

## LESSON (Acts 1)

### Overview of Acts

The Gospels (the first 4 books of the New Testaments) are written by four people (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) about the life of Jesus.

Jesus came to earth as a baby. That's why we celebrate Christmas.

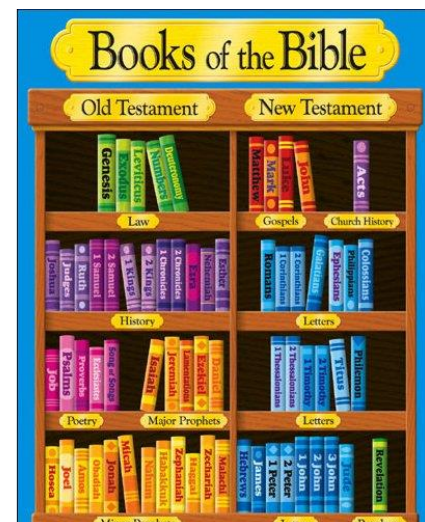
Jesus died for us on the cross. And rose again. That's why we celebrate Good Friday and Easter.

After the Gospels is the book of Acts.

Acts is written by Luke, who is a medical doctor.

Acts talks about what God does among the early Christians — those who believed in Jesus.

It's tells us all about the "acts of the Holy Spirit".



### Jesus' Promise

After Jesus rose from the dead, He met with many disciples to prove that He was really alive. He spent 40 days with them and taught them about God's kingdom.

Then over a meal, He told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem. I am sending you a gift from my Father. Wait for it!"

The disciples wanted to know when Jesus will come back again. Jesus told them that only the Father knows. But He assured the disciples that they will not be alone.

Read this: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Then He went up to heaven before the disciples' eyes.

#### What did Jesus promise?

##### God's gift, the Holy Spirit, will come

God is the Trinity, 3-in-1 — The Father, The Son (Jesus) and The Spirit (Holy Spirit). So when the Holy Spirit comes, it is God Himself coming as a Spirit.

Why does God need to come as a Spirit? Why couldn't Jesus stay here forever as a man? Because a man can only be in one place at one time. But a Spirit can be everywhere and in everyone's hearts at the same time.

In the same way, your mummy and daddy can't be with you all the time. But God's Holy Spirit can be with you every second of every day.

##### The Holy Spirit will give them power

Wow. The disciples have seen what Jesus has done on earth — all His powerful and miraculous acts. And now Jesus was promising them that they could have the same power because they will now have the same Spirit Jesus had.

So can we!

##### They will be witnesses for Jesus — people who shine Jesus' light in them

And with Jesus' life and Spirit in us, the disciples could become Jesus people and share His love and light to everyone around them!

So can we!

#### Where?

In Jerusalem: Where they were

Judea: Neighbouring area

Samaria: the land of the enemies of the Jews

Ends of the earth



#### Where do you think you can start sharing about Jesus?

### MEMORY VERSE (with actions)

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

### HUDDLE TIME

Kids to break up in small groups — normally a girls group and boys group works best. Get kids to fill up the personal details list.

Get kids to share: "Who do I want to share Jesus with?"

Take turns praying for the friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

Bless each child and close in prayer.

## HOOK & REVIEW

### HOOK

Prepare a gift box. Inside the box put the following items:

- Paper heart
- Bible
- Family picture
- 2 flashlights, one with batteries and one without

Show the box to the children. Explain that we all enjoy receiving gifts and that inside this box are some gifts that God gives to everyone who believes in Him.

Unwrap the box and take out the paper heart. This heart represents the gift of God's love for each of us.

Next, take out the Bible and tell the children that God's word is an important gift because it tells us of who God is and what He has done for us.

Then, take out the family picture. Explain that it is a gift to be a part of God's family because we can pray together, help each other in times of need, and have fun together.

Finally, take out the flashlights. Ask for two volunteers and give one flashlight to each. Have the children turn on their flashlights at the same time. Discuss with the children as to why one flashlight turned on and the other did not. Open the flashlights and show the children that one contained batteries and the other did not.

Explain to the children that these flashlights remind us of the gift of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, we have the power to live like Jesus boys and girls. When we do not have the Holy Spirit in our hearts, we do not have the power to live the life that God wants us to live.

### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for God's gift — the Holy Spirit, which will give the disciples power to be His witness everywhere.

## LESSON (Acts 2)

Not long after Jesus ascended to heaven, the day of Pentecost came.

Pentecost was a Jewish feast to commemorate the giving of the Law to Moses at Sinai.

Jews from many different countries would go to Jerusalem to bring gifts and offerings to God during that time.

### Tongues of Fire

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were all gathered in a house. Suddenly, a strong wind came from heaven and filled the entire place. Suddenly, they saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit!

