

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 3

**Describe a time when you witnessed or benefited from an act of kindness that had a big impact on you and inspired you to do the same.** *Note: If you are with a group, have each person take a turn sharing.*

## **Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

*Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

## **Reflection**

This scripture from the Book of Acts gives us a glimpse into the early church. People saw how Jesus healed people, gave them new life, and all the good things he did for them. He fed huge crowds of people, made sick people better, welcomed people who didn't have friends, ate with people no one wanted to sit with, and showed them God's abundant love. These early followers of Jesus were inspired to follow in his ways and do good as well. Then other people were inspired by them, and the church grew and grew. Take a look at the illustration and name some of the acts of kindness you see happening in the image.

All these years later, we are inspired by Jesus to show God's love and help others just like these early followers of Jesus did. It is especially important to be thoughtful and creative with our kind acts as the physical distancing measures we've been practicing during the COVID-19 outbreak begin to roll back. Some of the ways we show people love right now look different than they used to. How we show love in our homes, communities, and the world now requires us to think differently and creatively. It's what the early church was doing in our story for today, and it's what we are doing too. It takes time to notice needs, make the space to respond to them, and practice acts of kindness again and again. What ways can you think of to follow Jesus' example in your own life right now?

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Can you think of a time you saw someone doing something kind for someone else, or for you? What was it?
2. How did it make the other person feel? How did it make you feel?
3. Can you think of something kind you saw someone else do which inspired you to do the same?

## **Prayer**

Dear Jesus, thank you for setting such a powerful example of kindness and love. Help us follow your example by helping others and practicing kindness. **Amen.**