LESSON 4

THE FIRST CONGREGATION



Aim: **To teach the children how the first Christian community lived in fellowship.**

Scripture Reading: **Acts 2:42-47**

Memory Verse: **Acts 2:42, 47**
They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship … they gave to anyone as he had need.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

What do people do when they meet as a congregation for a church service? Possible answers:
They sing songs of praise to God.
They read/listen to God's Word.
They take Holy Communion.
They attend Sunday school, women's league meetings, etc.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. **Show Picture 3. Review Lesson 3 by asking questions like the following:**
   Question: Who was preaching?
   Answer: Peter.
   Question: What happened when he shared the message about Jesus?
   Answer: 3 000 people were saved. They did what the memory verse said.
   Review the memory verse for Lesson 3, Acts 2:38.
2. **Show Picture 4.** This picture shows us some of the things Peter and the other apostles did within the new Christian community. What happened in this first congregation? They lived as one big family, God's family (2:44). This was the beginning of the church. **Discuss the pictures one by one.**
3. The congregation of the first church learnt about the Saviour from the apostles. They looked at the Old Testament to see what it said about Jesus. (The New Testament had not been written yet.) They met in the temple every day to sing and pray (2:42, 46-47a).
4. Those first Christians helped one another. The healthy looked after the sick and old. Those who had a lot gave to those who were needy. They shared everything (2:44-45).
5. They took their meals together in their homes. They ate bread and wine in communion to remember the Lord's suffering and death that brought them salvation (2:46).
6. Their life in loving community made other people want to join them. Also, people were amazed by the miracles performed by the apostles. The result was that more and more people came to believe in Jesus Christ (2:43, 47).

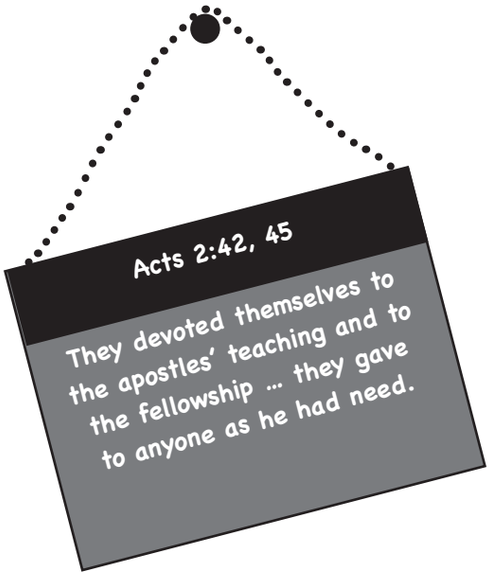
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Our Response to the Story

Have we stopped practicing any of the activities of the first Christian congregation? **Talk about the meaning of the memory verse and how we can follow the example of the early church.**

Instil the Memory Verse



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