**Song Suggestion: "The Pentecost Song"** (sang to the tune of "Are you sleeping?")

*Flames of Fire, Flames of Fire*

*Mighty Wind, Mighty Wind*

*Holy Spirit's coming, Holy Spirit's coming*

*With His power, with His power*

### Tongues of many Languages

Then, by the power of the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other languages, telling of the wonders of God. Some of the Jews who were visiting from other countries heard Jesus' followers talking. They were amazed to hear their own language being spoken. For example, Jews who lived in Greece heard the disciples speaking Greek; Jews who lived in Arabia heard the disciples speaking Arabic; Jews who lived in Egypt heard the disciples speaking Egyptian etc.

That's pretty amazing, isn't it? Remember, the disciples were all fishermen or people with little education. And they were standing in front of so many people and telling them about Jesus.

### Drunk before Dawn?

In fact, it was so unbelievable that some people thought the disciples were drunk.

But Peter stood up and spoke to the crowd. "These people are not drunk," he says. This is actually part of a prophecy by the prophet Joel, where God promised to pour out His Spirit on all people.

Peter told the people about Jesus and all He has done for us on the cross. And that day, 3000 people believed and were baptized.

### The Start of a New Covenant

The coming of the Holy Spirit was a mark of the New Covenant.

OLD COVENANT	NEW COVENANT
The LAW was given	The HOLY SPIRIT was given
3,000 died	3,000 saved
The Holy Spirit came and left whenever He wanted to	The Holy Spirit came to live in our hearts forever and ever.

When we believe in Jesus and receive His new life, His Holy Spirit comes to live with us forever.

We don't always see the Holy Spirit like Jesus' followers did — as tongues of fire over their heads — but He can still do amazing things!

### Illustration suggestion: Hairdryer and Ping-Pong ball

Turn on the hairdryer and place the ball in the stream of air. Explain that just as we cannot see the air coming out of the hair dryer, we can see that it is helping the ball to float.

He gives us power to be Jesus boys and girls, so we can share Jesus' love with everyone around us, near and far.

### MEMORY VERSE (with actions)

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

#### ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

##### **CRAFT: Tongues of Fire**

Have several pieces of red, orange, and yellow fun foam cut into the shape of flames. Have the pieces of each flame packaged together in a plastic baggie to make distribution easier. Then, have the kids glue the three pieces of the flame together, create headbands out of lengths of black cardboard, staple the flames to the headband.

Do teach the kids to explain to their parents and siblings when they are asked why they had flames over their heads (e.g. "Jesus gave me His Holy Spirit to live in my heart forever")



##### **HUDDLE TIME**

Get kids to share and pray for the friends and family who do not yet know Jesus.

Bless each child and close in prayer.

ACTS:  
GOD'S FAMILY

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

## REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for God's gift — the Holy Spirit, which will give the disciples power to be His witness everywhere.



## LESSON (Acts 2)

### Holy Spirit Message

Last week we ended our story with the disciples and Peter filled with the Holy Spirit speaking to the crowd of Jewish people. Even though the Jewish people were from many different countries, they heard the disciples talk about the wonderful works of God in their own language.

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as he spoke these words to the crowd:

- Jesus died on the cross and that God raised Him from the dead.
- Even King David wrote about Jesus' death and resurrection many years ago (prophetic)
- Everyone in the crowd had a part to play in crucifying Jesus, the Savior God sent.

Everyone who hear the words were "cut to their hearts". They realized that it was because of their sin, Jesus had to die on the cross. That was a conviction by the Holy Spirit.

Peter told them to repent — to change their minds and put their trust in Jesus — and be baptized — so they can tell everyone they have believed in Jesus.

By believing in Jesus their sins would be forgiven and they will receive God's Holy Spirit.

### Birth of the Church

As we learned last week, 3,000 people decided to believe in Jesus.

Not only was this a day of celebrating, it was also the day that the very first church was born. A church is not a building but it is made up of people who believe in the Lord Jesus.

So tNCC is not this building. It's not the first floor or third floor. tNCC is a church of God's people. Wherever God's people are, we are His church. We are God's family.

The new believers gathered together regularly to hear the apostles teach about Jesus. Let's read **Acts 2:42-47** to find out what else they did.

*42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

### **The early church:**

- Listened to the teachings about Jesus
- Fellowshiped & meet regularly — families meet together often to encourage each other; we don't hide in our rooms and close our doors
- Celebrated the Lord's Supper — why?
- Prayed together
- Shared and helped one another
- Praised God
- God continued to save people every day, causing the church to continue to grow

### **The Message for His Church today**

Although what we read from our Bibles happened a long time ago, the message is true for us today.

Jesus is the Savior God promised to send. Even though we were not physically there crying "Crucify Him!" my sins and your sins nailed Him to the cross. He was buried and 3 days later God raised Him from the dead. Anyone who calls upon the Lord Jesus and believes in Him can be saved and have eternal life.

What is your response to this message? If you have never been saved you can turn to Jesus today. Do you want to receive Jesus?

### **His Family today**

If you have received Jesus, you are part of His family now.

