



# The Church

## Acts 2:42-47

### Review

- Follow-up with individuals as to what has happened after obeying the Spirit's promptings from the various stories.
- What have been people's responses from the Bible stories they have told them?
- Who can tell the story of the Holy Spirit coming as Jesus promised? (This should be the introduction to today's story.)

### Hook Question

If you could do one thing for God, what would it be?

### Tell the Story

### Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

### Personal/Group Retell

Give each person an opportunity to journal or draw something that impacted them the most about the start of the Church.

### Introduction

*After retelling last week's story about Pentecost, tell today's story about the start of what is now called the Church.*

That day, thousands believed in Jesus as Messiah and were baptized, becoming a part of a new community called The Church.

These followers of Jesus became deeply committed to each other and to God's ways; sharing everything they had, praying, learning together, and helping anyone in need... all with great joy and generosity. Everyday they ate together to remember Jesus' life and sacrifice.

The people were in awe as they saw God do amazing things through them –miracles and healings... and more and more people joined The Church each day.

### Concluding Remarks:

This community of faith–The Church–continues today... with us. This is OUR story. We are God's blessing, a people called to give others a glimpse of God's Kingdom. We are to be different... to live in ways of Jesus, joining in God's activity to bring, hope, restoration, and healing to a hurting world.

**Discussion Questions**

*Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.*

- How do you feel after hearing this story?
- What questions do you have about what you have heard?
- What did you learn about God from this story?
- Based on this story, what do you think God desires of us? What in this story makes you think so?

**Story Continued...**

**Closing Blessing**

**Read** John 13:34

**Pray** Lord, help us to be the kind of people that when others see us, they see the love and compassion of Jesus. Jesus, bless each person with the filling of your Holy Spirit; that others would see the love, the joy and the peace that can only come from you.