach the people. As new believers join them, they eat together, pray together, and have all things in common. Many sell their possessions to help those in need. Miracles and wonders are done by the apostles, and the church continues to grow, with new believers added every day.

This is a lesson about service.

One of the skills God gives us for service is the ability to see other people’s needs and, at the same time, to see the resources we have to meet those needs. That ability testifies to the goodness of the Lord and wins people to God’s kingdom.

Teacher Enrichment

“This liberality on the part of the believers was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit. The converts to the gospel were ‘of one heart and of one soul.’ One common interest controlled them—the success of the mission entrusted to them; and covetousness had no place in their lives. Their love for their brethren and the cause they had espoused was greater than their love of money and possessions. Their works testified that they accounted the souls of men of higher value than earthly wealth.

“Thus it will ever be when the Spirit of God takes possession of the life. Those whose hearts are filled with the love of Christ will follow the example of Him who for our sake became poor, that through His poverty we might be made rich. Money, time, influence—all the gifts they have received from God’s hand, they will value only as a means of advancing the work of the gospel. Thus it was in the early church; and when in the church of today it is seen that by the power of the Spirit the members have taken their affections from the things of the world, and that they are willing to make sacrifices in order that their fellow men may hear the gospel, the truths proclaimed will have a powerful influence upon the hearers” (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 70, 71).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Design a Church</i> B. <i>Sharing Gifts</i>	toy building blocks or paper, pencils simple models, glue, scissors
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> box covered with words/pictures of people serving others gift box, paper, pencils
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, table, chairs, play money none Bibles, chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>You Are the Church</i>	mirror, paper bag, <i>Sing for Joy</i>
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>God Needs YOU!</i> B. <i>Helping Others</i>	paper, markers chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/markers

***Prayer and Praise me be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- toy building blocks or paper and pencils

A. Design a Church

Say: **Today we are going to build our ideal church. What do you think should be in it?** Distribute the blocks or paper and pencils. Give the children time to build or draw a plan of a church.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think is the most important thing needed for a church?** Let the children explain what they think is necessary. **Can you have a church without these things? What is the one thing that you cannot do without?** (people) **As members of the church family, we should help each other. Last week we learned that one day, soon after Jesus went back to heaven, 3,000 people joined the early Christian church. Today we will learn how they helped one another. Our message is:**



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- for each group of three:
- simple model
- glue
- scissors

B. Sharing Gifts

Have simple paper or cardboard models to cut out and glue together. Form groups of three. Give one child the model, another the glue, and a third the scissors.

Say: **Today we are going to make these models. Which group will get done first?** Some children in each group may say they do not have a model. Others will get the idea and help each other. Admire the models when they are finished.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was the problem when I asked you to make the model?** (No one person had all the necessary materials.) **What was the solution?** (We helped each other.) **That’s what God wants us to do. He gives us different gifts so we can help one another. Today’s message is:**



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Listen to last week's memory verse and encourage the children to share experiences from last week's study. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Trust in the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 111)
- "Cross Over the Road" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 131)
- "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132)
- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134)



Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize how people used their gifts to help others.



Offering

Say: **People around the world worship in many different places. Some have to meet outside even when it is very hot or pouring down rain. Others meet in beautiful churches, while others have to rent or hire space somewhere. Sometimes our offerings are used to help build churches all around the world.**

You Need:

- box covered with words/pictures of people serving others



Prayer

Say: **God gives us gifts to help others. Write or draw something to represent one gift God has given you, and someone you would like to help. When you finish, put it in the box.** Pray around the box, asking God to bless the children's gifts and to help them find opportunities to use them to help others.



You Need:

- gift box
- paper
- pencils

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- table and chairs
- play money

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Form two groups.

Group 1 people are wealthy and willing to sell their land.

Group 2 people are poor believers/strangers to Jerusalem who became believers.

Person to buy land. (The wealthy invite the poor believers to come and eat with them and share their money.)

Read or tell the story.

No doubt the disciples were bubbling over with happiness and the wonder of it all. Think of it—3,000 new believers had joined the church in one day!

Many of these new believers were strangers to Jerusalem. *[Group 2 looks around as if in a new, exciting place.]* They had traveled a long way from far-off places to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem and had been planning to return home as soon as the feast was over. Now they didn't want to hurry home. They wanted to stay awhile and learn more about Jesus from the disciples. They really wanted to know about Jesus.

The Jerusalem believers welcomed the new believers into their homes. *[Group 1 invites Group 2 to join them. They "eat" and kneel in prayer.]* They ate together. They prayed together. They praised the Lord together. Some of the believers were wealthy, and some were very poor. Others were disowned by their families when they became Christians, and they had nothing. *[Mime selling and getting bags of money. Give some play money to others.]* Some of the more wealthy believers sold their property or possessions and

used the money to meet the needs of others. Everyone shared what they had. The things of this world just weren't as important as they had been only a few days before. They believed that Jesus had risen from the grave. They believed that He would come back and take them to live with Him in heaven. They were full of hope and love.

