World Church/Green Sunday, April 25

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A Discussion for Upper Elementary Grades

World Church Sunday always falls on the Sunday two weeks after Easter (which, being a moveable feast, means World Church Sunday also varies and can be marked anytime between April 5 and May 9). Interestingly enough, the "church" referred to here is the one begun in the Upper Room, when Christ marked the new covenant with bread and wine at the Last Supper. With this gesture, the body and blood, the very "source" of salvation, was to be shared with the entire world. Indeed, it was in this same Upper Room that the disciples gathered, prayed, and broke bread with other believers in the days following Jesus' resurrection. This was the first "church" and a symbol of the holiness and unity of all churches that were to be. This day is also called "Green" Sunday, a reference to new life and the cultivation of communities of believers everywhere.

To the teacher: Explain the feast day, using the information above. Then, with an age-appropriate Bible (The Contemporary English Version issued by the American Bible Society is a good one), conduct the following reading/discussion:

1. Read Acts 2:42-47 together. Go line by line and ask children to make a list—get a recorder or have students take turns—of the things people were *doing* in this early church (learning, spending time together, sharing meals and communion, praying, filled with awe, watching miracles take place, being together, sharing what they had, were happy, met daily,



visited each other in their homes, praised God, were well liked).

- 2. Ask children which items, from the list, we are still doing as a church today. Go line by line and check off as they are mentioned.
- 3. Discuss those not checked (perhaps they will cite "meeting daily" or "sharing everything they had" as examples. Explore how we might follow these examples more closely today.
- 4. End with a drink of grape juice and a small piece of pita bread broken from one large one. Celebrate being a church for the whole world!



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