Let's follow the example of the early church —

Let's listen to the teachings about Jesus

Let's meet together regularly

Let's remember Jesus through the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion

Let's pray together

Let's share and help one another

Let's praise God together

And God will bring more and more people into this wonderful family of His.

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Kids to break up in small groups — normally a girls group and boys group works best.

Encourage and challenge the kids to meet regularly (don't always skip church etc) and to listen to the word about Jesus.

Have Holy Communion with the children and encourage them to remember what Jesus has done on the cross for them.

Share prayer needs and pray together.

Close with a song of worship.

e.g. Refuge (with sign language) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>

Lesson reference: <http://ministry-to-children.com/pentecost-lesson-sunday-school/>

### HOOK & REVIEW

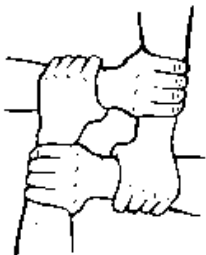
#### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for God's gift — the Holy Spirit, which will give the disciples power to be His witness everywhere.

Have you ever been carried? (Talk about your own experiences or suggest times when a person might be carried.) A baby has to be carried because they can't walk. A parent might carry a child to bed when they are sleepy. A fireman might carry a person out of a burning building when they save them.

<optional> Four-hand seat carry demonstration:



**A** EACH BEARER GRASPS ONE OF HIS WRISTS AND ONE OF THE OTHER BEARER'S WRISTS, THUS FORMING A PACKSADDLE.



**B** THE TWO BEARERS LOWER THEMSELVES SUFFICIENTLY FOR THE CASUALTY TO SIT ON THE PACKSADDLE; THEN THEY HAVE THE CASUALTY PLACE HIS ARMS AROUND THEIR SHOULDERS FOR SUPPORT BEFORE THEY RISE TO AN UPRIGHT POSITION.

Figure B-14. Four-hand seat carry (Illustrated A and B).

Think about what it would be like if you could never walk anywhere and someone would always have to carry you. In today's story we are going to talk about a man who couldn't walk. He didn't have a wheelchair and someone always had to carry him.

## STORY (Acts 3)

Peter and John were two of Jesus' closest disciples. One day, when they were going to the temple to pray, they saw a man sitting right beside the gate (called "Beautiful Gate"). As they moved closer they noticed that the man was crippled. He could not walk.

Now this was not the first time the crippled man sat there. His friends brought him to the temple every single day so he could ask people for money. Since he couldn't get a job or work, he was hoping the kind people who were going into the temple to worship God would see him and have compassion on him and give him money so he would be able to have food and other necessary things.

The man saw Peter and John and as usual, he stretched out his hand to ask for money. "Please, do you have some money you could give me? I really, really need money."

Well, our friends, Peter and John, looked at the man and told him, "Look at us!"

The man looked up in eagerness, expecting to be given money. He had no idea what an unusual day THIS was going to be!

Imagine his dismay when Peter and John said, "We don't have any money!"

Imagine his surprise when they said, "We want to give you something better than money!"

He thought about that. He was quite confused. After all, what could be BETTER than money?

Then he heard Peter say something very strange. "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

"Walk? Who? ME? They expect me to WALK? I have NEVER walked! I have never walked before in my whole life! From the time I was a little child, I have always wanted to walk. Now they are telling me to just get up and walk. How can THAT be? Can it really happen? Will I really be able to walk? Hmmm ... Should I try? Or should I ignore them and just sit here?" You can imagine all these thoughts flying through the man's mind in just a few seconds.

Before he even knew what was happening, Peter reached down, took him by the right hand, and lifted him up. IMMEDIATELY his feet and anklebones received strength. He couldn't believe what was happening! His feet were actually HOLDING HIM UP! He JUMPED up, he STOOD up, and he WALKED around. He went into the temple for the first time in his life. This was SO exciting! He was WALKING and JUMPING for the first time in his life. He was PRAISING God because of the amazing thing that had just happened to him.



TNCC  
CHILDREN'S  
CHURCH

WEEK 4

## ACTS: SPIRIT'S POWER

All the people saw him WALKING and JUMPING and PRAISING God. They knew it was that crippled man who had sat outside the gate of the temple for many years begging for money. They recognized him and they were full of surprise and wondered what and how this had happened.

The people started running toward Peter and John. They thought Peter and John had done a great miracle and they wanted them to do MORE miracles.

Peter immediately started preaching to the crowd. "STOP! STOP!" he yelled. "Why are you so surprised about this? Why are you looking at us? WE did not perform this miracle. WE did not make this man able to walk!

It is Jesus. The one whom you killed but was raised to life by God. This man was made strong by faith in the name of Jesus. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him!

Believe in Him and be saved!"

Isn't Jesus powerful? Because Peter and John believed in Jesus, His Holy Spirit was in them and they could do the great and mighty things Jesus did when He was on earth.

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to share their prayer needs. Have the children stretch forth their hands to each other and speak Jesus' name, spirit and life into whatever situation they are facing. Encourage them to believe that Jesus is more powerful than any problem they have.

### ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

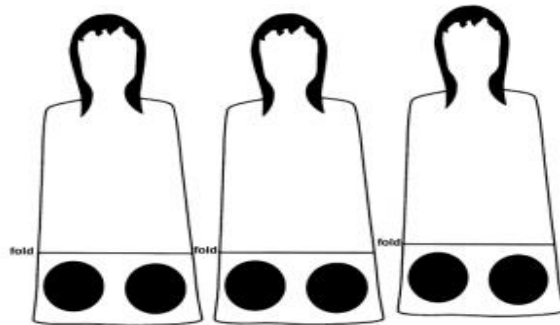
#### SONG: Peter and John went to pray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFZJFXvuv0A>

(can be used as part of lesson too)

#### RELATED CRAFT with MEMORY VERSE

**Acts 3:16** *"It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him."*



#### GAME: Relay carry

Using the four-hand seat carry, have the kids practice carrying each other across the room.

Older kids can be divided into 2 teams to compete against each other.

ACTS:  
THE NAME OF JESUS

## HOOK &amp; REVIEW

**GAME: Blanket Name Game**

Kids introduce themselves. Divide them into 2 groups and each kid takes turn to represent their group. Hold up a blanket between the 2 representatives. When the blanket drops, the representatives have to shout out each other's names. Whoever shouts first wins, and the team gets a point.

**REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS**

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for God's gift — the Holy Spirit, which will give the disciples power to be His witness everywhere.

**REVIEW LAST LESSON WITH SONG: Peter and John went to pray**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFZJFXvuv0A>



# ACTS: THE NAME OF JESUS

## STORY (Acts 4)

After the lame man stood up and walked and jumped, everyone was completely amazed and ran to them.

Peter started preaching to them. *"Men of Israel, why are you amazed and in wonder? Did you think we did this by our own? It is Jesus — the one you killed when you arrested him and handed over to the Romans. You killed the Author of Life, whom God rose from the dead.*

*And His name — by faith in His name — has made this man strong and in perfect health! God raised Jesus up so that He could bless you and turn you from wickedness. So believe in Him!"*

Many who heard the word believed!

As Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and Sadducees and captain of the temple came to arrest them and put them in prison.

The next day, the rulers and elders gathered in Jerusalem and interrogated Peter and John again. *"By what power or by what name did you do this?"*

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, *"This man was healed by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead — by him, this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

The rulers were surprised because they saw how bold Peter and John were. You must remember ... Peter was the coward who ran away when Jesus was arrested and denied him 3 times when someone recognized him. And they were just fishermen, uneducated, common man. The rulers *recognized that they had been with Jesus.*"

And the man who was lame since birth — he couldn't walk for more than 40 years! — was standing there beside them, so they couldn't say anything. They discussed among themselves and decided, *"In order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."*

So they told Peter and John that they could NOT speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, *"Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot help to speak of what we have seen and heard."*

The rulers couldn't punish them, so they just threatened them and let them go. Peter and John returned to the disciples, and they all prayed and were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

# ACTS: THE NAME OF JESUS

## LESSON

**The Name of Jesus gives you the authority and power of Jesus.**

It was the name of Jesus — and faith in it — that made the lame man well.

It was the name of Jesus and His Holy spirit that gave the disciples boldness.

It was the name of Jesus that they couldn't stop talking about.

**The Name of Jesus is not the ending to your prayer, but the whole reason you can pray!**

It is as if Jesus Himself is speaking it.

It is based on His worthiness to receive.

It is like taking from His overflowing account in Heaven (yours is empty).

Do you know Jesus?

Do you believe in Him? Do you have His Holy Spirit in you?

Do you know that if the Holy Spirit is in you, you can use the name of Jesus and speak like Jesus spoke?

# ACTS: THE NAME OF JESUS

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to share their prayer needs. Have the children stretch forth their hands to each other and speak Jesus' name, spirit and life into whatever situation they are facing. Encourage them to believe that Jesus is more powerful than any problem they have.

### SONG: No other Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYCGhuJK53k>

## REVIEW

### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for God's gift — the Holy Spirit, which will give the disciples power to be His witness everywhere.

## STORY (Acts 4:32-5:10)

### Believers shared everything

Those who believed in Jesus met together often as a community, a family. The disciples would share and talk about Jesus's resurrection.

Everyone was of one heart and soul — what's mine is yours, what's yours is mine.

Nobody was in need because everyone shared what they had to bless one another.

One of them was **Joseph**, or also called **Barnabas** (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him and gave the money to the disciples to distribute.

### Ananias & Sapphira

A man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. They kept some money for themselves and brought the rest to the disciples, saying this was all they received from the sale.

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

This was your property. You didn't have to sell it. This was your money. You could have kept all of the money for yourself. But why did you try cheat by lying about how much you sold the land for? You have not lied to man but to God."

When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. The young men standing around quickly wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.

After about 3 hours, Sapphira came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter asked her, "Did you sell the land for this amount?"

