

# The Early Christians

Based on Acts 2:42–47

## Overview

### Props

- Group 1 Table(s) or desks and chairs, refreshments
- Group 2 Two or three name cards with the word APOSTLE printed on them. These can be made with poster paper and string or yarn so they can be placed around the children's necks.  
Bandages, sunglasses, slings for those who will play the part of the sick people.  
Bag with food to be distributed.
- Group 3 None

### Costume Ideas

*Note: Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children's participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.*

All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. Some may wear bathrobes as outerwear. Veils for women and headdresses for men may be improvised from pillowcases and towels. Performers may wear sandals or be barefoot.

### Setting

Designate a different space in your session room for each of the three groups. If your space is limited, do the drama in three separate scenes in a place where all can see.

### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE5. Plan how to use the space where you hold your sessions for the drama. If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes. Select children for the cast.

### Cast

Organize the class into three groups so that half the children are in Group 2. Then arrange the other half of the class in two groups. They will be Groups 1 and 3.

- Group 1 will form the scene of the Christians eating and praying together. Assign one child to distribute food to the group.
- Group 2 will form the scene of the sick and poor with the Apostles. Assign one or two children to distribute food.
- Group 3 will form the group of onlookers.
- Narrator
- Apostles (two or three)
- Speaker for Group 1

Give directions to each group and the cast.

## Dramatization

**Narrator:** *(stands between Groups 1 and 2)*

The early Christians loved God. They loved each other. They listened carefully to the words of the Apostles. They ate special meals together where they prayed and broke bread and shared the cup. They took care of the sick and poor.

*While the narrator is speaking, the scenes below are acted out at the same time:*

- *Group 3: Children gather together and observe Groups 1 and 2.*
- *Group 2: One or two children wear sunglasses or blinders. One child puts a bandage or sling on another child. Children who are Apostles move among them and put their hands on their heads and pray for them. One or two children distribute food to the poor.*
- *Group 1: Children sit at the table and one person distributes refreshments. Children begin to talk quietly.*
- *Group 2: When Group 1 begins to talk, the sick in Group 2 show signs of being healed (a child removes a bandage or sling from another; the child with blinders or sunglasses takes them off). The poor receive the food and say, "Thank you." Group 2 moves to the table.*

*When Group 2 is at the table, speaker turns to Group 3:*

**Group 1 Speaker:** I want to tell you who we are. We are followers of Jesus. Jesus told us to love one another. We all live together and take care of one another.

**Group 3:** We can see how special your new life is! We want to know Jesus, too. Can we join you? Will you teach us about Jesus?

**Group 1 Speaker:** Yes, come with us and you can live a special life in Jesus too.

*Some in the Group 3 crowd come to the table and are welcomed by Groups 1 and 2 at the table.*

# The Call of Matthew

Based on Matthew 9:9–13

## Overview

### Props

Desk or table and chair  
 Play money on desk or table  
 Signs: *Matthew, Jesus, disciples* (two or three), *Pharisee*  
 Table with chairs  
 Refreshments

### Costume Ideas

*Note: Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children's participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.*

All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. Some may wear bathrobes as outerwear. Veils for women and headdresses for men may be improvised from pillowcases and towels. Performers may wear sandals or be barefoot.

### Setting

Designate two different spaces in your session room, one for the scene of Matthew at the tax collector's table and one for the meal at Matthew's house. If your space is limited, do the drama in two separate scenes in a place where all can see.

### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE8. Plan how to use the space where you do your sessions for the drama. If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes. Select children for the cast.

### Cast

Organize the class into two groups:

- Group 1 will form the scene at the tax collector's table with Jesus and the disciples.
- Group 2 will form the scene of Matthew's friends.
- Jesus
- Matthew
- Disciples
- Pharisee

Give directions to each group and the cast.

## Dramatization

*Jesus with two or three disciples comes into the area where Matthew is sitting at a table collecting taxes from the people. Several people are waiting to pay their taxes. They are talking. Jesus watches. He moves up to Matthew and speaks to him.*

**Jesus:** Matthew, I want you to come and follow me.

*The crowd gets very quiet—they all look at Matthew. He thinks for a while, then he stands and says:*

**Matthew:** OK. Where are you going?

**Jesus:** I'm going to your house, Matthew! It's almost dinnertime—can you feed me and my friends? It'll cost a lot of money.

