

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST



Week Three - The New Community

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The first Spirit-filled sermon from one of Jesus' followers resulted in about 3,000 people coming to follow Jesus! They then radically reoriented their lives around the way of Jesus and the Kingdom. This was not due to amazing preaching, kids programs, music, or a promise of prosperity. It was because the Spirit of God filled them. This is what we pray our community is immersed into — pray this over our kids!

- **Big Idea:** God's Spirit transforms us into a new kind of community

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

- **Change Game**

Have kids cross their arms, then ask them to switch so the opposite arm is on top. You can do this with other actions too, like switching from rubbing tummy/patting head to patting tummy/rubbing head. Talk about how difficult it was to change to the opposite. It's hard to change the way we naturally do things!

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 2:22-47

After the Spirit filled Jesus' followers and they began speaking in a way that people from every language could understand them, most of the crowd was very confused as to what was going on. So, Peter stood up and began to tell them. *"This is God's Spirit, filling His people — just as God promised through His prophets long ago!"*

Then Peter continued to remind them of how Jesus had come from God, performed miracles and wonders, and was filled with the Spirit too. But he wasn't just a man filled with the Spirit, like they were now — he was the Messiah! The promised Rescuer sent from God, one with God, come to rescue God's people. But Peter reminded them that they betrayed Jesus, though he did nothing wrong, and had him killed.

But this was God's plan! The Spirit of God raised Jesus back to life. Peter reminded them how King David talked about this happening long ago. Jesus was the true King of Israel who came to conquer not just Rome, but the real enemy — sin and death.

The crowd was cut to the heart with what they had done. They asked, *"Now what do we do?"* Peter said, *"Turn away from the lies you've been believing and your selfishness and believe Jesus and his words. Be immersed in Jesus' name and power and you too will be filled with the Spirit!"*

The same Spirit who spoke through the prophets long ago. The same Spirit who revealed a better King to David long ago. The same Spirit who Jesus entered the world by. The same Spirit Jesus performed miracles through. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from death to life. The same Spirit who spoke through Peter and Jesus' other followers and allowed people from every language to understand them. Could this very same Spirit of God now fill all of these people? Even the people who betrayed Jesus and cried out for him to be murdered?

About 3,000 people from the crowd that day decided to turn from their ways and follow Jesus. And yes — the Spirit filled them all! This crowd who not long before wanted Jesus killed began to change their lives completely. They committed their lives to following the teachings of Jesus, passed down through his followers. They lived their lives together in community. They ate and prayed together and remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus through the communion meal. They were all filled with the awe of the Spirit as he continued to do great works through Jesus' followers. They even sold their possessions and shared everything they had so nobody was in need. So God kept doing great things through them, bringing more and more people into this new community filled with His Spirit.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Does this kind of community sound like one you would like to be part of? *(eating together, playing together, working together, and whenever you have a need people share with you)*
- How can we have this type of community? *(Remember, this community was transformed because of the Spirit! Not because they tried harder)*
- We live in a much different time than they did in this story. What might our community today look like with the Spirit? *(How would we share our belongings? How would we share meals? How would we share needs?)*

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, fill us with your Spirit so we can follow Jesus better and love each other more. Help our community to invite others in so they can be part of your family too! Amen.

- **Craft:**

- Use the activity sheet attached and talk through the meaning of the words with the kids
- OR use the coloring sheet on the last page

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Speak** rhythm. God chose to fill people with His Spirit by speaking through Peter and the other followers of Jesus. Pray for God to give you opportunities to speak about Jesus to someone this week.

