

**SESSION OBJECTIVE:**

To understand that Jesus' power helps us be good friends.

What's Mine Is Yours

In the earliest stages of the developing church, the Christian community was much more reliant on one another than perhaps the modern church is. Acts chapter 2 says that the disciples were committing themselves to the apostles' teachings, to prayer, and to the fellowship. Verses 44 through 47 continue: "And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved" (Acts 2:44-47). The early disciples were filled with gratitude for what Jesus did for them, and that gratitude poured over into their friendships with one another as well. They provided for one another, met together regularly, committed themselves to the Christian teachings, and were praying constantly together. Jesus' power helps us be good friends.

This trend continued and Acts 4 picks up on it: "Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common" (Acts 4:32). Again, belief precipitates gratitude, and gratitude spills over into the horizontal realm. The same is true for us today. First, we ought to be marked by gratitude for what Jesus has done on our behalf. But secondly, that gratitude should spill over into our friendships. Jesus' power helps us be good friends that provide for and love one another. That is, after all, how the world will know we belong to Him (Jn. 13:35).

Questions:

1. Icebreaker: Have you ever been the recipient of Christian generosity? How did it make you feel?
2. Why is it important for the kids to learn this lesson?
3. How does your gratitude spill over into your relationships? Does it?
4. How can you demonstrate your gratitude this evening as you minister to the kids?

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 15:12

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”