

## STORY 8: COMMUNITY

**T**his is a story about the first community of those who believed in Jesus in the first century. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, God gave them His Spirit to live within them, and things began to change.

The community spent their time learning from the men who had been close friends with Jesus, men like Peter and John and James. They were like family to each other and they often prayed for each other. They ate together in each others' houses and shared their food happily and freely, praising God for whatever they had.

They were one in heart and mind. Nobody said that their stuff was theirs, but they shared everything. There were really no needy people among them. A man named Joseph sold his field and brought all the money to the apostles to give to those in need. Others even sold their homes!

Everyone around them was amazed at the miracles that God was doing through these men. It wasn't at all uncommon to see the sick and the disabled healed. Crowds of people brought their sick and those troubled by evil spirits and they were all healed. People even tried to strategically place their sick in Peter's shadow, hoping to be healed.

Almost everybody liked them, and they saw new people come to know Jesus and join their community every day.

## STORY 8: COMMUNITY

- **review:** re-tell the story
  
- **dialogue:** discuss the story
  - What do you like or not like about this story?
  
  - How did the believers treat each other? How did they treat their community? What was their reputation?
  
  - What can we learn from this community of believers?
  
  - What can we learn about God from this story?
  
- **application:** live the story
  - Why don't we often have this kind of community with other believers?
  
  - If we were to have this kind of community, what would it look like?
  
  - What is one action you can take to apply this story to your life?
  
- **notes:**