

Sunday School 5th and up Early Believers

May 3rd

Acts 2: 42-47

Review the story from last week – how the disciples saw the resurrected Jesus on the long walk to Emmaus and recognized him in the breaking of the bread.

Talk about the early church. In the early days of church, they discovered the secret of real community. Actually, they had to. The early Christians weren't popular with the religious leaders of the day. They were facing persecution and alienation from friends and family. In order to survive, literally and spiritually, they had to spend time together. The final verses of chapter 2 are short but tell us a lot. In those few verses we learn that the Early Church discovered that strength came from life shared together in Christ. They worshiped together, ate together, and spent time together. We sure know what that feels like right now in the time of shelter in place orders! It's a good time to remember those practices of the faith that keep us close as a family, community and church.

Read both the Bible verses for this week Acts 2: 42-47

Discuss: There is a lot of action in this short story. Can you find any action words (sharing, meeting, thanking, blessing, talking, believing, growing)? What did the early disciples share with one another? What can you share with your parents, your brothers and sisters and your friends even from home? What can you share with those who might not have as much as you do?

Activity: Spiritual practice coupons!

The early believers helped us to understand those practices that form us as a community and keep us close to God. Here are some of those practices:

- Teaching and learning about God and Jesus
- Fellowship or being together
- Hospitality or welcoming each other especially new people
- Prayer and praise, including singing and dancing
- Giving to those in need or sharing
- Saying sorry to one another and forgiving each other

Make coupons to show how you will practice your faith this week. These can be simple. Share XYZ with your brother or sister. Help your mom and dad get work done by playing with your brother or sister. Clear your plate after lunch, or make lunch for the family. Sing together in the middle of the week! Bake cookies for your neighbor. Hold a dance party in the living room! See a coupon template below.

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to remember that we are the church no matter where we are. Please help us to be loving members of our community together by sharing with one another and loving one another. Amen.

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