

KICKOFF!

WEEK 2 — THE FELLOWSHIP

OCTOBER 11, 2026

Main Point:

Jesus wants the Church to be a community of believers who love, share, help, and serve one another.

This Week's Message:

We will learn about how the very first church lived together as a brand-new community. They spent their time learning, praying, enjoying each others' company, and taking care of one another.

Scripture:

Acts 2:42-47; John 13: 34-35

This Month's Memory Verse:

*"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."
John 13:34-35 (NirV)*

Provided Videos: See www.glendalechristian.org/summitvolunteerresources

- Game Video
- Bible Story Video
- Review Quiz Video
- Worship Video: Kids
- Worship Video: Runnin
- Worship Video: Praise You Anywhere

Suggested Order of Service:

1. Game Video – 3 Min
2. Icebreaker Activity – 5 Min
3. Message – 25 Min Total
 - a. Lesson – 15 Min
 - b. Bible Story Video – 2 Min
 - c. Discussion Time – 5 Min
 - d. Review Quiz Video – 3 Min
4. Memory Verse Activity – 10 min
5. As time allows:
 - a. Work on Take-Home Page
 - b. Worship Videos

GAME VIDEO:

Glow in the Dark Pumpkins

ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY

The "Me Too!" Swap

Have all the students sit or stand in a wide circle with one leader or student in the middle. The person in the middle shares one fact about themselves (for example, "I love pepperoni pizza," "I have a pet dog," or "I am wearing blue shoes"). Anyone around the circle who shares that quality must yell "Me too!" and immediately run across the circle to a different spot. As they run through, the person in the middle tags a player in the circle. The one who got tagged is now the one standing in the center of the circle, and must name a quality to get others to run through it.

LESSON:

Main Point:

Jesus wants the Church to be a community of believers who love, share, help, and serve one another.

Scripture:

Acts 2:42-47; John 13: 34-35

Introduction

I want you to think about a really great group that you have been part of. This could be the team that went really far in a tournament. Or maybe you went to a camp or a sleepover with a group of friends and when you got home, you couldn't stop talking about how much fun you had. Think of any group you can think of that just made you feel... awesome. Turn and share with the person next to you what made that group of people so special.

Play Bible Story Video Here

Transition

There's a word for this that is often said in church; "**Community**." And the church is exactly that. A community. It's a group of people, not a building, where people come together and support one another. There's a little word inside community called unity, and everything you guys shared had a sense of unity in it. Within your team, or your friend group, or your club, there was something that glued you all together in unity, and we are going to look at that unity within the church.

Last week we shared about the day of Pentecost, or the very first day that the church began. That was a day where 3,000 people decided they were going to follow Jesus. But being a follower of Jesus didn't mean that they got an "I Love Jesus" t-shirt and stamped the word "Christian" on their foreheads. This was a life that they started where they began this new, what was that word? Anyone?

Right community! So what did that look like back then? And what does that look like now? And why does all this community stuff matter anyways? Let's take a look:

Learning And Praying Together

After the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus dedicated time to learn. They spent time with the Apostles, those guys who followed Jesus around like little ducklings during the years He taught on earth. These were guys who actually walked and talked to Jesus, and they wanted to learn what it was like, and learn what Jesus had taught them. They didn't just learn like it was science class, they spent time in fellowship, which is a really fancy way of saying, "they just hung out."

Believe it or not, you are probably super good at fellowship, and I bet you like it. Do you ever sit at the lunch table talking about video games, sports, how crazy the science teacher's lesson was, or who is the best professional Minecraft chicken designer? That's fellowship!

They also prayed together. They didn't just ask Jesus to bless them. They asked Jesus to bless each other, bless their city, their families, and their leaders.

Miracles and Awe

Because the Holy Spirit was moving through them, amazing things started to happen. The Apostles performed miracles, and the community was able to see Jesus working and changing the world right before their eyes.

Sharing Everything

They also lived a life that would make any Kindergarten teacher proud...they shared! Everyone say: "Sharing is caring!!!!!" (Embellish this...don't be scared, the kids will love it.) The most amazing miracle might have been how they treated each other. The world back then was a lot like it is now. People's main goal was to make as much money, pay each other as little as possible, and take everything they could. But the church was different! They all had a sense of that word inside that word we called... what is it again?

Unity!

Jesus was the glue that kept them together, and they decided to help one another in any way they could, because that's what community does. If someone didn't have shoes, somebody else would give a pair. If someone just needed a hug, you bet there was a line out the door of people waiting to give one.

And guess what! People started to notice, and they started to want that too. The writers tell us that a group of 3,000 grew and grew and grew and grew...and grew and grew and grew...and grew a little more...every...single...day.

So what's the point? Why should we care? Well, this story shows us a little bit of what heaven is like. It shows us that following Jesus isn't a secret club where you wag your finger at everyone and tell them how much better you are than them. It's the opposite, it shows us that if we are a part of a Jesus community, we need to do all of those things, and when we do, it changes the world.

Transition

Could you imagine what kind of world we would live in if everyone acted like that? Imagine you are driving down the street, and there is a man or woman who doesn't have a place to live, their clothes are dirty, maybe they've made some mistakes in life, and a group of people are gathered around that person giving them clothes, and finding a way to get them a bed for the night. How do you think it would make that person feel? How would you feel if you saw that? How would you feel if that was you?

In the Book of John, which is one of the books that shares the story of Jesus' life on earth, He doesn't just suggest this, he commands it...

John 13:34-35

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus told them, and tells us, it doesn't matter how much you read your Bible, or how many quizzes you get first place on, or how many "I love Jesus" bracelets you wear to school. People are going to know that you are my followers by how much you love one another.

That is the easiest and hardest command you will ever have. On one hand, love is free. It costs nothing to ask someone how they're doing today, or asking your parents if you can help them fold the laundry. Yet, love also requires sacrifice. You have to share. You think sharing is easy? Ask a Kindergarten teacher how many times they have to tell a group of kids to quit fighting over the indigo crayon.

Conclusion

The early church changed the world. There is no doubt about that. We are talking right now about a group of people who lived 2000 years ago. Even the most viral meme dies within about 6 months. They changed the world by simply doing life together, taking care of each other, and praying with and for one another, and Jesus commands us to do that too. He doesn't command that because He's bossy. He commands it because it's a better way of living that He wants us to experience together.

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for creating the church, and for the early church that gave us a blueprint to live the life that you want for us. Please help us to have generous hearts like the early believers, and open our eyes to the needs within our community. Give us the courage to help one another, and serve with Your love.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you could share a gigantic pizza with your family, what toppings would you make sure to put on it so that everyone would love it?
2. Who did the followers of Jesus hang out with and learn from?
3. What did the church do when someone didn't have food or clothing?
4. What happened to the Church once they followed Jesus' command to love one another?
5. How would you feel if you were in a group of people who you knew wanted to help you out? "Good" is not good enough! Dig deep!
6. Sharing is pretty easy, but why don't we see it as much as we should?
7. What is one way you can act like the early church in your home, school, team, club, or friend group this week?

REVIEW VIDEO

MEMORY VERSE CARD GAME ACTIVITY:

*"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."
John 13:34-35 (NirV)*

Printed cards are provided for the memory verse games. There are 3 stacks of cards – one is easier, one is harder, and one is words that are not in the verse to make it harder for kids as needed. See the Memory Verse Card Games Guide for a variety of games you can choose from to help your students memorize the verse in fun and interactive ways.