



**The start of the Church**

# The Early Church

After the Holy Spirit had come at Pentecost, the disciples began to tell people about Jesus! They went out into the streets and spoke about what Jesus had done and why the people should follow Him.

Why did they do that? What is the link between them doing this and what happened to them at Pentecost?

Peter was a key person in the start of the early church.

Do you know anything about Peter already from other stories we have heard about Jesus?



Peter was the disciple who denied Jesus 3 times when he was arrested.

When Jesus was resurrected, he forgave Peter and told him to 'feed my sheep'. This meant that Jesus wanted Peter to look after his people and tell them about him.

Peter really badly messed up when Jesus was arrested but here we see him building the early Church! Christians believe that God can use anyone, even if they have made mistakes.

# Challenge!

Draw a quick picture of Peter and create a mind map around him of his life:

- What did he get wrong?
- What did Jesus ask him to do?

# The Early Church

The book of Acts in the New Testament of the Bible tells us what the early Church was like.

## The Fellowship of the Believers

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## Challenge!

What does this passage from Acts 2 tell us about the features of the early Church? Make a note of the key features that you find.

# The Early Church

## The Believers Share Their Possessions

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

<sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all

<sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

This passage is from Acts 4:32-35. What does this tell us about the early Church?

Not everybody liked the disciples talking about Jesus like this. Many of Jesus' followers were persecuted and told to stop talking about Jesus.

In Acts 8, it tells us that the church of Jerusalem was persecuted so much that the apostles (disciples) scattered across Judea and Samaria.

This is how the early Church started to spread.

