

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Choosing the Seven – Acts 6:1-7

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

Today's story is about how the early Christians worked together to solve a problem. The Twelve called a meeting of all the disciples. The Twelve thought they needed to focus on prayer and speaking God's word while letting others serve food. So, they asked the community to select seven others to serve. They specified that these people must be wise and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

This proposal pleased the whole community. The community selected seven new disciples and presented them to the Twelve, who prayed and laid hands on them. God's word continued to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased.

Children may wonder why the disciples needed more help or why they couldn't do it all on their own. We might have this problem too. Sometimes children say, "Don't help me. I can do it by myself!" But sometimes we actually need the help. It's OK to ask for help and to work together to spread God's love. We all are called to find ways to unite and act in love for one another. The children also may wonder what it means to lay hands on someone. Laying hands on someone was a gesture of blessing that was done to show assignment for special service and to show support and fellowship.

This story brings an opportunity to talk about how we show love by serving one another. It also provides an opportunity to talk about how church communities work together as a way of showing love for others and for the world.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

When you need help, you can use the following:

How can you get the help you need?

Elect someone to help you.

Let someone help you.

Prioritize what you need help with the most.

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: *Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23, 16 & 17; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 85; Activity Sheets (Session 9); Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; CD player; stickers or markers; items for Wonder Table (small table, white cloth, and items such as a candle, toy food); Wonder Box; stole; pens; pencils; crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17). Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place the stole inside the Wonder Box. Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.*

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive. Lyrics are on page 85 of the Leader Guide.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or a marker.
- Distribute this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 9). Help the children complete the activities.

Tip: *Display the Wonder Wall poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23), or use the instructions on the back of the poster to create your own.*

Sing and Celebrate

Supplies: *Leader Guide—p. 88, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “Song Sheet—Unit 3” for each child.*

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play “A Strong Wind” (CD or DVD). Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *CEB Bible; Class Pack—pp. 8 & 25, 19; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player; scissors*

Prepare Ahead: *Obtain the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (pp. 8 & 25). Cut out the Wonder Story Mat Figures (p. 19). You will use Acts 6:7a today.*

- Lay the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.

- Read from the Bible today's story in Acts 6:1-7.
- Let a child move or place Acts 6:7a on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Watch the Session 9 video on the DVD.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: *Class Pack—insert, pp. 11 & 22; Wonder Box (containing a stole)*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Unit 3 Faith Word poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 22), and locate the Wonder Cube (Class Pack—insert).*

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Direct the children to answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as time allows.
- Then pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

SAY: Today's faith word is *Love*: a closeness and connection that we feel with God and others.

- Wonder together:
 - What does love mean?
 - How do you show love?
 - How do leaders show love?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the stole.

WONDER: Do you know what this is?

SAY: Today we are talking about new leaders in a community. A stole is something used to show that someone is a leader in the church.

Experience Wonder

Find the Leader (Game)

Supplies: *Leader Guide—p. 60, pens or pencils*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Find the Leader" (Leader Guide) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of "Find the Leader." Have the children look over the chart.

SAY: You are going to move around the room. Ask a friend if she or he has a leadership quality listed. If your friend says yes, ask her or him to initial that box. Go around to all your friends until your chart is full.

- After the children have collected the initials, gather everyone together.

WONDER: What did you learn about your friends? What makes a good leader?

I Choose You (Movement)

Supplies: one chair, music player

- Have the children stand in a circle. Place the chair in the middle of the circle.
- Choose a child to be IT. Have IT sit in the chair, close his or her eyes, and point his or her arm out toward the circle. IT must keep pointing until you say to stop.
- Start the music. When the music starts, have the children begin walking to their right.
- After a minute or two, stop the music. When the music stops, see who IT is pointing at. IT opens his or her eyes and says to the selected child, "I choose you because ____." IT must come up with something unique or special about that child.
- The selected child then becomes IT.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

The Service of Seven (Reflection)

Supplies: paper, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, seven special people were chosen to help serve and spread the message of Jesus. Consider seven people in your life who could help you serve and spread the message.

WONDER: Who would you choose? Why?

- Have each child write or draw a picture of seven people who could help her or him serve others.
- Have willing volunteers share.

Peaceful Place

Supplies: suggested books: "Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed" by Emily Pearson and "Miss Rumphius" by Barbara Cooney; materials for making stoles: plain cloth, fabric markers, fabric scissors

- Locate the suggested books and quiet items, and place them in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

Tip: You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Love Through Service

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 89, “Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book” (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (Leader Guide) for children who have not received it yet.

- Gather the children together near the Wonder Table, and have them stand arm’s length apart from one another.

SAY: In the Bible story, the disciples laid hands on the newly chosen disciples.

WONDER: What does it mean to lay hands on someone?

- Invite the children to place their hands on the shoulders of the people on both sides of them.

Tip: If children do not wish to touch their friends, that is OK.

SAY: Let’s offer our friends a blessing to go out and be disciples of Jesus.

- Encourage the children to repeat the blessing after you.

SAY: You are chosen. Go out and show love to others.

- Send “Celebration Chart” home with children who did not receive it yet.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the “Celebration Chart” and to read together the quarterly *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* (if purchased).

CELEBRATE WONDER™ Find the Leader

I am a good friend.

I like to sing songs in church.

I am a good listener.

I like to read.

I like to help clean up.

I can share the message of Jesus with others.

I like to read scripture.

I would like to be a preacher.

I like to pray out loud.

I am good at teaching others.

I like to play sports.

I like to create art.