

# Commissioning Service

## UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Commissioning of Christian Education Leaders

**Scripture:** Acts 2:42

**Memory Verse:** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:42

## The Children's Sermon

What does it mean to devote yourself to doing something? It can be a big responsibility. Do any of you have a dog or special pet? That's a big responsibility! Every day you have to walk your dog and feed her. Maybe you took a puppy class to learn how to teach her to behave, and when you go out of town, you have to find someone to take care of her for you. You may get some help and support from your family or neighbors. But you can't just wake up one day and say "I don't want to take care of a dog today", because you chose to be a dog owner and because your dog is depending upon you.

Now, these people up here aren't going to treat you like a dog, but they are promising to be your teachers this year. They are devoting themselves to be here on Sunday, to prepare the lessons, to do their best to teach you, to find substitutes when they are gone, and to care about you!

So, now the teachers are going to make their promise, and the congregation is going to promise to support them in their service, and we need to promise that we will be good students, too!

Devotion is like a special promise. It means you decide to give your time and love to something or someone. Just like when you promise to take care of your pet, or when your teachers promise to help you learn.

Imagine you have a tiny seed. You plant it in the ground. To help it grow, you need to devote your time to it. You water it, make sure it gets enough sun, and maybe even talk to it. You can't just plant it and forget about it. That's devotion - taking care of something every day because you want to see it grow and become beautiful.

Our teachers are like gardeners for our minds. They plant seeds of knowledge and help them grow. They devote their time to planning fun lessons, finding cool books for us to read, and thinking of ways to make learning exciting. They do all this because they care about us and our future.

But devotion isn't just for teachers or taking care of pets. It's something all of us can do. When we promise to be good students, we're saying we'll listen, do our homework, and be kind to our classmates. That's being devoted to being the best we can be.

Sometimes, devotion can be hard. There might be days when we don't feel like doing our homework or listening in class. But remember the pet or the tiny seed? They depend on us to keep our promise, to show our devotion by taking care of them even on tough days.

Devotion is also about helping and supporting each other. Just like our teachers support us, we can support our friends when they need help. Maybe a friend is sad or

having a hard time with a math problem. We can listen, help them, or just be there for them. That's showing devotion to our friends.

And guess what? Our families show devotion to us too. They take care of us, make sure we have food to eat, clothes to wear, and give us hugs when we need them. They are devoted to making our lives happy and safe.

Devotion is a big word, but it's not just for grown-ups. We can all show devotion in our own ways. Whether it's taking care of a pet, being a good student, helping a friend, or saying thank you to our teachers and families for all they do for us.

Let's make a promise today. Let's promise to try our best to show devotion in everything we do. To our pets, our friends, our families, and our studies. It might not always be easy, but it's important. Because when we show devotion, we make the world around us a little bit better.

And remember, devotion is like a circle. When you give it, it comes back to you. When you're devoted to being a good friend, you'll find your friends will be there for you too. When you work hard in school, your teachers will be there to support you. And when you take care of your pet, you'll get lots of tail wags and purrs in return.

So, let's all try to be devoted to making this year the best one yet. Let's learn lots, help each other, and make sure to say thank you to those who devote their time to help us grow. Because together, with devotion, we can do amazing things.

**Bible Memory Verse**

## **They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. - Acts 2:42**

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Printed pictures of bread and cups

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large enough pieces for each child to have one.
- Print out pictures of bread and cups, enough for each child to have at least one set.

Do This:

1. Have each child write the memory verse on the top of their construction paper with markers or crayons.
2. Encourage the children to decorate around the verse with drawings that represent fellowship, such as friends holding hands, people eating together, or praying.
3. Give each child a set of the printed pictures of bread and cups. Have them glue these pictures onto their paper as a representation of 'the breaking of bread'. Discuss how this action is a symbol of community and remembrance of Jesus.

## **Bible Interactive Experience**

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copies of Acts 2:42

- Ingredients and recipe for making bread (flour, yeast, water, salt, sugar, bowls, measuring cups/spoons, oven)
- Craft supplies (paper, markers, glue, scissors)
- Small tokens or beads
- A "Commissioning Certificate" template for each child

#### Get Ready:

- Pre-measure ingredients for bread-making to save time.
- Create a simple "Commissioning Certificate" template that includes a place for the child's name, the date, and a line that says "Commissioned to live by Acts 2:42".
- Set up stations for bread-making, craft-making, and certificate completion.

