

CHURCH SCHOOL BIBLE STORY

- SPRING 2022 -

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The Early Church

Based on Acts 2:42–47

There are lots of churches around today. There are many types of churches: some are big, and some are small. Some use different languages. Some churches have done things the same way for many years, while others are always looking for new ways.

Some church buildings are big and full of people; some are big with only a few people. Some are small. And some churches don't have buildings – they are groups of people that might meet in someone's home, or in a school, or outdoors under a tree when they want to worship God.

In other words, there is lots and lots of variety to the way we are the church today. But it wasn't always like that.

In the earliest days of the Christian church – in the first weeks and months and years after the first Easter – there were not many people involved in the church, and they tended to do things pretty much the same way.

Many of them still gathered to worship God on Saturdays in the local synagogue because that is what they had always done. But they also gathered on Sundays because that was the day Jesus rose from the dead.

They listened to stories that the apostles told – the women and men who might have travelled with Jesus or who had known someone who travelled with Jesus.

Often, when they heard stories of things Jesus taught and did, people were amazed. It was incredible to think that God was involved in our world and cared about everybody – the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the important and the not-so-important.

The early Christians shared things, too. Whenever they had a meal, they made sure none went hungry. And they would sell things they had so they could share the money with people who needed it.

Perhaps most importantly, they did all these things with joy because they believed deep down that this is how Jesus wanted them to live. It seems they were onto something, too, because many people saw what the early Christians were doing and said to themselves, "I want to be part of that."

And that's how the church grew and grew and grew.