THE WAY OF JESUS

Memory Verse: **“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19**
Weekly Big Idea: **Why did God design us to be in community with others?**
(Answer) Jesus Connection: **We are designed to live in connection and relationship with God and others.**
Bible Story Scripture**: Beginning of the First Church | Acts 2:41-42, Genesis 2:18, Mark 3:14**

SERIES OVERVIEW

Hey everyone! Welcome back to KXP! We’ve been looking closely at the life of Jesus. Last week we learned about God’s Church and how important it is for believers to worship together. Today we will see how special our communities are when we gather together to study God’s Word and pray for each other.

Let’s read our memory verse together. *(read slowly)* ***“So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19***
It’s important to memorize God’s Word to put it in our hearts and minds. Then it’s there when we need it.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Our Big Idea Question for today is this - **Why did God design us to be in community with others?**

What is a community? Did you know that your community isn’t just where you live or go to school? It’s a feeling of fellowship with others that share the same beliefs, interests, or goals that you do. If you love to read, you might be part of a community at the library that meets for story time. If you play soccer, your team is a type of community. Musicians have community with band mates. Dog lovers can find community at the dog park with other dog lovers. People in communities have something in common. We can have a faith community too.

Last week, we talked about the Church. People who worship together, study God’s Word, and love each other can build a community of believers. What they have in common is their belief in God and His promises. How many of you go to House Church with your family? This is a community of believers! Your KXP leaders and classmates are part of your faith community, too! Your community is filled with others who love Jesus and want to follow His ways.

Beginning of the First Church | Acts 2:41-42, Genesis 2:18, Mark 3:14

During the presentation of Scripture, use a physical Bible, when possible, to model exploring God’s Word together.

Our scripture this week is from the book of Acts in the New Testament. It was written by one of Paul’s friends named Luke.

In today’s passage, after the celebration of Pentecost, many people were gathered to listen to Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples. Three thousand people chose to believe in Jesus after hearing the Good News and were baptized. That is a lot of people! This was the beginning of the very first church. The number of Jesus followers grew from 120 people to 3,000 people in just ONE DAY! Isn’t that wild?!

Acts 2:41 tells us ***“Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptized. About 3,000 people were added to the number of believers that day.”***
You may be asking, “Did that many people fit into a church building that day?” The Church wasn’t a building back then and it isn’t a building now. God’s Church is the people that believe in Him and share the Good News of Jesus

with others. Believers gather to worship, praise, pray, read God's Word, and serve each other. They can do that anywhere.

If believers gather under a tree in a backyard, that's where the Church is. If believers meet in someone's home, that's where the Church is. If believers come together in a KXP class, that's where the Church is. The Church is you and me!

The Scripture goes on to say that the first church followed the teachings of Jesus. They met together in homes where they ate together and prayed for each other. What does that sound like to you? It sounds like what we do at House Church!

Acts 2:42 says ***"They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and to pray together."***

Did you know God designed us for community? When God created Adam at the very beginning in the Book of Genesis, He didn't want Adam to be alone, so He created Eve. God wanted community with Adam and Eve in the Garden.

Genesis 2:18 says***, "Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is right for him."***

God wants community with us too. One way we get to be in community with God is to be in community with other believers. Our community of believers can encourage us, pray for us, and have fun with us. Jesus was in community with His Father and with His disciples and friends.

Mark 3:14 tells us ***"Jesus chose twelve men and called them apostles. He wanted these twelve to be with him, and He wanted to send them to other places to preach."***

Not only did Jesus enjoy being with His disciples, but He also longed to be with God's people. Jesus had close friends that travelled and spent time with Him. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are full of stories of Jesus being with His people. They celebrated, mourned, and worshipped together. Jesus lived His life in community! That was God's design and Jesus' way.

LESSON CONCLUSION

So, why did God design us to be in community with others? **God made us to live in relationship with Him and connection to others.** He wants us to have people in our lives who love Jesus, encourage us, worship with us, support us, and share the gospel, too!

JESUS CONNECTION

We are designed to live in connection and relationship with God and others.

SMALL GROUP: REVIEW & DISCUSSION

This is a time to check kids' understanding of the Bible story and its Truths. These guided questions can spark minds to continue seeking understanding of God and His Son, Jesus.

Recall:

- In the story today, how many people chose to believe in Jesus and be baptized? *(3,000)*
- What did believers do together in the early church*? (Followed the teachings of Jesus, met together in homes, ate together, prayed for each other)*
- Did God think it was a good idea for people to be alone? *(No, God designed people to live together with others - helping, teaching, sharing, and worshiping together.)*

Discussion & Application:

- What is your favorite way to connect with other Jesus followers?
- What is one thing you learned from today's lesson?
- How will you use what you learned this week?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank You for creating us to live in community with others. You knew that we would need You and need people. Please help us to enjoy our time with other believers and always try to learn something new about Jesus. In the wonderful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

LIVE IT OUT CHALLENGE

This challenge will prompt kids to make the KXP lesson personal. It can encourage them to live out what The Bible teaches us.

Challenge: Community Time

- **Leaders** - Talk with the kids about the different types of communities they are involved in.
- Point out what each community has in common.
- **PRAY FIRST** asking God to bless each child as they learn to be part of our faith community.
- **Kids** – *(on a note card) W*rite or draw what you love about your community at KXP or House Church.