

BIBLE POINT

— Day 5 —

Jesus' power helps us be good friends.

Bible Story: The Church is united. (Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-35)

Bible Verse: "Love one another as I have loved you."
(John 15:12)

Catholic ID: Four Marks of the Church

Saint of the Day: Saints Benedict and Scholastica

Consider This...

- ▶ The book of Psalms mentions prayer more than 60 times—more than any other section of Scripture. The book of Acts comes in second, recording the importance and occurrence of prayer about 34 times. Clearly, the early Church relied on prayer for hope, communion, healing, provision, and unity. Communication with God became a critical part of their community.
- ▶ Scholars believe that the early Church probably met in Solomon's Colonnade, a porch along the inner side of the Temple wall.
- ▶ Many of the first Christians came from Jewish backgrounds, meaning they probably already followed God's command to give to the poor (Deuteronomy 15:4-8). Uniting and caring for others may have been a natural connection with their faith family.
- ▶ Acts 4:33 records the great power with which the apostles testified about Jesus' Resurrection. It's likely this refers to a boldness given by the Holy Spirit but might also indicate that their life of unity and joy became a powerful witness to those around them.
- ▶ While Acts shines a light on the rapid growth of the early Church (Acts 2:47; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31; 21:20), in a city of around 200,000 people, they still represented a minority of the population. This small band of believers needed to stick together and support each other!

Why It Matters...

Are the kids at your VBS like or unlike the early Christians? Why? Do they have a heart to serve, share, and bear one another's heartaches? What would happen if kids today had the same spirit of that first faith family? What would the Church of tomorrow look like?

By Jesus' power, the Church is one. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that the Church is united always because her source is the Holy Trinity. Through the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and the life of grace given to us, we are empowered to be united in charity as one, fulfilling the desire of Jesus when he said, "I ask...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:20-21). The love of the Trinity enables us to love and to stay united as Jesus desires. Saints Benedict and Scholastica stayed united in faithful, loving friendship, even in the face of obstacles and hardships beyond their control.

You have the opportunity to send kids off with a passion for sharing Jesus' love in powerful and practical ways! With Jesus' power, we can transform tomorrow's faith community into an environment of belonging, sharing, caring, and community. Today, help kids discover how Jesus' power can help them be faithful friends who truly care for each other.

