

THE EARLY CHURCH

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

Supplies: paper, markers, pictures (1 per child), images, scissors

OPENING -

- Give each child a piece of paper. Invite them to draw whatever comes to mind when they hear the following words: Church, Christian
- Give time for each child to share what they have drawn if they are comfortable

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CONTEXT-

- Our story comes after Jesus' death and resurrection and ascension. His disciples who had been given the task of going out into **all** the world to tell people about the life that they could have with Jesus had already started and groups of people began following Jesus. We get to read about the first church and discover how the first group of Jesus followers lived
- **Apostles-** Jesus' 11 friends who were sent out to tell people about him
- **Believers-** the people who heard about Jesus, believed in him, and started following his way of doing things

READ- Acts 2:42-47

- What kind of things did the first church do together? Why do you think they lived like this?

RE-TELL-

- Human Slide Show: Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two children will hold it up and then drop it when you tell them. Pick several children to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the children get into a position as though there were a picture or painting of that part of the story. They are to remain perfectly still and then have the cloth dropped so the rest of the group can see it. Each scene changes as you tell the story.

QUESTIONS-

- How did the people in the story trust and follow God?
- Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
- What do you think you should do differently because of this story?

ACTIVITY

- Cut up different coloured pieces of paper (1 per child). Mix up the pieces and then hand out four pieces to each child. When given the go-ahead kids will wander around trying to find a set of four of the same colour. The goal is to have each child with one complete set in the shortest amount of time.

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- Challenge round- Cut up images (1 per child) into four pieces. Mix up the pieces and then hand out four pieces to each child. The goal is to have each child with a complete picture in the shortest amount of time. Play a few rounds.