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**Day 1—FAMILY DEVOTIONS**

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| **Faith Fact** |
| We believe that . . . God uses the Church to do His work. |
| **Faith Verse** |
| Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)  He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. |
| **Foundation for Faith** |
| **Foundation 10:** We are the Church, and God can use us to do His work. The Church is also called the body of Christ. Every Christian is a part of the Church. God uses the Church to show others who Jesus is and to do His work on earth. As the Church, we  (a) tell others about Jesus;  (b) come together as a group to worship Jesus;  (c) help others grow strong in God’s love and power; and  (d) are compassionate to the needs of others.  **Foundation 11:** God uses spiritual leaders to help us grow. These leaders help with God’s four purposes for His Church—to tell the world about Jesus, to worship Him, to help each other live for Jesus, and to be compassionate to the needs of others. |

**Question of the Day: Who leads the Church?**

**LISTEN to God through His Word**

Pray and ask God to speak to you before you read today’s Scripture.

Read Acts 2:37–41; Ephesians 4:11; Colossians 1:18.

When the Church started growing on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus’ disciple Peter preached a sermon and about three thousand people believed in Jesus. The disciples became some of the first leaders in the Church and helped people grow spiritually. God still gives people special abilities to lead churches and help others develop faith in Jesus (Ephesians 4:11).

**Question**

What did Peter tell the people to do to prepare themselves for the gift of the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** Peter told them to repent of their sins and be baptized.

**LEARN from God’s Word**

Even though we have human leaders to help us, the Bible teaches that the Head of the Church is Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18). All human church leaders must recognize His authority and lead the Church according to His will. Everyone in the Church works together to do God’s will, but church leaders have the extra responsibility to lead others.

**Question**

How many were added to the Church after Peter’s sermon?

**Answer:** About three thousand people

**Question**

What is Jesus’ role in the Church?

**Answer:** He is the Head of the Church.

**LIVE God’s Word**

**Question**

Why is being a church leader an important responsibility? What are some of the types of leaders Jesus gives to the church?

**Answer:** Answers will vary. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers

**Question**

Who are some leaders who have helped you grow spiritually?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.

**PRAY about It**

Dear God, thank You for giving leaders to guide Your Church, and for placing good leaders in my life to help me grow closer to You. Amen.

**Day 2—FAMILY DEVOTIONS**

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| **Faith Fact** |
| We believe that . . . God uses the Church to do His work. |
| **Faith Verse** |
| Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)  He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. |
| **Foundation for Faith** |
| **Foundation 10:** We are the Church, and God can use us to do His work. The Church is also called the body of Christ. Every Christian is a part of the Church. God uses the Church to show others who Jesus is and to do His work on earth. As the Church, we  (a) tell others about Jesus;  (b) come together as a group to worship Jesus;  (c) help others grow strong in God’s love and power; and  (d) are compassionate to the needs of others.  **Foundation 11:** God uses spiritual leaders to help us grow. These leaders help with God’s four purposes for His Church—to tell the world about Jesus, to worship Him, to help each other live for Jesus, and to be compassionate to the needs of others. |

**Question of the Day: How does the Church grow?**

**LISTEN to God through His Word**

Pray and ask God to speak to you before you read today’s Scripture.

Read Acts 2:42–44; Ephesians 4:12, 16.

As the first Church worshipped God together, they grew closer to God and to each other. Paul described the Church as the “body of Christ” and wrote that each person is a unique part. The Church grows as we follow Jesus’ lead together and each person fulfils his or her special role in the body of Christ.

**Question**

What did the verses you read say the first Church did together?

**Answer:** They listened to the apostles’ teaching, fellowshipped together, shared meals and the Lord’s Supper, prayed together, met together, and shared with each other.

**LEARN from God’s Word**

**Question**

What evidence do you see in these verses that the first Church cared for one another?

**Answer:** They met together often and shared everything.

**Question**

What causes the Church to grow?

**Answer:** The Church grows as each part does its own special work.

**LIVE God’s Word**

**Question**

How is your church like the first Church in Acts?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.

**Question**

What special role in the body of Christ do you think you have?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.

**PRAY about It**

Dear God, thank You for giving me a special role in the Church. Help me to use my gifts to help others grow closer to You. Amen.

**Day 3—FAMILY DEVOTIONS**

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| **Faith Fact** |
| We believe that . . . God uses the Church to do His work. |
| **Faith Verse** |
| Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)  He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. |
| **Foundation for Faith** |
| **Foundation 10:** We are the Church, and God can use us to do His work. The Church is also called the body of Christ. Every Christian is a part of the Church. God uses the Church to show others who Jesus is and to do His work on earth. As the Church, we  (a) tell others about Jesus;  (b) come together as a group to worship Jesus;  (c) help others grow strong in God’s love and power; and  (d) are compassionate to the needs of others.  **Foundation 11:** God uses spiritual leaders to help us grow. These leaders help with God’s four purposes for His Church—to tell the world about Jesus, to worship Him, to help each other live for Jesus, and to be compassionate to the needs of others. |

**Question of the Day: What does the Church do?**

**LISTEN to God through His Word**

Pray and ask God to speak to you before you read today’s Scripture.

Read Acts 2:45–47.

The Church in Acts worked together to take care of one another’s needs. One person alone can’t do this. But when the Church cooperates, it can serve one another like Jesus did. Instead of being greedy, the Christians who had extra shared with those who had less so that everyone had enough. Those outside the community of Christians also saw how the believers cared for each other. This drew many to the Church and to Jesus. Christians today should take care of others and demonstrate Jesus’ love to those in need, too.

**Question**

What are some things you read in today’s verses that the Church did to care for those in need?

**Answer:** They sold property and possessions to give money to people in need.

**LEARN from God’s Word**

**Question**

Where did the people from these verses meet?

**Answer:** They met at the temple and in homes.

**Question**

How was this first Church received by people in their community in the verses we read?

**Answer:** They were “enjoying the goodwill of all the people” (Acts 2:47). Other people liked them.

**LIVE God’s Word**

**Question**

Why is it important for Christians to share with those in need?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.

**Question**

What are some ways your church cares for the poor?

**Answer:** Answers will vary.

**PRAY about It**

Dear God, help me to be generous and share with those in need so I can show them how much You love them. Amen.