

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 246: THE EARLY CHURCH
ACTS 2:42-47; 4:32-37

The believers continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. They shared everything with each other. They ate together and prayed together. Many wonders and miraculous signs were happening through the apostles, and everyone feared God (which means they felt great respect for God, not that they were afraid of Him!). All the believers stayed together and shared everything. They sold their land and the things they owned. Then they divided the money and gave it to those who needed it. The believers shared a common purpose, and every day they spent much of their time together in the Temple area. They also ate together in their homes. They were happy to share their food and ate with joyful hearts. The believers praised God and were respected by all the people. More and more people were being saved every day, and the Lord was adding them to the church daily.

The whole group of believers was of one heart and one mind, meaning they were united in their thinking and in what they wanted. None of them said that the things they had were their own. Instead, they shared everything. With great power the apostles were making it known to everyone that the Lord Jesus was raised from death. And God blessed all the believers very much. None of them could say they needed anything. Everyone who owned fields or houses sold them. They brought the money they got and gave it to the apostles. Then everyone was given whatever they needed. One of the believers was named Joseph. The apostles called him Barnabas, a name that means "one who encourages others." He was a Levite born in Cyprus. Joseph sold a field he owned. He brought the money and gave it to the apostles.

246. THE EARLY CHURCH

ACTS 2:42-47; 4:32-37



"Those in the early church did continue daily with one accord in the temple, broke bread from house to house, ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praised God and had favor with all the people." Acts 2:46-47

246. THE EARLY CHURCH

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MEMORY VERSE:

"And they continued steadily in the apostles' teaching and fellowship.." ACTS 2:42

Review Questions

True or False

1. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship.
2. They shared everything with each other, and they ate together and prayed together.
3. Everyone who believed was together, but they kept their possessions for themselves.
4. More and more people were being saved every day, and the Lord was adding them to the church daily.
5. The multitude of those who believed were of many hearts and many minds.

Questions

1. What did the people who believed do with all their belongings?
2. Did they share everything with each other, or did they keep all their things for themselves?
3. What did they do with the money they got from selling their things and their land?
4. What did the Lord do with the people who were being saved every day? Did He add them to the church?
5. Did anyone that was with them need anything?
6. What did the believer named Joseph do?

Lesson 246 Activity

Activity for the lesson:

Corpus Christi

Cut the “body” curriculum template into several pieces. Pass out the pieces to different groups you have formed from your class. Have each group of children list the things that the body part they received does. Have the class come back together to discuss how these parts correlate with the Body of Christ.

Have your class work together to piece back together the puzzle. Explain that we all work together as a body to complete the work of Christ.

Everything In Common - Sharing

Have the class form a circle. With a large bag of small candies (or you can use chips or crackers, or whatever snack you have brought), pass out VERY uneven portions to your students; make sure some children are given a larger portion than others. Have each child say how many he or she has. If it's a few, ask for a volunteer that has a lot to give to the child that has less. Continue this process until everyone has the same amount.

Explain how the early church had all things in common. If someone was in want, someone else that could provide gave what he had to help.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to encourage and support our brothers and sisters in Christ. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.