They chose to follow God and let His Holy Spirit fill their lives, and they wanted to share this hope and love with everybody. And the Holy Spirit worked with the believers to perform many miracles.

There were no newspapers in Jerusalem in those days, no radio, no television, no Internet, no cell phones, or e-mail. But that didn't keep the news about the early church from spreading. Everyone was in awe. Everyone was talking. *[The children whisper to one another.]*

"Have you heard about what happened this morning in front of the temple?"

"Remember my next-door neighbor who was crippled from the time she was born? Well, let me tell you what happened to her yesterday!"

"Do you know what I saw?"

People in the early church taught the Word of God. They shared gladly with one another, and often ate together (both regular meals and the special meal of Communion). They praised the Lord and prayed together. Every day new people heard the good news about Jesus and joined the church.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why were the disciples so happy?** (Three thousand people had joined the church.)

What did the believers do? (They prayed, met in each other's houses, and shared what they had with one another.)

What happened to some of the

people when they became Christians?

(Some lost everything they had; some were disowned by their family.)

What did the wealthy do? (They sold their possessions to help the poor.)

How did the news spread? (People talked to each other.) **Everyone shared what they had and helped each other. Let's say our message together:**



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

Memory Verse

Repeat the verse using the following actions several times until the children know it well.

Serve wholeheartedly, Cross right arm across chest and bring forward as if inviting someone to sit.

as if you Point to others.

were serving Cross right arm across chest and bring forward as if inviting someone to sit.

the Lord, Point upward.

not people. Shake head left to right.

Ephesians 6:7, NIV Palms together, then open.

Bible Study

Ask: **What does the Bible say the first Christians did? Let's read together Acts 2:42-47 and make a list of the things they did.**

Have readers help nonreaders or adults assist as necessary. Read one verse at a time and list the activities on the board.

- verse 42 teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer
- verse 43 performing miracles
- verse 44 all were together; they had everything in common
- verse 45 selling their possessions, giving to the poor
- verse 46 meeting in temple/church, eating together
- verse 47 praising God

Debriefing

Ask: **How many of these things do we do in our church today?** Talk about programs your local church Community Services department may have and the wider work of ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency).

What gifts did the early Christians use when they did these things? (They used their talents and the gifts of hospitality and healing.)

The early Christians used their gifts to help others. We can do the same. Let's say today's message together:



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard/whiteboard
- chalk/marker

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- mirror
- paper bag
- *Sing for Joy*

You Are the Church

In advance, place the mirror in the paper bag.

Say: **I have in my bag something that is very important for every church. In fact, no church can function or exist without what is in my bag. Can you guess what it is?** Allow time for the children to guess.

Ask: **Would you like to look in my bag? I'll show you one at a time, as long as you don't tell anyone else what is in it.** Move away from the children and call them to you one at a time.

Debriefing

Ask: **What was in the bag?** (Most will probably say a mirror.) **But what did you see in the mirror?** (their own reflection)

What does every church need? (people) **What kind of people?** (People who are so happy to know Jesus that they want to share Him with everyone they meet.) **People who are willing to share their talents and gifts to help others.**

Let's sing "We Are the Church" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 141).

Let's say our message together:



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

A. God Needs YOU!

Say: **When there is a war, the government**

sometimes puts up posters to recruit soldiers. God is fighting a war against sin. And He wants us to help. He needs you and me to use our gifts for Him.

Let's have a poster campaign. Each of you are to think of a message that goes with the theme "God Needs YOU" and make a poster with pictures to tell about your idea. Distribute materials. Allow time.

Debriefing

When finished, invite the children to show their posters to the class. Do not force anyone. Admire each poster shown.

Ask: **What are some other ways of telling people that God needs them?**

How did the early Christians do it? (They told their friends and neighbors, and invited them to come and hear for themselves.)

What are some of the things we can invite our friends to come to? (Sabbath School, worship, Pathfinders, other church activities)

God gives us gifts that we can use to help others. Let's say our message together:



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

You Need:

- paper
- markers

B. Helping Others

Discuss with the children what you can do to help keep your church clean, or talk with your pastor about things that primaries can do around the church. It may be to clean up the yard or weed the path.

Make a list of what is needed. Form work teams of not more than four children to plan how they can do their job. Determine a day and time that suits most.

Debriefing

Let each team tell what they will do and how they will do it.

Say: **God gives us the gifts of health and strength, and many other gifts. We can use them to help others and to build up the church. Let's say today's message together:**



GOD GIVES US GIFTS SO WE CAN HELP OTHERS.

