

Sunday School at Home Happy Birthday dear Church! May 23, 2021

Sharing our Bible Story for Today

During the month of May we are going to share Bible stories from the Book of Acts in the New Testament section of the Bible. Acts tells us many stories about the actions of the first followers of Jesus, and even the story of how the church was born almost 2000 years ago!

Birthday of the Church

Just how did the church come to be the church? We find a story early in the Book of Acts that tells us the amazing account of Pentecost – the birthday of the church. And what did the church receive for a birthday gift? The Holy Spirit! Read all about it in Acts 2:1-21 in your Bible at home (or online) or enjoy Ralph Milton’s retelling of the story of Pentecost from The Family Story Bible (pp 269-270).

Thinking and Talking about the Story

If you had to guess how old the church is today, what would be your best guess? If you guessed anywhere close to 2000 years (that is very old!!) you are very close to the actual age of the church! Of course the church has continued to change and grow over all those centuries and it continues to look very different in different places! Imagine all the languages and customs and traditions that look and feel like church around the world today!

Think of a country that you have never visited, or choose a country at random by spinning a globe or closing your eyes and pointing at a map. Now have someone help you do some internet research about Christian churches in that country! What languages are spoken? How is the place of worship different than what we are used to here in southern Manitoba?

Putting the Story into Action

1) Celebrate the birthday of the church at home! How about making and decorating and (the most important part!) sharing a birthday cake for the church?

2) If you were going to give a gift to the church today, what gift might the church really need and want?

3) Spend time outdoors and “*Take a Sacred Pause*”. Many people find peace in the beauty of the natural world, in God’s sanctuary. And spring is a great time to enjoy the change of seasons and all the promises of new life right outside our door! What new signs of spring and new life do you see when you are outside this week?

4) Do you know this finger rhyme?

Here is the church
Here is the steeple

Open the doors
and see all the people

Close the doors
and the people all pray

Open the doors
and the people walk away

5) Do you have a question about the story? Send us an email and we will respond!
We love questions – the harder the better! And I still haven't received any questions!

Carman United Church and St. Andrew's United Church families - to share your responses to this week's story visit Carman United Church Face Book page or email the church office Karen.mcgill@crossroadsunited.com. Visit www.crossroadsunited.com and see Sunday School At Home to view previous lessons and stuff people are sharing.

Praying at Home

A grace from our hymn book, Voices United (do you remember the tune?):

For food in a world where many walk in hunger,
For friends in a world where many walk alone;
For faith in a world where many walk in fear,
We give you thanks, O God.
Amen.