

United in Service

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

Have 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.

Jesus 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. And they stayed with Him until He was crucified on the cross. 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!

Jesus tried to warn them of what was going to happen to Him. He told them He would die and rise again. But they did not listen or want to understand. They had their own ideas. They thought Jesus would become a king on earth. They expected Him to set up a kingdom and free them from the Romans. And they often argued among themselves as to who would be the most important disciple then. James and John even got their mother involved!

She asked Jesus if they could sit on either side of Him when He became king. And that made the rest of the disciples angry!

After the resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days with the disciples and some of His other followers. He explained the prophecies about His birth and death. He talked to them about the kingdom of God. They finally began



The Message

Prayer prepares us
for service.

Memory Verse

“They all joined
together constantly
in prayer”

(Acts 1:14, NIV).

to see that Jesus was not going to fight the Romans. They finally understood that Jesus would go back to heaven. However, He promised that they would not be alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to be with His followers. Before Jesus went to heaven, He gave them very clear instructions. They were to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.

This time they listened—and they obeyed. Every day they met in a room with other believers. They talked about the things they had learned, and spent time in prayer. As they prayed together they thought about the past. They knew they had done and said some things that were not good. They realized that they had been unkind to one another. And

they made things right among themselves. Most importantly, they asked God to forgive them for all the wrong they had done.

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. 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 to unite them. Prayer led them to have one goal—to 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 pray for the people who live there as you walk along.

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.

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.



T H U R S D A Y

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.



F R I D A Y

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.

Tahsedyehljlkjqowienretdy tzoXgcevtbhnemrp
clOknjshtgafndtslayvixnu pwreaqyretkr

