

May 7-8 Small Group Lesson | School Age



The Big Build

The Believers Form a Community

BIG IDEA: God wants us to share our life with other believers.

BIBLE BASIS: Acts 2:42–47

KEY VERSE: “All the believers were together. They shared everything they had.” Acts 2:44 (NirV)

★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Directions: During “The Big Build” series, kids will get to practice their building skills while hearing stories about how God built the early Church. Kids will learn that a big part of being the “Church” is sharing life together. Spend this time early in the lesson simply getting to know the kids and helping the kids know one another.

Question: If you had to change your name to something else, what would it be?

Question: What’s your favorite video game to play right now?

Question: What are you the most afraid of?

ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.” Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

★ LARGE GROUP LESSON



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★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

STORY QUESTIONS

For Younger Kids:

1. Can you remember some of the things the believers did together?
2. If you were one of the early believers, how hard or easy would it be for you to share everything you had? Why?

For Older Kids:

1. Can you remember some of the things the believers did together?
2. Why do you think the believers did these things together instead of by themselves?

SHARING LIFE TOGETHER (Application Activity)

Say: Today we learned that the early Church shared their life with each other. When we follow Jesus *together*, it helps us to stand strong in life. We're going to play a game right now that will help us share our life with the other kids in the group.

Direction: First, spread the question cards face down in the middle of the group. Second, have your group decide on a "Bonkers" action—something crazy to do if the "Bonkers" card is chosen. Third, choose two kids to face off by playing a round of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." Have both kids chant, "rock, paper, scissors, shoot." On "shoot," the kids will show with their hand which of the three items they've chosen. For "rock" they'll display a closed fist. For "paper" they'll hold their hand open flat with palm facing downward. For "scissors," they'll hold out their pointer and middle finger in the form of scissors. Determine which kid wins. Rock beats scissors, scissors beat paper, and paper beats rock. The winner of the battle will get to choose a card from the center. Finally, have the winner read their card aloud and then answer the question or perform the action. For younger kids, be ready to read the card for them. If the "Bonkers" card is drawn, have the group perform the pre-determined "Bonkers" action. Continue matching up kids who have yet to win until everyone has had a chance to draw a card. The following is a list of the cards included:

Question/Action Cards:

- What is something you need prayer for?
- What is a question that you have about God?
- What is your favorite story in the Bible? Why?
- What are you most thankful to God for?
- What is something that you really need right now?
- Tell someone in the group what you like the most about them.
- What makes you the saddest?
- What is something you've learned about God this year?
- Tell about the last time you got really mad or frustrated.
- What is your favorite thing to do at church?
- When is the last time you apologized for something? What happened?
- Do you have a favorite worship song? What is it?



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If you could ask God anything, what would you ask Him?
Tell about a time you helped someone.
Give every kid in the group a fist bump or high five.

SING IT OUT (Memory Verse Activity)

Directions: The following activity is intended to help your group commit the day's Bible verse to memory. Today's verse is:

“All the believers were together. They shared everything they had.” Acts 2:44

For Younger Kids:

Ask your group to listen carefully as you read the verse a few times. Then, tell your group that they're going to make up a tune to sing the verse to. Start your group off with an example of how you might sing the verse and then ask the kids if they have any different suggestions. Consider clapping along to the beat of the song as your group sings. After singing the verse a few times, ask if anyone else wants to sing it to a different tune or in a different silly voice such as robot, giant bear, or super-fast. Let your group choose how they would like to sing it. Continue the activity until it appears that your group can remember the verse. Afterwards, ask the following questions:

Question: What are some things you could share with people in your church or community? Do you have any talents you could use to help people?

For Older Kids:

Ask your group to listen carefully as you read the verse a few times. Then, tell your group that they're going to make up a tune to sing the verse to. Ask if anyone in your group would like to try it first. After they sing the verse to a tune, have the rest of the group sing the verse back to the same tune.

Next, choose another volunteer to sing the verse to a different tune. This time, ask them to sing it using one of the following musical genres:

- Rock 'n Roll
- Rap
- Country
- Opera

Continue the activity until all of the genres have been used or until everyone who wants a turn has had one. When finished, ask the following questions:

Question: What are some things you could share with people in your church or community? Do you have any talents you could use to help people?



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PRAYER BANDS (Group Prayer Activity)

Directions: Give everyone a marker and a Tyvek® wristband. Go around the group and have the kids share what they need prayer for. After each kid shares, have them sum up their request in one word. Next, have the rest of the group write down that person's name and their one-word prayer request on their wristband. When everyone is finished sharing, encourage the group to put on their wristband. Tell your group that every time they see their Prayer Band over the coming week, it should be a reminder to pray for the other kids in the group. Finally, close your group by leading them in prayer.