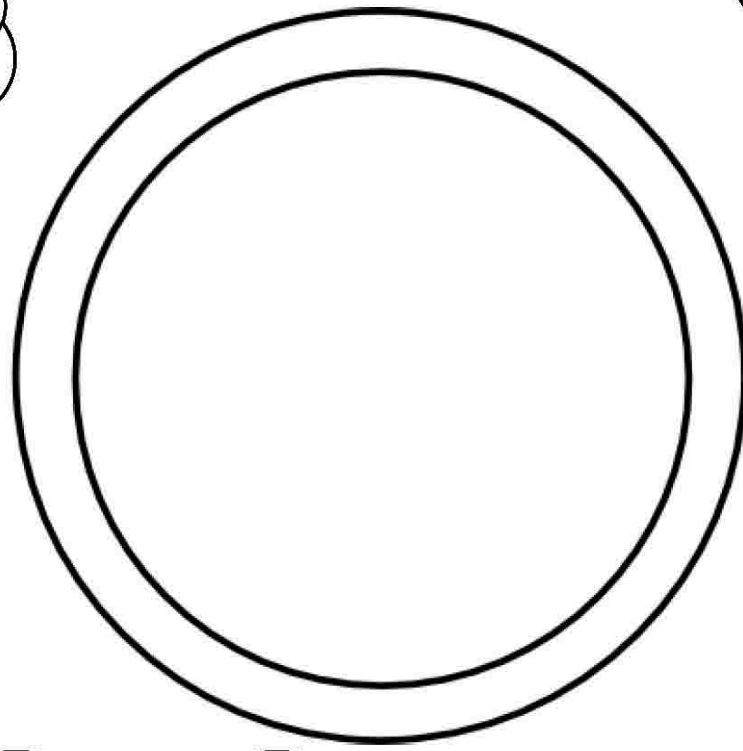
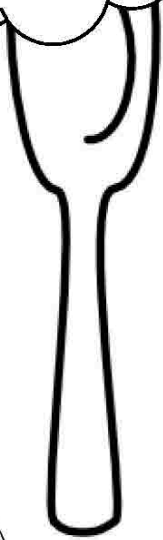


Puzzle Sheet

There are coins like this one hidden on the page... how many can you find?



Finish the picture... draw the perfect meal to share together

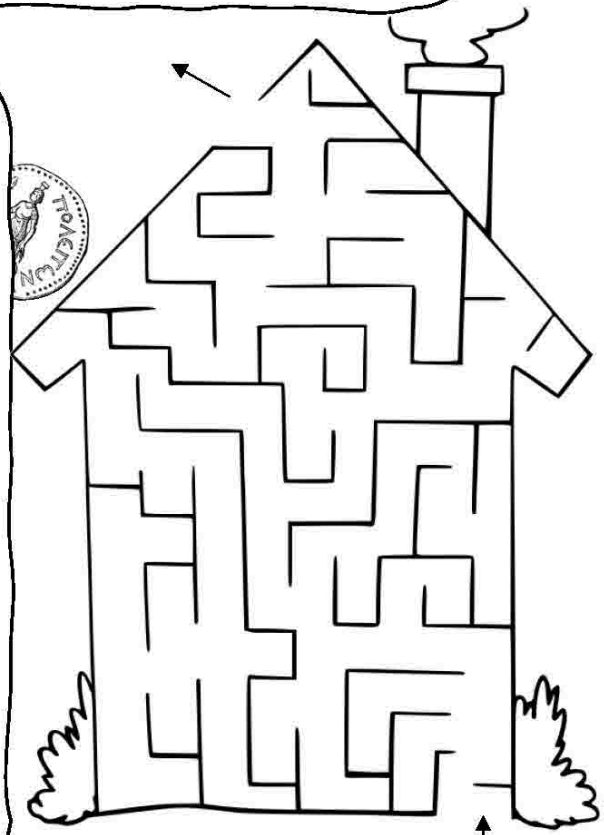


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APOSTLES
BREAD
CHURCH
DAILY
DIVIDED

DOCTRINE
FELLOWSHIP
POSSESSIONS
PRAYERS
SAVED

SIGNS
STEADFASTLY
TOGETHER
WONDERS



Find your way through the maze from the bottom to the top

Answer: There are 8 coins hidden on the page



They devoted themselves
to the apostles' teaching
and to fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