"Yes," she replied.

Peter said, "Why did you and your husband decide to lie and cheat the Lord?"

Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in, they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

## LESSON

**When we believe in Jesus, we can understand and share His grace.**

Nobody forced them to share what they had. They chose to do so because they realized how much God had blessed them with.

Freely they received, freely they gave.

Joseph Barnabas gave all the money from his land to help the believers because He was full of Jesus' grace and love.

**When we don't know Jesus, we can only pretend.**

Ananias and Sapphira didn't know Jesus and His grace.

They thought they could "act" like the believers and become one of them. So they tried to do what the believers did, but their lie was exposed.

They died out of fear and guilt over what they did.

All who heard of it realized that God knows everything. They were in awe of Him and gave Him the praise and honour.

It's what's inside our hearts that counts. We can't pretend to be good if we are rotten inside.

That's why we need Jesus in our heart to make us really and truly good. Then our actions and words will good and real.

And when Jesus' name is lifted up, there is great power, great grace and great awe in our midst.

Do you want to believe in Jesus?

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to share their praise points — what can they thank Jesus for.

Have the children take turns to give thanks and praise to Jesus for all He has done in their lives.

### SONG: No other Name (with actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYCGhuJK53k>

## STORY (Acts 5:12-42)

### God performed many Signs and Wonders

The believers met regularly at Solomon's Porch in Jerusalem. Many signs and wonders were done, and many more people believed in Jesus. In fact, God's spirit was so powerful that it could even work through Peter's shadow — people would carry the sick into the streets and lay them on cots and mats. And those who had unclean spirits would be healed.

### The Apostles Arrested and Freed

As usual, the religious leaders were jealous and unhappy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

But at night, an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and told them to "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." So in the morning, the disciples entered the temple and began to teach.

The religious leaders called a council meeting and ask the guards to bring the apostles from the prison. When they went to the prison — the doors were locked, the guards were standing outside ... BUT the prison cell was EMPTY!

Everyone was scratching their head, wondering ... where could they be? Then someone came and told them, "*Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.*". So they went to bring the apostles back to the council.

### No point fighting God

The high priest questioned them, saying, "We told you that you cannot teach in this name anymore, but you still continue filling Jerusalem with your teaching!" But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. We know that you killed Jesus, and God raised him to life so that we all can have forgiveness of sins."

Of course, this made the religious leaders even angrier, and they wanted to kill the apostles. But one of the Pharisee, called Gamaliel, stood up and asked for the apostles to be taken outside for a while.

Then he told the group, "Previously, whenever someone claimed to be the Messiah — such as Theudas or Judas the Galilean — and they were killed, all their disciples ran away and disappeared. So now that Jesus is dead, if he's really just a man, his disciples would also run away and disappear so we don't have to do anything about it. If this teaching is man-made, it will fail. But if it is from God, then nothing we do can stop it. We will just end up trying to go against God."



# ACTS: OBEYING JESUS

So the religious leaders called the apostles in. They had them whipped and warned them not to speak about Jesus again. Then they let them go.

Even though they were beaten, the disciples left happily and rejoicing because they could stand up for Jesus' name. And every day, they continued teaching and preaching about Jesus the Christ (Messiah, Saviour) ... in the temple and from house to house.

# ACTS: OBEYING JESUS

## LESSON

### **We must obey God rather than men**

The disciples had been threatened, imprisoned and beaten. They have been repeatedly warned NOT to speak about Jesus.

Yet, they continued to speak about Jesus joyfully. Every day. Wherever they went.

They were so convinced about the truth of Jesus and His resurrection, they couldn't stop talking about it. "We must obey God rather than men," Peter said.

### **Let's not stop talking about Jesus**

Let's be like the disciples. Let's fill our minds and hearts with Jesus, so that we cannot stop talking about Him. Let's tell our friends and family and neighbours about how much He loves them and what He has done for them on the cross.

### **HUDDLE TIME**

Get the kids into small groups to pray for who they want to share Jesus to.

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

### SONG: No other Name (with actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYCGhuJK53k>

### SONG: Refuge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>

# ACTS: STEPHEN SAW JESUS

## HOOK

Prepare some water bottles as a target, and some pieces newspapers.

Get the kids into 2 groups, roll up the newspapers into balls and throw at the targets. First team to knock down all the water bottles wins.

You may want to put some water or sand in the bottles as added weight, but not too heavy because the newspapers are light.

### STORY (Acts 6-7)

#### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. And then they would be His witnesses, not just in Jerusalem, but in all Judea and Samaria, and all over the world.

At the moment, all the disciples were still meeting together in Jerusalem.

#### Seven Chosen to Serve

As the group of believers got bigger, there were lots of people to care for, especially widows. The disciples had to focus on prayer and teaching the word of Christ. So they decided to choose 7 men to help with the serving and caring of the people.