**Matthew:** Of course—let's go.

*On the way to his house, Matthew sees some of his friends.  
He says:*

**Matthew:** Jesus is coming to my house. Come and have dinner with us.

*The group moves with Jesus, Matthew, and the disciples and sits at a table. They begin to talk and eat. The Pharisee who is one of Matthew's friends says to one of the disciples:*

**Pharisee:** Why is Jesus eating with tax collectors? They are not good people.

*Jesus gets up and walks over to the Pharisee and says,*

**Jesus:** Mr. Pharisee, do you ever go to the doctor?

**Pharisee:** Sure. Last year, I was playing and broke my leg—I had to go to the doctor and get a cast on it.

**Jesus:** So you go to the doctor when you're sick or hurt? Well, I'm like a doctor. I've come to help people who need my love. I am here to show mercy and kindness to all people.

# The Last Supper

Based on Matthew 26:26–28 and Luke 22:14–20

## Overview

### Props

- Low table
- Cushions or pillows for reclining
- Dishes and trays including a flat dish or basket for bread, dishes for vegetables and dip, and a cup for “wine”
- Unleavened bread (such as pita), grape juice, vegetables, and dip

### Costume Ideas

*Note: Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children’s participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.*

The narrator wears regular clothes. All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. All those eating should be barefoot. The servers should wear sandals and veils or turbans made from pillowcases or towels.

### Setting

This dramatization may be performed in the classroom, school auditorium, or parish church.

### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE15. Plan how to use the space where you hold your sessions for the drama. If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes. Select children for the cast.

### Cast

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Twelve Apostles or, if your group is small, select a smaller number
- Servers

Give directions to the cast. You may want to rehearse with the child selected to play the part of Jesus.

## Dramatization

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*As the play opens, Jesus and the Apostles are seated on cushions at a low table. Servers bring trays of dishes to the table and clear away the previous course.*

**Narrator:** On the night before he died, Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his friends. They gathered in Jerusalem in the house of a friend. Jesus and his Apostles were talking and eating. Then Jesus got very serious.

**Jesus:** This is a very important night. I wanted to eat this Passover supper with you before I suffer.

**Narrator:** Jesus and the Apostles knew that the leaders were looking for Jesus and wanted to put him to death. This would be their last supper together. They all talked a bit more, and then Jesus asked them to be quiet.

**Jesus:** *(holding bread and praying)*  
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has given us this bread to eat.

*Jesus breaks the bread into pieces. He passes it to the Apostles.*

**Jesus:** Take this and eat it. This is my body which will be given for you. Do this in memory of me.

*The Apostles look at one another. They eat the bread slowly and thoughtfully.*

**Jesus:** *(picks up and holds the cup of grape juice and prays)*  
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who has given us this wine to drink.

*Jesus passes the cup to the Apostles and motions them to drink from it.*

**Jesus:** Take this and drink it. This is my blood. It is the blood of a new promise God makes with you. My blood will be poured out so that the sins of many people will be forgiven.

*The servers come in to clear the table. Everyone sings. (Use *Te Alabaré, Señor* from the **Songs of Celebration** CD, track 12, or another familiar hymn.)*

# Pentecost

Based on Acts 2:1–41

## Overview

### Props

Desk or table and chairs  
Play money on desk or table  
Sign for *Peter*

### Costume Ideas

*Note: Costumes are not necessary but can add to the children's participation in and understanding of the Scriptures.*

All characters may wear simple cloth or paper tunics with rope or yarn belts. Some may wear bathrobes as outerwear. Veils for women and headdresses for men may be improvised from pillowcases and towels. Performers may wear sandals or be barefoot.

### Setting

Designate two different spaces in your session room, one for the scene in the upper room and one for the street scene. If your space is limited, do the drama in two separate scenes in a place where all can see.

### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the drama on page CE22. Plan how to use the space where you hold your sessions for the drama. If you are going to use them, collect props and costumes. Select children for the cast.

### Cast

Organize the class into two groups:

- Group 1 will form the scene in the upper room.
- Group 2 will form the scene in the streets.
- 2 narrators
- Peter

Give directions to each group and the cast. Remind the children who are the disciples and the children who are the crowd that they do not speak aloud. If necessary, go over the speaking parts with the children who are playing the parts of the narrators and Peter.