

Volume 12 (SUM15) Adult-Kid Connections

Unit 34, Session 1: The Church Met Needs

Acts 3:1-10; 4:32-37

Christ Connection:

Preschool: The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to tell people about Jesus. He gave Peter power to heal a man who could not walk. People who believed in Jesus shared what they had so that no one needed anything. The Holy Spirit helps believers today so we can tell others about Jesus and help them too.

Kids: After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to keep working. Peter healed a man who was lame with the power of Jesus' name. God changed the hearts of believers, and they shared what they had so no one was needy. God gives the Holy Spirit to believers today so the church can tell others about Jesus and show them His love.

Adults: When we look in the Bible—especially in the Book of Acts—at how the disciples told people about Jesus, they almost if not always used what we now call the Old Testament to do so. Even though it was written centuries before His birth, the Old Testament predicted what Jesus would be like as the Messiah. So, one way for us to follow the example of the disciples is to read the Bible, Old and New Testaments, in order not only to know Jesus better but also to learn how to point others to Him. Jesus taught His disciples, after all, that all of the Scriptures point to Him and what He did for sinners through His dying on the cross and rising from the dead (Luke 24:24-27,44-47; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

Apart from the words of Scripture, we could not know God Himself, since we would have no understanding of His message of salvation accomplished through His Son, Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus is the epitome of God's self-revelation (Heb. 1:1-2), for in the person of Jesus, God Himself stepped onto Planet Earth, showing us what He is like and inviting us to be sons and daughters of God (John 1:12). We would know little to nothing about Jesus apart from the words of the Bible, and Jesus introduces us to the Father.

In short, as we read the Word of God on a regular basis, opening our lives to the living God, hearing Him speak to us about Himself, about the world, and about our place in the world, and especially about the word of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, we grow in our understanding of God and our relationship with God. And we read the Bible like we do everything else in the Christian life with the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Materials: An item to share

Direct your kids to select from their room something they have that another child may need. Suggest each person bring the item to your family time and explain why he chose it.

Review today's story from Acts 3 and 4.

Ask: "Why didn't Peter give the lame man silver or gold?"

Talk about how the lame man needed to be healed more than he needed gold or silver. When Peter said the words, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up

and walk,” the man leaped. He followed Peter and John into the temple to praise God. Because of his healing, people believed the good news about Jesus.

Ask: “What happened after this healing?”

Recall how the believers treated each other like one big family. Everyone shared what they had, even if they had to sell property to provide for another. They told others about Jesus and how He died on the cross and rose again from the dead to rescue people from sin. God changed the hearts of the people so they happily shared what they had.

Create a plan of action to give the items away that each family member chose.

Continue to look for people in need and think of ways you can provide.

Pray, thanking God for changing your hearts and sending the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to give your family a heart for loving others.