



# 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

June 4-5, 2016

DATE

Team: The Early Church

LESSON TITLE

Act 2:1-12, 41-47; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

WHERE TO FIND IT

God wants his family to work as a team.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**First 10 minutes of the service hour:**  
Engage kids in cooperative play activities to help them connect to other kids

**Next 5 minutes:** Connect Time

**Next 25 minutes:** Large Group

**Last 25 minutes:** Snack and Small Group

## tips

Find a kid who comes regularly to your room and form a connection. Ask about the upcoming week and then follow up with him/her next week. When you follow up, it shows you're listening and that you care about each kid's unique story.

## check-in/out

When kids are taking their popsicle sticks, remind them that just like every stick was important, every person in the church is important as well.

## large group heads up

Today is the beginning of a month-long series centered on teamwork/sports! We want to help kids understand that we call God's team the church. And, our goal as a team is to share Jesus with others.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### SHARKS, MINNOWS AND OCTOPUSES

- Choose one kid to be a “**shark.**”
- Tell all the other kids that they will start as “**minnows.**”
- If a shark tags a minnow, the kid becomes a shark. Remind kids that we are not running to tag, only walking!
- Here's a twist on the traditional game:
  - Tell kids that they can create an octopus to stay safe.
  - An octopus is four kids standing in a connected line waving their hands around.
  - Kids can stay part of an octopus for 15 seconds; then, they either have to create an octopus with other kids or they become a minnow again.
- This twist works best with a larger group. If your group is small, playing the sharks and minnows with the regular rules (without the octopi) will work fine.
- The game ends when everyone is a shark OR, if time runs out, the minnows/octopuses win!

### TALK ABOUT IT

- How did it feel when you became a shark?
- How did it feel when you weren't part of a team as a minnow?

**Before you go to Large Group, you can ask kids how their week went. You can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) describe the people of the early church and the church today, (2) understand that our goal as the church is to share Jesus with others, and (3) identify one way to share Jesus this week.

**Why?** The early church did whatever it could to spread the story of Jesus. We still have the same goals today. We want to share Jesus with as many people as we can.

**Tip:** Encourage creativity with the building structures. Allow designs to fail. It's OK if the group has to re-build. However, if it becomes a frustration, offer some tips that may help.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. What was it like to be part of the early church? (The people shared everything and did things together. They worked together to share Jesus with others.)
2. Why does God want his team to keep growing? (He wants **everyone** to be part of his team, including people who don't know Jesus yet.)
3. What makes a good team?
4. How can you help to invite other people to be part of God's team?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid a **popsicle stick** and **marker**.
- Tell kids that we're going to identify some new people who can be a part of God's team:
  - Think about someone who is already part of their team.
  - Then, have kids write that person's name on one side of the stick.
  - Now, tell them to think of someone who's maybe not on God's team yet.
  - Have them write this person's name on the other side of the stick.
- Take out a **Bible**. Ask kids if one of their sticks could hold up a Bible on its own. (No, of course not.)
- Tell the kids that we can't work on our own either, but together we can be strong.
- Challenge the kids to use **masking tape** to create a structure that can support the weight of the Bible.
- If your group succeeds quickly, try adding a second Bible or using a heavier object. If they are struggling, try to see if it can support a lighter object.
- The important idea to emphasize is just like the sticks support more together, our team is better when we support each other.
- Pray: ask God to help kids connect with the person they want to be part of their team.

(Continue on the following page)

*Extra Time? Make the structure building a fun competition. Have the kids bring their structure to the large group area. See which one can support the most weight. You could use toys, balls, books, or any other object.*

## special notes

There are four videos in today's teaching. Each video has a purpose. Every video has a question or a statement that gives something for kids to look for. When the video is over, make sure to check with the kids to see if they found the answer to the question you asked.

## presenter tips

Try using call-and-response as a way to grab kids' attention. It's typically two parts to a phrase. You say the first part and they say the second part. This is a great re-focus or transition tool. Here are some examples: **I say "Hakuna," kids say, "Matada!" I say "Marco," kids say, "Polo!"**

## script

***\*Click to play intro music.***

### **WELCOME AND INTRO**

Hey everyone! Welcome to Kids' Club! It's great to see all of you. This month, we are going to be talking about how we are all on teams. We may be on a sports or dance team. Or if you come here to Kids' Club, you're on the Kids' Club team! We're also all on Jesus' team. Speaking of teams, let's talk about our Connect Time game.

In the game, you wanted to be part of a team. Maybe you were trying to avoid being tagged by joining an octopus team, or once you were tagged you worked with your shark team to tag minnows. How did it feel when you were a minnow on your own? (Let 1-2 kids respond.)

I mentioned that we would be talking about being part of God's team this month. Everybody, think of one team or group you're a part of. On the count of three, say one team you are part of. 1-2-3. Go! (Let kids respond.) Those all seem like great! Let's take a look at one team that's in their biggest moment of the year. As you watch this clip, think about how the guys in this video are acting like a team.

### **Video: Hoosiers State Championship Game**

Wow! That had to be amazing to be part of that team! How did they work as a team? (Let kids respond.) Yep, everyone had a job to do. Today, we are going to talk about the team we are **all** part of.