Closing

Have the children stand in a circle. Pray that your church will grow and that each one will use their gifts to help others in the week ahead.

You Need:

- chalkboard/whiteboard
- chalk/markers

All for One; One for All

References

Acts 2:42-47;
The Acts of the
Apostles, pp. 70, 71

Memory Verse

“Serve
wholeheartedly,
as if you were
serving the Lord,
not people”
(Ephesians 6:7,
NIV).

The Message

God gives us gifts
so we can help
others.

Have you seen a baptism in your church? Were people sad or happy? The early Christians were thrilled because so many people were joining the church.

The disciples were bubbling over with happiness and the wonder of it all. Think of it—3,000 new believers had joined the church in one day!

Many of these new believers were strangers to Jerusalem. They had traveled a long way from far-off places to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Most planned to return home as soon as the feast was over. But many now changed their minds. They no longer wanted to hurry home. They wanted to stay in Jerusalem awhile. There they could learn more about Jesus from the disciples. You might even say they were hungry to learn about Jesus.

The Jerusalem believers welcomed the new believers into their homes. They ate together. They prayed together. They praised the Lord together.

Some of the believers were wealthy, some were poor. Others had noth-

ing because they had been disowned by their families when they became Christians. Some of the believers sold their property or possessions so they could help others.

Everyone shared what they had. The things of this world just weren't important anymore. They believed that Jesus had risen from the grave. They believed that He would be coming back soon. And they believed He would take them home to heaven. They were full of hope and love.

They chose to follow God and let His Holy Spirit fill their lives. They wanted to share this hope and love with everybody. And the Holy Spirit worked with the believers to perform many miracles.

There were no newspapers in Jerusalem in those days, no radio, no television, no Internet, no cell phones, or e-mail. But that didn't keep the news about the early church from spreading. Everyone talked about the good news of the gospel.

“Have you heard about what happened this morning in front of the temple?” someone may have asked.

Another person may have said, “Remember my next-door neighbor? The one who was crippled from the time she was born? Well, let me tell you what happened to her yesterday!”

“Do you know what I saw?” someone else may have asked.

The early church members taught the Word of God. They shared gladly with one another. They often ate together.

And they shared in the special Communion meal. Every day was a time of prayer and praise. Every day new people heard the story of Jesus. And every day more people joined the church.

We, as God's church, should still be doing this today. Believers should teach from the Bible and share God's love gladly with one another. We should eat together in fel-



lowship and share Communion services. Together, we should praise the Lord, study His Word, and pray. And many more will follow God because of our loving witness.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- The early Christians enjoyed fellowship, spending time together. If possible, meet with another family to do something together. Share your lesson with them.
- The early Christians helped one another. Try to help each one in your family today. Thank God for the privilege of helping others.

Sunday

- With your family, read and discuss Acts 2:42-47. List things the early Christians did. Which activity appeals most to you? Which appeals to your family? Do something together that appeals to your family. Ask God to help you.
- Draw a large heart. Write the words of the memory verse on it, then cut it up. Put the heart back together and repeat the memory verse. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

Monday

- Read and discuss 1 John 3:17, 18 during worship today. What does God ask us to do? How can you use your hands to help people today? Share your experiences during worship tonight. Ask God to be with the people you helped today.
- Ask your family to plan a picnic or other meal for next Sabbath. Ask if you can invite people to join you.
- Interview an adult church member. Ask how they help in your church. What gifts are they using?
- Remember to study your memory verse every day.

Tuesday

- Read and discuss Acts 2:42, 43 with your family. List the things the early Christians did. Which can you do?

- What made people look in awe at the disciples? Look up the word *awe*, then think of something you are in awe of. Draw a picture of it.
- Teach someone something new about Jesus today.
- Find out how many members are in your church. Pray for your church members and your pastor.

Wednesday

- During worship today, read and discuss Acts 2:44, 45. List the things the early Christians did. What do you have to share with someone else? What can you do to help your church's Community Services program? Ask your family how you can help others.
- Thank God for all He has given your family. Ask Him to lead you to someone who needs your help.

Thursday

- For worship today, read and discuss Acts 2:46, 47. Follow the early Christians' example and praise God during worship. Let everyone choose their favorite praise song. Make some praise shakers. (Put small stones or dried grain in an empty tin or plastic container.) Shake them while you sing. Thank God for the gift of music.
- Do something nice today for someone in your family. Keep it a secret between you and God.

Friday

- Read and discuss Acts 2:42-47 during worship. Mime some of the different activities in the early church. How many can your family guess?
- Before prayer, review your memory verse together. Ask God to send His Spirit to be with you on Sabbath—and every day.