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# The Early Church: Sharing and the Cross

*Scripture: Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37*

**Theme: The cross creates a community where everyone matters**

*4th-6th Grade (Ages 9-11)*

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Free curriculum for small and rural churches

## Lesson Overview

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The early church in Acts 2-4 wasn't a building or a program -- it was a family. Believers shared everything because the cross created a new kind of community where no one was overlooked and no one went without. Today, that same sacrificial love is lived out in underground churches from North Korea to Iran, where Christians still pool food, shelter, and the Gospel at great cost. This passage calls every believer -- young and old -- to a lifestyle of radical generosity and trust in a God who provides. Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

## Key Verse

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### **Acts 2:44-45**

The early believers were all together, and they had everything in common. They sold their property and possessions and distributed to those in need.

## Activities

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### **Activity 1: Bible Story Time**

Read and discuss the Bible story together

**Supplies needed:**

- *Bible*
- *paper*
- *crayons*

1. Read the story from Scripture
2. Discuss what happened
3. Ask the discussion questions

## Activity 2: Memory Verse Practice

Learn and practice the key verse

**Supplies needed:**

- Bible
  - index cards
1. Read the key verse together
  2. Practice saying it from memory
  3. Discuss what it means

## Discussion Questions

- How does the cross change the way we treat others?
- What does it mean to be part of a community where everyone matters?
- Why is it dangerous for Christians to share the Gospel in North Korea?
- How does the cross change the way we think about wealth and security?
- What is one concrete way your family can live out this lesson this month?

## Prayer Focus

*Pray for the North Korean church, asking God to protect them and strengthen their commitment to sharing everything.*

### >> Missions Spotlight

An estimated 365 million Christians worldwide face high levels of persecution, with the most extreme conditions in North Korea, where an estimated 50,000-70,000 Christians are imprisoned in labor camps. Underground churches in North Korea still share everything -- food, shelter, and the Gospel -- at the risk of death. In Iran, house churches meet in secret, pooling resources to care for widows and orphans. Pray for courage, provision, and unity for persecuted believers who live out the Acts 2 model every day.

### -> To the Cross

The early church shared everything because the cross had changed them. When you understand that Jesus died for you, you stop hoarding and start sharing. The cross creates a new kind of community, one where everyone matters and no one is left out.