These 7 men had to be:

- Good reputation
- Full of the Holy Spirit
- Wise

So 7 men were chosen:

- Stephen — described as a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit
- Philip
- Prochorus
- Nicanor
- Timon
- Parmenas
- Nicolaus, who was from Antioch

The disciples laid hands on them and prayed for them.

Aren't the names funny? Let's read them again and pay particular attention to the first two (Stephen and Philip). We will be learning more about them this and next Sunday.



# ACTS: STEPHEN SAW JESUS

## Stephen: Full of Grace and Power

Stephen was a man who was full of grace and power. He did great wonders and signs among the people, and told them about Jesus.

Some people who heard Stephen preaching didn't like him talking about Jesus. They tried arguing with him, but Stephen would answer them full of wisdom and the Holy Spirit.

So they arrested him and brought before the religious leaders. They told lies, saying, "This man wants to destroy the temple and God's law."

The religious leaders looked at Stephen. And they all saw that his face was like an angel. "Are these things so?" they asked.

Stephen took this opportunity to tell everyone about how, through the ages, God's plan was to save His people through His son, Jesus.

## Stephen: Full of the Holy Spirit

All these made the people even more angry. Because they didn't believe in Jesus, and they had called for Jesus' death.

But Stephen didn't look at the angry crowd. Instead, he looked to Jesus. He saw heaven and Jesus standing at God's right hand.

When he told the people what he saw, they cried out with a loud voice, shut their eyes and charged at him. They dragged him out to the city and stoned him.

Do you know what stoning is? Do you know what you did earlier today ... throwing those paper balls at the bottles? Imagine you were doing that with big rocks ... at a person. Yup, they were throwing rocks at Stephen to kill him.

It would have been a very painful and slow death. But before he died, Stephen cried out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit", and then, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Do you recognize those words? That's right. Jesus said something similar when He was hanging on the cross. (Luke 23:34, 46)

And approving all these was a young man named Saul, whom we will learn about later.

*Pix illustrations can be found here: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/stephen-martyred/>*

# ACTS: STEPHEN SAW JESUS

## LESSON

### Stephen kept his eyes on Jesus.

He was filled with Jesus' Spirit. He served the church well. He was not afraid of telling people about Jesus even when they hated him for it. He continued to look to Jesus even when he was attacked and stoned. And when he died, he knew he was going to be with his beloved Lord and Saviour, and he was not afraid.

### Even when the church was attacked, God worked out His purposes.

Stephen's death should have destroyed the church. There was great persecution/attack against the church in Jerusalem, and the believers ran away.

**Acts 8:1** *And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

But God used this "running away" to spread the good news about Jesus to everyone in those regions. Interestingly, Acts 8:1 is the fulfillment of part of Acts 1:8. The believers became witnesses in all Judea and Samaria.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

### Let's not stop talking about Jesus

The early church showed us that sometimes, believing in Jesus can cost us our lives. But we do not have to be afraid. We know Jesus loves us sooooo much that He gave us His life. And we are forever with Him. Let's continue to keep our eyes on Jesus. And let's trust God to turn a bad situation into good.

Let's continue to tell our friends and family and neighbours about how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them on the cross.

## HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for who they want to share Jesus to and pray for them.

# ACTS: STEPHEN SAW JESUS

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

**SONG: No other Name** (with actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYCGhuJK53k>

**SONG: Refuge**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>

**DANCE: Salvation is here**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ergsulxd1BQ>



## HOOK

Write on a sheet of paper the following passage of scripture in **Acts 8:32b- 33**:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."*

Roll up the paper like a scroll, and ask one of the children (with good reading skills) to read.

(You can make a scroll by using 2 chopsticks or rolling up pieces of paper to make sticks for the top and bottom end of the scroll.)

Ask them who they think the passage is about.

This person was like a sheep being led to its slaughter (was going to be killed) and a silent lamb before its shearer (the person whom shaves its wool off).

It is about a person who did not do anything wrong but did not fight or speak out to defend himself when he was facing death as a punishment.

It was about Jesus.

Who wrote this? A prophet named Isaiah wrote it about 700 years before Jesus was born. God told him what would happen.

### STORY (Acts 8:1-8, 26-40)

#### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

Last week, the disciples chose 7 men to help with the serving and caring of the people. One of them was Stephen, who was not afraid of telling people about Jesus, even when they were stoning him to death, he kept looking at Jesus and was full of joy.

Another of those 7 men was Philip. We will hear more about him today.

The persecution caused more people to hear the good news.

Remember that there was one man who was approving the killing of Stephen? What was his name? Saul.

After Stephen was stoned to death, a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, many believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

But Saul was trying to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragged out believers and put them in jail.

Where were the believers before the persecution?  
*In Jerusalem.*

After the persecution? *Judea and Samaria.*

Do those names sound familiar to you?  
(Show the children the places in the map)

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he said told the believers that they will be his witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth. He knew it was going to happen.

Even when Satan tried to get rid of the church, **God made good come out of it.**

Everywhere the believers went, they told people about Jesus. If the persecution didn't happen, people outside Jerusalem would not get to hear about Jesus. This includes you and me.



