

La Familia Talkabout Leader's Guide

Step By Step

7. Read Acts 2:41-47 again.

How did they use their gifts?
They all contributed whatever they could.

What are some attitudes they had? They were devoted to Bible teaching, fellowship and prayer. They reached out to the lost. They loved and shared and encouraged each other. They were full of praise and thanksgiving to God.


8. Lead the group in a time of prayer about their involvement in "the family of Christ." If they do not have a church home, pray for one another that each will find a place to call their church family.

The Church... It's About Your Place

As a member of God's family, you also play an important role. God has given you many gifts and abilities that He wants you to use to help grow and build His family (1 Corinthians 12:27). The first church understood this very well.

Turn back to Acts 2:41-47 **7**

How did the first church use their gifts and abilities to help grow and build God's family?




What are some attitudes the first church family had that you can take on to help make your own new family successful?

Finally, remember, as you search for a local church family, be careful not to look for perfect people, but people who are faithfully serving the Lord!

Pray and ask God to lead you to a church where you can fellowship with La Familia!

8



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talkabout

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Time: 1 hour

Main Point: When you became a Christian, God placed you into a new family—the Church. As you get connected to a local church, you benefit, as so do the people in that church family.

Helpful Hints: If the students in your study do not attend church regularly, encourage them to go with their parents, or invite them to attend where you worship. Talk about the benefits of attending

a church where Christ is lifted up and His Word is preached. When discussing "the Church," Scripture is speaking of the church "universal," not one specific local church body. Different churches provide different styles of ministry. A person looking for a church home may want to look around or talk with others to get their advice.

Things To Watch Out For: This study is not intended to lead into a debate of

denominations or creeds. It is designed to show the biblical instructions and benefits of church involvement. Don't let anyone in the group talk negatively about any church or denomination. Stick on the topic and maintain a positive and encouraging time of discussion.

Step By Step

1. Discuss what makes your family unique. Let each person share something.
2. Read and discuss this question.

La Familia
(The Family)


Your Family

Families come in all shapes, colors and sizes. Think about your family.
What are some special things about it? Is it big or small? Are you really big sports fans? Does your family celebrate any special events in a big way?

1 Share some of those things with the rest of the group.

2 *talkabout*

What are some benefits of being part of a family?



3

...Just ten more minutes

talkabout

Step By Step

3. Read each verse and summarize what they mean.

4. 2 Timothy 4:2 says the preaching of the Word provides encouragement, correction, and instruction.

Ephesians 4:11-12 says that we will be built up and prepared for effective service for Christ.

5. Acts 2:42-37 tell of the spiritual enrichment and encouragement that the believers felt together.

Hebrews 10:23-25 explains the encouragement and protection from sin that occurs in a church body.

6. It's all about Christ!

Matthew 1:23 tells us that Jesus was born of a virgin, and other miraculous events surround his birth.

John 1:1,4 show how Christ is fully God.

1 Peter 2:21-24 summarizes that Christ suffered and died for our sins.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 reminds us that Christ will return one day and we will spend all eternity with Him.

The Church...A New Family

Did you know that when you accepted Christ, you were adopted into a new family? The Bible calls it the "Body of Christ," or the Church. And, just like your biological family, your new spiritual family has some unique things about it:

- God's family is huge! (Revelation 7:9)
- We're all on the same team cheering for the same cause. (Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:16)
- And we have some pretty special fiestas to celebrate together! (Acts 2:41; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

It's Huge!—Grandissimo

Like we said before, God's family is huge! Really, there's only one church, but there are millions and millions of Christians in communities all over the world! We can't all possibly get together for church every Sunday! As a result, we have lots and lots of local churches to choose from. This is very biblical. Acts 9 lists several places where local believers gathered to worship God.

The church is a place where the Bible, God's Word, is honored as holy and true and is faithfully preached on a regular basis. Let's check out what the church proclaims:

The Church... 'It's All Good!'

God as our Heavenly Father designed the church as a place where His children can grow and be nurtured in a loving environment while learning about His Word and obeying His commands.

According to the following verses, what else does the Church provide for God's family?

2 Timothy 4:2

Ephesians 4:11-12

Read Acts 2:42-47

As you read these verses, do you see any other benefits of being involved in a local church family? List them here:

Now, read Hebrews 10:23-25

According to these verses, why do you think it's essential for a Christian to be connected to a local church family?

It's All About Christ

What does the Church teach us about...

Christ's Identity? (Read John 1:1,4)

Christ's Birth? (Read Matthew 1:23)

Christ's Death? (Read 1 Peter 2:21-24)

Christ's Return? (Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)