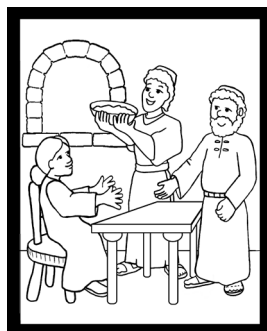


Lesson B4.3 - Sharing and Caring



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Acts 6:1-15

► Characters: Early Christians, widows, deacons

In the early Church, people took care of one another as best they could. However, when the Greek Christians complained that their widows were not receiving as much food as the Hebrew widows, seven men were chosen to serve and oversee this task. Steven was the first deacon, and he and the others made sure needs were met for all.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

► Scripture Section: Service

The believers of the early Church shared what they had with one another. They met together in Scripture and prayer and lived their lives in love and service to their neighbors. Ananias pretended to share, but kept things for himself.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids. The words are sung to the tune, "The Wheels on the Bus." No accompaniment needed.

We're all gathered here to thank you, Lord, thank you Lord, thank you Lord! We're all gathered here to thank you Lord, for all you do!

We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, teach us Lord, teach us Lord! We're all praying that you'll teach us Lord, more about you!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

What are some of the things Christians are known for? (Call on volunteers). We believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we worship together in churches, we baptize and offer Holy Communion. But there's something else we work on too: **sharing and caring**.

- Why is **sharing and caring** important?
- Where are some of the ways our church practices **sharing and caring**? (Call on volunteers)

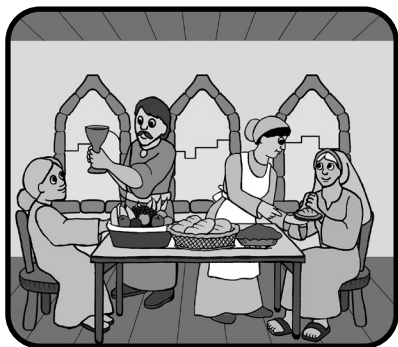
In today's Bible story, some people were worried that a group of poor widows was not getting enough food. What did the early Christians do about this? Let's find out how they made sure **sharing and caring** applied to everyone.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

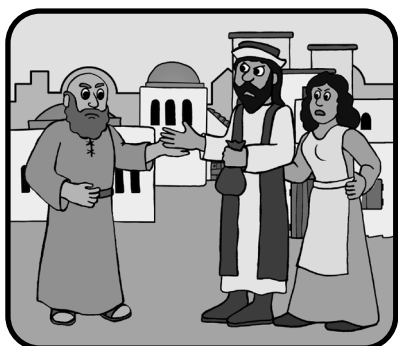


Picture 1

Tell the children: As more and more people heard about Jesus, they wanted to join the disciples. Soon, there were many Christians!

Read the caption: The early Christians worked hard to take care of each other. Some of the older women were widows. They needed extra help.

- *Look at the two women who are sitting. What do you notice about them? [They have white or gray hair--they are old. They look happy to be getting food.]*
- *What are the other two people doing? [They are serving food and drinks to the older ladies. They are trying to be helpful.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: It was hard to take care of everyone equally. The disciples tried their best, but some people still felt left out.

Read the caption: A few of the Greek people got upset. They thought their widows were not getting as much food as the Hebrew widows.

- *What is a "widow?" [It's a woman whose husband has died. In Bible times, a widow would often be poor as she wouldn't have any way of earning money.]*
- *Why is the man in blue holding a bag? [It has coins in it--possibly a donation for food. He wants the money to be used to feed the Greek widows equally.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: The disciples met together and decided to find people to oversee this important work. That way, the disciples could focus on preaching and teaching.

Read the caption: After praying, the disciples chose Steven and six other men to serve. They made sure everyone got enough to eat.

- *How many people can you count in this picture? [Seven] How many men did the disciples choose to serve? [Seven]*
- *What are these men doing? Why? [They are praying. They are asking for God's help so they can feed the poor and serve God's people fairly and faithfully.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: This worked well! Everyone felt cared for and all the widows, both Greek and Hebrew, got the help they needed.

Read the caption: Later, the disciples chose more good people to help in this way. They were called "deacons," which means "one who serves."

- *How many people can you count now? [Sixteen]*
- *What is different in this picture? [This picture has women in it too. In the early Christian church, both men and women served as deacons. This is still true in many churches today! Who are some of the people who serve in your church?]*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

"Help us!" the disciples said.

"Who will hand out food and bread?"

*"We need people who will feed
the widows who are most in need."*

*So they prayed to find some more
leaders who would serve the poor.
All their prayers were answered when
they put forth Philip and Stephen.*

There were others on the list:

Prochorus and two named Nic.

Parmenas and Timon, too,

helped as they were asked to do!

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Craft: Helping Hands Picture

Materials Needed: Colored paper (2 contrasting colors), pencils, scissors, markers, glue, glitter glue



Instructions: Give everyone two pieces of paper in contrasting colors, a pencil, and scissors. Make sure they also have access to glue, markers, and glitter glue.

Invite kids to trace around each of their hands on one sheet of paper. Cut out both hand shapes. Next, have them place the hand shapes on the background piece of paper. Make sure both pieces will fit. If they are too large, have kids trim them down a bit. Glue these in place. Give everyone a piece of red or pink scrap paper and help them draw and cut out two small hearts. These should be no bigger than the palms of each hand. Glue the hearts in the center of each hand.

Help kids write, "Love God" on the top of the picture (or inside the first heart). On the bottom of the picture, (or inside the second heart) help them write, "Love others" or "Love your neighbor." Discuss ways to do these things. Finally, invite kids to decorate around the rest of the background with swirls or dots in marker or glitter glue.

h. Song (optional)

This children's song has motions that can be found online on YouTube, Vimeo, or other sites. .

This Little Light of Mine!

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

Hide it under a bushel (No!),

I'm gonna let it shine. (Repeat 2 x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out,

I'm gonna let it shine... (Repeat 2 x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: The early Christians worked hard to take care of each other. Some of the widows needed lots of help. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*O God, we praise you and we know,
you care for us and help us grow.*

*We thank you for our friends today
With whom we learn, and laugh and play.*

*Please help our world to know your Son,
Who loves us--each and every one. Amen.*