

# United in Service

Acts 1; 2:1-4; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 829-835; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 35-40

**H**ave you ever had an argument with your best friend? What did it feel like? How did it change how you felt about your friend? Was it easy to do things together after that? Jesus' disciples argued often. Read on to find out what changed them.

**J**esus chose 12 men to be His disciples, or special friends. They were with Him in the beginning when John baptized Him in the Jordan River. Every day they listened to His wonderful stories. They went with Him to the temple. They heard Him explain the Scriptures. Best of all, they saw Jesus heal people. They

knew about whole towns where no sick person lived because Jesus had been there. Just imagine it. Not one sick person in the whole town! Yet in spite of all the good things He had done, some people put Jesus to death. His disciples were around when He was crucified on the cross.

Jesus had tried to warn them of what was going to happen to Him. He had told them He would die and rise again. But they had not listened or wanted to understand. They had had their own ideas. They had thought Jesus would become a king on earth. They had expected Him to set up a kingdom and free them from the Romans. And they had often

argued among themselves as to who would be the most important disciple then. James and John had even gotten their mother involved! She had asked Jesus if they could sit on either side of Him when He became king. And that had made the rest of the disciples angry!

After the Resurrection, Jesus had spent 40 days with the



## The Message

Prayer prepares us  
for service.

## Memory Verse

*“They all joined  
together constantly  
in prayer”*

*(Acts 1:14).*

disciples and some of His other followers. He had explained the prophecies about His birth and death. He had talked to them about the kingdom of God. They had finally begun to see that Jesus was not going to fight the Romans. They had finally understood that Jesus would go back to heaven. However, He had promised that they would not be alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to be with His followers. Before Jesus went to heaven, He had given them very clear instructions. They were to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.

This time they listened—and they obeyed. While they were waiting, something wonderful happened. They learned to know

one another better. All the old arguments did not seem important anymore. They became united in wanting to serve God. The Bible says, “They were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1, KJV). They wanted to spread the good news about

Jesus. They would tell others how He came to this world and died for all people. They wanted everyone to know that Jesus went back to heaven. They were ready to tell others that Jesus is coming back to take us to live with Him.

Prayer helped unite them. Prayer helped them serve God. Prayer can do the same for us today.



## S A B B A T H

**PRAY** If possible, go for a prayer walk with your family. Walk around your neighborhood, and as you walk along, pray for the people who live there.

**SING** Sing "The Lord's Prayer" at family worship (*Sing for Joy*, no. 99). Then thank God for the opportunity to serve Him.

A disciple is someone who follows the teaching of another person, especially a great teacher.



## S U N D A Y

**READ** With your family, read and discuss Acts 1:1-11. What did Jesus want His disciples to do? Read verse 11 again. What does it mean to you?

**DO** Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. Sit quietly for five minutes before going to play or eat lunch. What does it feel like to wait?

**DRAW** Draw a circle. Write the words of the memory verse around the edge of the circle. Cut the words apart. Mix them up; then put them in order again.

**PRAY** Pray that God will help you always to listen to His plans for you.

## M O N D A Y

**READ** For family worship today, read and discuss Acts 1:12-26. Who were among the people who stayed and prayed together? What happened to them?

**DO** Peel an orange and break it into segments. Hold the segments together as if they were still a whole orange. Take one segment away. Is the orange still complete? Is your church "whole" if all the people don't use their talents? Why?

**ASK** Ask your parents how they serve your church. Talk about ways you can serve together or by yourself. Pray that you will find ways to use your talents to serve wisely.

**DO** Review your memory verse every day.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** With your family, read and discuss the prayer Jesus taught His disciples. (See Matthew 6:9-13.) What did you learn about forgiving others? Do you need to forgive someone today?

**DO** Go outside and look at a tree. List all the different parts of the tree you can see. Could the tree live without all those parts? How is that like your church? (The church needs all the people. Working together, we are strong.)

**PRAY** Pray that the people in your church will work together to serve God.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss Luke 11:5-13 during family worship. Make a list of good things God has given you and your family. How can you use them in His service?

**ASK** Ask two people to tell you how prayer has made a difference in their lives.

**DO** Review your memory verse. Thank God that He is always willing to listen to us and answer our prayers.



## THURSDAY

**DO** Prayer leads to unity—working together. Take each of the letters in the word UNITY and think of words that explain what it means. For example: “You and me together.” Try this with your family during worship today.

**DO** Design a symbol or logo for prayer, service, and unity. Show it to your family.

**DO** Do a secret service for someone today. Pray for that person.



## FRIDAY

**THINK** During worship today, review Acts 1 with your family. What three important things have you learned from this chapter? Say your memory verse together. Is this one of those important things?

**SING** Sing “Whisper a Prayer” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 96). Then ask God to be with your family on His special Sabbath day.

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## PUZZLE

**Directions:** Cross out every other letter beginning with the second letter of each word to find out how the disciples kept faith in Jesus.

Tahsedye ahjljk jqowienretdy tzoxgcevtbhnemrp  
cloknjshtgafndtslayv ixnu pwreaqyretrk

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