#### Do this:

1. **Introduction to Acts 2:42**: Start by reading Acts 2:42 together as a group. Discuss the early Christians' dedication to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Explain how these actions helped spread the message of Jesus.
2. **Bread-Making Activity**: Move to the bread-making station. As the children participate in making bread, relate the process to the "breaking of bread" mentioned in Acts 2:42. Discuss how sharing meals can be a form of fellowship and a way to share God's love.
3. **Crafting Fellowship Tokens**: At the craft station, have the children create small tokens or beads that represent fellowship. They can trade these with one another, symbolizing the sharing of their faith and support for each other as the early Christians did.

4. **Prayer Circle**: After the crafts, gather the children in a circle. Encourage them to share a prayer request, then lead them in a group prayer, emphasizing the importance of praying together as a community of believers.

5. **Commissioning Ceremony**: Once the bread is baked and the activities are completed, gather the children and distribute the "Commissioning Certificates". Explain that as they have learned and participated in activities reflecting Acts 2:42, they are now commissioned to live out these principles in their daily lives. Have them sign their certificates as a commitment to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.

6. **Sharing the Bread**: Conclude the session by breaking the bread the children made, sharing it among them, and reflecting on the unity and love shared among believers, as described in Acts 2:42.

## Snack Activity: Fellowship Fruits & Cracker

### Communion

You'll Need:

- Various fruits (grapes, apples, bananas, etc.)
- Crackers (any kind that can be broken into pieces)
- Small cups of juice
- Plates, knives (for instructor use only), and napkins

Get Ready: Wash all fruits thoroughly and set up a clean workspace for assembly.

Do this:

1. Read Acts 2:42 together and discuss the importance of fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer in the early church. Emphasize how believers shared everything they had, including meals, and how this strengthened their community.
2. Have each child create their own 'Fellowship Plate' by selecting various fruits and breaking crackers into pieces, symbolizing the breaking of bread. Explain that the fruits represent the different gifts and talents each member brings to the community of believers.
3. Once everyone has their Fellowship Plate prepared, lead a short prayer thanking God for the gift of fellowship and community. Then, share the small cups of juice, symbolizing the communion, and enjoy the snack together, reflecting on how Christians are united through Christ.

## Game Activity: Fellowship Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag for each player
- A large, open concrete area

Get Ready: Draw a large hopscotch grid on the concrete. Each square should have a word or phrase from Acts 2:42 ('teaching', 'fellowship', 'breaking of bread', 'prayers'). Make sure there are at least as many squares as there are players, plus a few extra for variety.

Do this:

1. Players take turns tossing their stone or beanbag onto the hopscotch grid, aiming for squares in sequential order. Before hopping through the grid to retrieve their marker,

the player must say a sentence about what that word or phrase (from the square they landed on) means in the context of Christian community.

2. If a player misses their target square or loses balance and touches a line while hopping, they pass their turn to the next player.

3. The game continues until every player has had a chance to speak about each aspect of Acts 2:42. The goal is to foster discussion and understanding of the Scripture, not to 'win' in the traditional sense. Encourage players to help each other think of meanings and applications for each term.

## Craft Activity: Building the Four Pillars

You'll Need:

- 4 large sheets of construction paper (different colors)
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- A large poster board

Get Ready: Write 'Teaching', 'Fellowship', 'Breaking of Bread', and 'Prayer' on the top of each construction paper sheet, one title per sheet.

Do this:

1. Discuss Acts 2:42 and explain how the early Christians devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Ask the children to draw or write what each of these pillars means to them on the corresponding sheet.

2. Cut out the drawings or writings and arrange them on the large poster board to create a visual representation of the Christian community's foundation.

3. Glue the pieces onto the poster board, creating a 'Four Pillars' collage. Encourage the children to share their part of the collage and what it represents about their faith and the importance of Christian education.

## Prayer Activity: Building Our Community in Faith

You'll Need:

- A large poster board
- Markers or colored pencils
- Sticky notes

Get Ready: Write Acts 2:42 on the top of the poster board in large, decorative letters. Make sure it's visible and legible from a distance.

Do this:

1. Begin with a group discussion about Acts 2:42. Explain how the early Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Emphasize the importance of each aspect in building a strong Christian community.
2. Ask each child to reflect on what each part of the verse means to them. They can think about what learning about Jesus (apostles' teaching), spending time with fellow believers (fellowship), sharing meals (breaking of bread), and praying means in their lives.
3. Hand out sticky notes to the children. Ask them to write down one way they can contribute to building their community in faith, inspired by one of the four aspects mentioned in Acts 2:42. It could be something like 'helping to set up for Sunday School', 'inviting a friend to church', 'saying a prayer for someone in need', or 'sharing a snack with a friend'.

4. Once everyone has written their commitment, have them come up one by one to stick their note on the poster board. As they place their note, encourage them to say a short prayer asking for God's help to fulfill their commitment.

5. Display the poster board in a prominent place where the whole congregation can see it, serving as a reminder of the children's commitment to building their community in faith.