

Early Believers Share

Grades
1-2

SHARING • EASTER 2 • YEAR B

ACTS 4:32-35



What is happening in this story?

The book of Acts tells the story of what happened after Easter: Jesus ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, and the apostles were sent out all over the world healing and preaching. In Acts 4, we learn how the larger group of believers was enjoying life together. They shared everything, and no one claimed private ownership of anything. Nobody was in need. All were cared for.

Why does this story matter for kids?

Kids are learning how to share, so they know it is important and they know it is sometimes hard to do. When first read, this story seems to present a pretty radical community. However, sharing public property, books, toys, and car rides are all things kids can relate to. Some kids know what it is to live in want, while some kids live not knowing what is enough. These few verses address both perspectives. We share by God's grace. In God's vision for our world, everyone has enough and no one is in need.

What is the lectionary connection?

These few verses in Acts are read in conjunction with the Gospel of John's account of the Holy Spirit's arrival, when the risen Jesus comes to the disciples in a locked room. He breathes the Spirit upon them and the implication is that they are sent out, fortified in spirit. In Acts, we see the followers of Jesus already fortified—they're doing the work! The Holy Spirit shapes and fortifies relationships for the explicit purpose of getting the story out into the world.

AGE LEVEL TIP

First and second graders are beginning to make the connection between what they read in the Bible and what happens in their own lives. Whenever possible, help kids identify concrete connections between the two. This is part of faith development!



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Scissors
- Stapler

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Puzzle (48-100 pieces)
- T-shirts (2 large)
- Coins (2)
- Play food (2 pieces)
- Yarn
- Stickers

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Give kids a puzzle with large pieces to work on as a class. Tell kids to take turns putting one piece in at a time. Each person must be allowed to participate because this is a class project.

Sharing the puzzle pieces makes our class strong.

Invite kids to gather near the Wall Chart.

Point out today's date, season (Easter), color (yellow), and icon (butterfly). **For the church, Easter is not just one day—it is a whole season! During Easter, we remember that Jesus is alive. How can a butterfly remind you of Easter?** Allow kids to respond. **When butterflies hatch from their cocoons, we remember how Jesus came out of the tomb.** Draw the outline of a butterfly in the wedge. **Let's decorate our butterfly together.** Invite each kid to add some color or a design to the butterfly with markers.

Leader stands in front of kids, cups his/her mouth, and calls, **"Children, children, can you tell? Do you know the story well?"** Kids cup their mouths and respond, **"Jesus is alive!"**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

These pictures are from the Bible story we will read today. What do you think is happening in the pictures? Allow kids to respond. **Did you know the Bible tells stories about sharing?** Have kids draw what they think each person is sharing in the picture. **Why is sharing important?** Allow kids to respond. **Sharing with others makes the church strong.** Collect their leaflets until Respond.

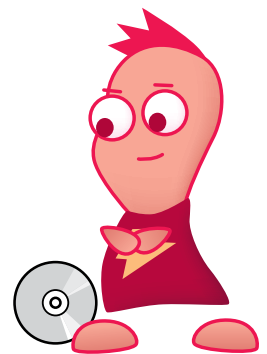
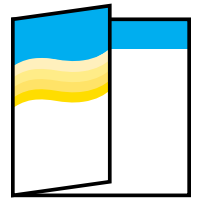
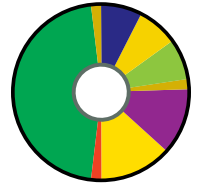
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

It's free time in Sunday school, but Otto has his own ideas. Let's see how Otto's plan works out.

View Episode 8, "Play Partitions," on the Whirl Year B Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **What was Otto trying to do?**
- **Did Otto's plan work? Why or why not?**
- **How would you feel if you were in Otto's class?**
- **Is sharing always easy? Why or why not?**
- **Name something that someone shared with you.**



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "Share Everything" on page 442. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the butterfly in the yellow circle for the Easter season. Before you read, invite kids to look for a person sharing sandals and a person sharing bread.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Who taught the first church families to share?
- Who did the believers share with?
- Name some things the believers shared.
- What do people in our church family share?
- Who do you share with?

Play together!

Divide the kids into two teams for a relay race. Set a T-shirt, coin, and play food in front of the first person in each line. **The early believers shared everything they had, including clothes, money, and food. Let's have a sharing race!** To play the game, the first kid in each team puts on the T-shirt and picks up the coin and food. Player runs across the room and back to next player on the team. The first player then "shares" the shirt, coin, and food with the next player in line, who repeats the action. The first team done "shares" a high-five with the other team.

BIBLE BIT

- The need to share was a familiar one for people in the early church. Political unrest and famine caused an economic downturn, leaving many unemployed.

WATCH IT AGAIN

- Not only did Otto's plan make the rest of the kids unhappy, but it also wasn't very fair. What did the kid with glasses and the new girl get?

OUR CHURCH

- Choose one concrete item students could donate as an offering from the class (soap, canned goods, box tops, etc.). What will the larger church family do with these items?

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

- 1. How can believers help others? The early believers shared what they had. That's where sharing starts.**
2. Ask kids to think of something they could share with a friend, and write or draw it in the center circle, 1.
3. Have kids move to ring 2 and write or draw two things, one in each section of this ring, that they could share with the class.
- 4. What does our class have that we could share with another class?** Help kids brainstorm talents, such as helping hands or a song they could share, as well as objects. Then have kids write or draw one thing in each segment of ring 3.
5. Work together to think of items the class has shared or will share with the rest of the church. Decorations, stories, music, handshakes—have each kid choose four things to add to ring 4.
- 6. Food, clothes, recycled cans . . . What are five things we can share with our community?** Kids write or draw them in each section of ring 5.
7. Talk together about how your church supports missions. (Examples: collecting soap or Bibles, making prepacked meals, sponsoring radio programs.) Have kids write or draw six things in ring 6.
- 8. How does sharing with others make the church strong?**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

We started the day by guessing what the early believers shared. We practiced sharing in a relay race. We thought about things we could share with others and wrote or drew them on our leaflets. Who taught the believers to share? Allow kids to respond.

Pass out leaflet panels, stickers, and markers.

Kids write the name of their church in the rectangle and decorate the pennant. Punch holes through the blue dots and attach all pennants to a single length of yarn. Hang the pennants where the church takes a collection.

Send kids out.

Leader stands in front of kids, cups his/her mouth, and calls, **“Children, children, can you tell? Do you know the story well?”** Kids cup their mouths and respond, **“Jesus is alive!”**

Pray together: **Dear God, Jesus taught the early believers to share. Help me to share with joy! Amen.**

Thank kids for sharing with each other during class. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.