

Family Devotion

Too Many Nails

Acts 2:42–47

Week of May 17, 2026

■ Read This Together!

Have you ever watched someone build something? Maybe a Lego set, a birdhouse, a piece of furniture from a box — or maybe a whole house going up in your neighborhood?

Here's something interesting: when people build things, they follow a plan. A blueprint. It tells them exactly what goes where, how many screws to use, which piece comes first. Without the plan, things get wobbly. Without the plan, the roof might not hold.

Did you know that sometimes the best builders use MORE nails than the plan even requires? It's true. After big storms, people noticed something surprising: the roofs that stayed on were the ones fixed by volunteers — people who weren't professionals, but who cared so much that they used extra nails, just to make sure the roof would hold. The professionals did just enough. The volunteers did more than enough.

That's a picture of how the very first church was built.

■ The Blueprint (Acts 2:42–47)

After Jesus rose from the dead and the Holy Spirit came, the very first church started. And the Bible tells us four things they did together — every single day. These were their nails:

■ They learned together. (They listened to the apostles' teaching.)

■ They spent time together. (They had fellowship — real friendship and sharing.)

■ They ate together. (They broke bread and shared meals.)

■ They prayed together. (They talked to God as a community.)

And when they did those four things — with devotion, with their whole hearts — something amazing happened. People were filled with awe. They shared everything they had. They were so full of joy that others kept wanting to join.

The roof held. Because they used too many nails.

■ Try This! (The Building Game)

You'll need: a few household objects — blocks, books, cans of food, or even pillows. Anything you can stack!

Take turns building a small tower together. Here's the rule: each person adds one piece and names one of the four things the early church did. Keep going until your tower falls — or until someone can't remember one of the four!

The four to remember: ■ Learning • ■ Fellowship • ■ Breaking Bread • ■ Prayer

After the game, talk about this: what happens to a tower when one piece is missing? What happens to a church — or a family — when one of those four things is missing?

■ Talk About It

For younger kids:

Which of the four things is your favorite to do at church — learning, being with friends, eating together, or praying? Why?

For older kids and teens:

The early church used “too many nails” — they gave more than the minimum. Where in your life do you tend to do just enough? Where do you go all in? What would it look like to be “too

many nails” in one area this week?

For the whole family:

Our church feeds people with food boxes, a blessing box, and soon a garden. That’s our way of using too many nails. What’s one way YOUR family could do more than the minimum for someone this week?

■ Did You Know?

The word “fellowship” in Acts 2 is the Greek word *koinonia* (koy-no-NEE-ah). It doesn’t just mean hanging out! It means sharing your whole life with someone — your stuff, your time, your struggles, your joy. The early church did *koinonia* so well that they literally sold things they owned to make sure nobody went without. That’s a pretty radical way to be friends.

■ Family Challenge This Week

Pick ONE of the four and do it intentionally together as a family this week:

■ Learn something together — read a Bible story at dinner, or watch a short devotional video.

■ Do fellowship — invite someone over, write a note to a neighbor, or check in on someone who’s lonely.

■ Break bread — make a meal together and eat it slowly, with no screens, with real conversation.

■ Pray together — before bed or at dinner, let everyone say one thing they’re thankful for and one thing they need.

■ A Prayer to Learn By Heart

(Say it together, slowly. Try to memorize it by the end of the week!)

God, help us build something together.

Help us learn, and share, and eat, and pray.

Help us use too many nails.

Amen.

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