Philip went to the city of Samaria and told them about Jesus. He also healed many weak and crippled people there. People in that city heard the good news and were full of joy.

God wanted people to hear about Jesus and be saved. He arranged for believers to meet people to tell them about Jesus. One of the people who got to know Jesus was a man from Ethiopia.

### **Philip and the Ethiopian**

God's angel said to Philip, "Go to the desert road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." So Philip did what the angel said and he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official who was in charge of all the Ethiopian queen's treasures. (If asked, explain that a eunuch was a man who served in the palace and was not allowed to have a girlfriend, wife or children.)

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot reading from the scroll, the writings of Isaiah the prophet, which was the passage we read at the start of the class.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to run up to the chariot and Philip did so. Philip heard the man reading and he asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

The man didn't understand, so Philip began explaining that passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus — Jesus was like a sheep being led to its slaughter and a silent lamb before its shearer. He allowed himself to be caught, beaten and killed because he took the punishment for our sins so that we can have eternal life.

Philip told the eunuch that if he believed in Jesus, he too would have eternal life. He told him to get baptized if he believed. The eunuch believed.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch wanted to be baptized. So Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Philip, however, appeared at another town and traveled about, sharing with people about Jesus in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

*Pix illustrations can be found here: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/philip-ethiopian/>*

## LESSON

### **Even when it looked bad, God made good come out of it**

Satan tried to get rid of the church. Stephen was killed. Saul tried to destroy the church. Believers were put in jail. All the remaining believers, except the apostles, ran away to different places in Judea and Samaria. They lost their homes.

But everywhere the believers went, they told people about Jesus. More and more people got to hear the good news and believed in Jesus.

Even when things look bad — like the believers facing persecution and death — God was able to work things out for good. (Romans 8:28)

When things look bad, eg you got scolded by the teacher, your brother/sister broke your favorite toy, your grandparent is sick etc, let's remind ourselves of what God's word says — He works things out for our good — and trust that He will do what he said.

### **God puts us where he wants us to be**

When Philip ran away from Jerusalem, he went to Samaria and the people in Samaria got to hear the good news. God sent his angel to tell Philip where to go to meet the Ethiopian and because Philip did what the angel told him, he met the man, told him about Jesus and the man believed.

There are times when God may put us in a place which is new to us, maybe a new class/school/ neighbourhood/town/city/country. Don't be afraid. God is with you. He may have someone special he wants you to meet, to encourage, to help or to share the good news.

### **Let's not stop talking about Jesus**

Many believers ran away to different places in Judea and Samaria. They lost their homes.

But everywhere the believers went, they told people about Jesus. Even though they facing persecution and death, they kept telling others about Jesus everywhere they went.

Let's continue to keep our eyes on Jesus and tell our friends and family and neighbours about how much Jesus loves them and what He has done for them on the cross.

Ask the children if they have received Jesus as their Savior. If not, pray with them to receive Jesus.

### ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

#### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for who they want to share Jesus with.

#### REVIEW MEMORY VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* **Acts 1:8**

**SONG: No other Name** (with actions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYCGhuJK53k>

**SONG: Refuge**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>

**DANCE: Salvation is here**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ergsulxd1BQ>

# ACTS: PAUL MET JESUS

## HOOK

Show a picture of a caterpillar and how it goes through metamorphosis into a butterfly.

You may want to use a story book or video, if suitable.

# ACTS: PAUL MET JESUS

## STORY (Acts 9)

A few Sundays ago, we learned about a man called Stephen. He was one of the 7 chosen to help serve God's people. Do you remember what happened to him? Yes, he was stoned/killed by people who did not believe Jesus was God.

When the crowd surrounded Stephen and were throwing stones at him, one man, a Pharisee, stood there giving his approval. This man was called Saul.

Saul was a very devout Jew. He wanted to obey God and made sure other people obeyed God's laws. He wanted to get rid of the people who believed Jesus was God. When they told others about Jesus, Saul thought they were spreading lies, and wanted to stop them once and for all.

He went to the places where these followers of Jesus gathered and arrested men and women and had them thrown in jail. He went to the high priest and asked for permission to go to the synagogues in Damascus and arrest all those who were preaching there about Jesus.

So Saul and some men began the journey to Damascus. As they were getting closer, something happened. A bright light flashed from heaven. Saul fell to the ground.

And he heard a voice. "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me (or why are you hurting me)?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked, terrified.

The voice replied, "*I am Jesus of Nazareth. I am the One you are persecuting.*" When Saul was hurting believers, he was really hurting Jesus Himself. Jesus told Saul to go into Damascus and he would receive instructions of what to do next.

The bright light disappeared, and Saul and his men were all alone again. As Saul got up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see anything! His men took him by the hand and led him into Damascus.

Meanwhile in Damascus there's a believer named Ananias. Jesus appeared to him in a vision. "Ananias!"

"Yes Lord," he answered.