### **WHO IS THE CHURCH?**

We're all a part of God's team. Does anybody know a name for God's team? (Let kids respond.) Yep, we can call it the church! Sometimes we talk about church as a building or a place, but it's so much more than that. Let's watch a video where we hear more about the church.

### **Video: Kids Bible Story: Early Church**



## script continued

What is the church? (Let kids respond.) That's right. It's you, me, and everyone following Jesus. Now that we understand that we are all part of the church, let's talk more about what the church does.

### **THE EARLY CHURCH WORKS AS A TEAM**

In the Bible, we see more about the early church. The people of the church shared everything and spent their time together. They even sold what they owned and used the money to help people. They worshiped God together, too.

The people of the early church totally depended on each other to live. I've heard of this really cool trick where four people can sit down without needing chairs. As you watch this video, think about what would happen if even one person was missing from this trick.

#### **Video: Chair Trick**

What would have happened if one person was missing during the trick? (They all would fall.) The church was meant to work a lot like this. Everyone was needed and depended on each other. They were a team, and if one person was not helping the team, it was not as strong.

Think about the best team you have ever been part of. What made this team work? (Allow 2-3 kids to share) Teams work best when everyone works together.

The church was not meant to stay as a small group of people. Jesus wanted us to share his story with **everyone**. Other people saw the way that the people on God's team were acting and they wanted to join.

Let's look more at the early church. As you watch this video, see if you can figure out how the church kept growing.

#### **Video: Bible Theater: Acts-The Early Church**

How did the church keep growing? Everyone shared

### **WE WANT OTHERS TO BE PART OF GOD'S TEAM**

Jesus came as the Rescuer for all of us. This is part of God's plan. We are still part of that church that was started a long time ago.

God wants our team to continue to grow. He wants people to know him, follow him, and love him. He doesn't need people to be perfect. In fact, a lot of people who followed Jesus made some major mistakes and did some really horrible things. He still wants them as part of his team.

Even when we join the team, God doesn't expect us to be perfect. I'm part of God's team and I still make mistakes. (*Share a time when you made a mistake after being part of God's team. It doesn't need to be really personal. Just something to help them understand that we all mess up.*) The great thing is: God is the leader of my team and he helps me follow him. I also have some amazing teammates in Kids' Club who try to help me be more like Jesus.



## script continued

Jesus wants to include everyone on his team, even those who don't follow him yet. Does that include someone who is usually mean? Yes! Does it include someone who has taken something that wasn't his? You bet! Does it even include someone who has done something really bad? Yes! Sometimes that's hard for us to understand. But Jesus wants anyone who wants to follow him to be on his team. In fact, later this month we'll be talking about a guy who really didn't seem like he would be on Jesus' team. But even he was still loved and wanted by God!

Maybe now you see that God wants everyone to be part of his team. He wants you to tell your friends, your family, and other people you like about Jesus. God also wants you to share Jesus with those who can be mean and who can be hard to like. He wants everyone to work together to build his church.

### RESPONSE TIME

In order to make a team, we need to recruit others to join. What are some ways we can encourage others to join Jesus' team? I want you to take the next minute to think of two people. I want you to think of one person who is already part of Jesus' team. Thank God for that person. Then, think of another person who you don't believe is a part of Jesus' team. Pray for God to help you find a way this week to encourage that person to join. Is anyone willing to share how you will share Jesus with a friend or family member this week who is not part of his team yet?

Let's read a verse that helps us see what it is like being part of God's team.

**Slide: 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 - In a race all the runners run. But only one gets the prize. You know that, don't you? So run in a way that will get you the prize. All who take part in the games train hard. They do it to get a crown that will never last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever.**

When this verse was written, they would have raced for a crown. Now, what might be the prize for a race? (A trophy, a medal, another prize, etc.) This verse is telling us that we are all trying to work together to bring more people to Jesus' team. But we're not doing it for a trophy or a medal. We're doing it because we know that God has an amazing future planned for his team; we'll get to live with him forever!

### Pray

Jesus, thank you for wanting us on your team. Help us to find people this week to invite to be part of your team. We're so glad that you love us enough to want us on your team. Amen!

### WORSHIP

One way to show Jesus you want to be part of the team is through singing. Stand and join me!

**Music Video: Crazy Love**

**Music Video: You Are**

# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Sharks, Minnows and Octopuses - no supplies needed

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## small group supplies

Per kid: 1 popsicle stick

Per group: markers, masking tape, Bible

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## large group supplies

**Per Group**: Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: Hoosiers State Championship Game (KC/SM media videos songs>videos>movie clips)
3. Video: Kid Bible Story / The Early Church (<https://vimeo.com/136645535>)
4. Video: Chair Trick (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiqalCkrnKM>; 0:00-0:35)
5. Video: Bible Theatre / Acts: The Early Church (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIz8>)
6. Slide: Verse: 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 - In a race all the runners run. But only one gets the prize. You know that, don't you? So run in a way that will get you the prize. All who take part in the games train hard. They do it to get a crown that will never last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever.
7. Music Video: Crazy Love (KC/SM media videos songs>music videos)
8. Music Video: You Are (<https://vimeo.com/112963091>)

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## connect questions

Tell me about the Early Church.  
How can we be part of God's team?