



YEAR 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 6: Jesus and His Church

Communal Experience: Being the Church

EXPERIENCE DESCRIPTION

This module focused on Jesus and His Church. The Church is not the building that we go to on Sunday morning for worship; rather, it is the body of Christ. This body is made of people who have placed their faith in Christ and are living every day in surrender to God's leading.

We, the Church, are to be the hands and feet of Christ to those inside and outside the four walls of the church. From its beginning, the early church sought to follow the example of Christ and become a force for God in the world.

This communal experience will help group members understand how they too can follow the example of the early church and be a force for God in their world today.

EXPERIENCE DIRECTIONS

Begin by reading Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 4:32-36 aloud to your group. Share with the group that these passages give us prime examples of the ways that our faith communities are to live and give us the earliest representations we have of what it means to truly be the Church.

Write the following list below on a piece of paper that can be copied and distributed to everyone in your group, or write it on dry erase board for everyone to see. Tell the group that these are some examples from the Scripture that give us a pattern for the church today:

- They were devoted to the disciples' **teaching** (v. 42).
- They were committed to **fellowship and sharing meals** with one another (v. 42).
- They were committed to **praying together** (v. 42).
- They **relied on God's power** and remained in awe (v. 43).
- The believers were together, **sharing everything they had** (v. 44).
- They **met together every day** whether in the temple or in their homes (v. 46).
- They **worshipped together** in love (v. 47).
- They **continued to see conversion and repentance**—salvation (v. 47).
- They **were of one heart and mind**—or of one mission (4:32).
- They **saw to it that no one was needy**. Justice was a big concern (4:34).
- **They funded the movement, giving generously** not only to those in need but to the mission of the church as a whole (4:36).

Go through the list above one at a time. As you discuss each one, take time to list one way your group can live out that example in your community. Follow up by asking,

- What might it look like if our faith community practiced the proclamation of good news through teaching and preaching?
- What if our faith community sought to fellowship more deeply with one another, leaving no one out?
- What if our faith community made worshipping together and serving others a priority?

Close your time by allowing for silent reflection on what it means to be the body of Christ.