

The Early Church

You grow and develop through the years, but you still remain yourself. The Church has grown and developed through the years, but the Church remains herself. The important things, the 'musts', of the early Church are still important today.

Luke gives us a picture of what life was like in the early Church in book of the Bible called the *Acts of the Apostles*.

Many of them believed in Peter's message and were baptised ... They spent their time in learning from the apostles ... All the believers continued together in close fellowship and shared their belongings with one another. They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each needed. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God ... And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved. (Acts 2:43-47)

If we could interview Dorcas, a young member of the early Church, what would she say?

Dorcas, what must you do to be part of this new religion of the Christians?

You must be converted. You must allow God to turn your heart away from sin.

Anything else?

You must accept the teaching of the Apostles about the Father, Jesus, the Spirit and about the Church. Then you must be baptised in Jesus' name.

How should you behave once you're part of the Church, Dorcas?

You should stick together, pray together, share gladly everything that you have. You should celebrate the Breaking of the Bread.

'The Breaking of the Bread'?

The Eucharist.

Thank you for your answers, Dorcas.

To do (individually or in groups)

- 1 If Dorcas were to try the brainstorm exercise, what would she come up with?
 - a) Copy and complete it for her as best you can (read Acts 2:43-47 for help.)
 - b) Write down any big differences between Dorcas' try and your own group's try.

