

THE CHURCH CONTINUED...

**Locally-Rooted Presence****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

One of our desires as a church is to see one another continually be formed more and more into the image of Jesus, as we journey together in discipleship. This is something that takes place in our personal time with the Lord, but it also must include a communal effort of formation. Thank you for being part of the formation of our kids as they learn to know and follow Jesus more closely.

- **Big Idea:** God calls a particular people for a particular time and place. How can we be present where God has us?

Starter**Evidence 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.

Discuss:

- If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live, and why?
- Have you ever thought about if you could live at any point in history, whether in the past or at some point in the future, what time would you live and why?

Sing Together

Lesson - from Acts 2:42-47

In Acts 2, we read that the followers of Jesus would gather together every day at the temple to learn from the apostles, eat together, and fellowship with one another. All of this was done in the sight of and amongst everyone else in the city. This group of Jesus followers probably had other jobs, roles, and responsibilities in the city. So the person you saw every day at the market, or who was a teacher at the school you went to, or someone you worked with at work every day, or someone you saw at the park all of the time, all of a sudden you noticed something different about their life, they have changed somehow. They seemed different. You noticed that after work, school, or the park, they went to this temple to learn from these teachers.

One day you decide to follow one of your friends from school to the temple and walk in behind them. In the middle of this crowd that seems to be growing is a man who is talking loudly about a man who offers life. This teacher talks about a man who was sent by God to free humans to live in a good, right, and beautiful kingdom. He finally says that the man sent in God's name is Jesus. He says everyone is invited and welcome in this new kingdom of God. In order to enter into this kingdom, you have to pledge your allegiance to Jesus, follow Him, and live as he did, but you will have help from the Holy Spirit of God.

What you hear is the most amazing news you have ever heard. You run up to your friend and say, "I want to live in this kingdom too!" Your friend, startled that you are there, says, "Hey, what are you doing here?" You tell them that you noticed something different about how they acted at school and how they treated their friends, classmates, and teacher in a way that was different from everyone else. So you followed them to the temple to see what they were learning and heard this good news about God's Kingdom and this man named Jesus.

In this same way, if you have given your life to Jesus, if you have pledged your allegiance to Him and said that you want to live like he did, in God's kingdom here on earth, then people will be watching you. God has called you, to be a display of what God's kingdom is like to your classmates, your friends, your teacher, people at the park or grocery store, your brothers and sisters, and everywhere you go. Do people notice that something is a little different with you based on how you live, talk, and treat others?

This shouldn't lead to fear of failure, but of faithful freedom. We don't have to live under the fear of messing up, or not being perfect in everything we say and do everywhere we go. Living in God's kingdom does not mean that we have to be perfect. Jesus was the perfection that we needed and still need. Living in God's kingdom means we are now free from the power of sin to faithfully live in a way that points others to Jesus. Jesus is the savior of the world, we are not. When we live for Jesus, we will stand out.

One of the ways that people will notice something different is if we slow down and take the time to get to know others. While the rest of the world mainly thinks about themselves first, you will look different if you think of others' needs before your own. While the rest of the world is super busy, you will look different if you take a day to rest in the fact that God is in control and you aren't. When the rest of the world thinks about how to make a lot of money, you will look different if you give a good chunk of your money to other people with needs.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- ▶ What are some ways you could be a display of God's kingdom at school or home?
- ▶ What are some ways you could be a display of God's kingdom in public (store, park, sports team, etc.)?
- ▶ How do we learn about what living in God's kingdom looks like?
- ▶ Is there someone that comes to mind who you think needs to hear the good news about Jesus?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me to think of my community this week and how I can love them well so that they might know you more.

Craft:

The kids can color the picture below of the early church gathering to eat together.

BLESS Activity

This week, ask your family how you can practice the **Speak** rhythm.

As you go to school, to the store with your parent, to your sports game or after-school activity, or even in your own home, think about who you might be able to speak the good news that the kingdom of God has come to earth in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.



"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