Jesus told him to go to a house and ask for a man named Saul, place his hands on him and restore his sight.

ACTS:  
PAUL MET JESUS

Now, Ananias has heard about Saul. In fact, he was probably hiding from him. He didn't want to be killed or thrown into prison. *"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."*

But Jesus told him to go. Jesus had chosen Saul to do a great work and to tell all the Jews and non-Jews about Him.

So Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, *"Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again! He got up and was baptized. And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Pix illustrations can be found here: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/paul-conversion/>



# ACTS: PAUL MET JESUS

## LESSON

**RED Class:** Can go straight to “Jesus transforms us” as the main lesson of the day.

### Jesus cares for us

After Stephen died, the followers of Jesus were persecuted/attacked. They were chased out from their homes, dragged to prison, killed etc.

Jesus wasn’t blind or deaf. He saw what was happening. In fact, He was suffering along with them. When He met Saul, he asked him, “Why are you persecuting me?”

When others attack us for believing in Jesus, they are actually attacking Jesus. So we do not have to be afraid. When we go through challenges, know that Jesus is always there. He cares for us. And He is carrying us through.

### Jesus transforms us

Like a caterpillar transformed into a butterfly, Saul met the Risen Savior on his way to Damascus and was transformed. He was no longer an enemy of God’s; now he was God’s child! Saul went to Damascus as a blood-thirsty Pharisee, out to destroy the church and to stop people from believing in Jesus. He arrived as a changed man and follower of Jesus.

When we meet Jesus, we are changed. **2 Cor 5:17** *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”*

### God has a plan for our lives

Remember **Acts 1:8**? *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

The disciples were telling people about Jesus in Jerusalem. Then Stephen was killed, and they ran to Judea and Samaria, telling more people about Jesus. And Jesus told Ananias that Saul was chosen *“to carry His name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel”*.

God has work for each one of His children. **Ephesians 2:10** says *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

What work do you think God has prepared for you to do?

# ACTS: PAUL MET JESUS

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for who they want to share Jesus with.

### REVIEW THEME VERSE WITH ACTIONS

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*


### WORKSHEET (attached below)

### DANCE: Salvation is here

[https://youtu.be/euF\\_A2-0D7Q](https://youtu.be/euF_A2-0D7Q)

## ACTS: PAUL MET JESUS

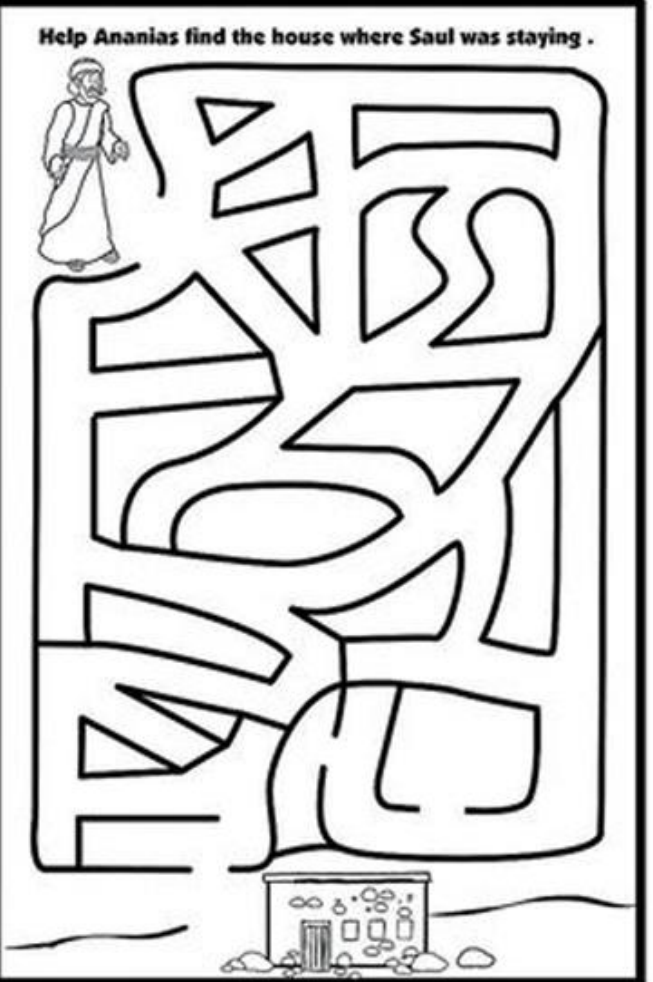
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Saul was \_\_\_\_\_ by a light from heaven.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ spoke to Saul when he fell to the ground.  
 Ananias was \_\_\_\_\_ of Saul, because he had harmed many believers.  
 God told Ananias to go to a \_\_\_\_\_ where Saul was staying. Ananias \_\_\_\_\_ God.

Word Bank:    house    God  
                  obeyed    blinded    afraid

Help Ananias find the house where Saul was staying .



## JESUS TRANSFORMS

Write out 2 Cor 5:17

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What's our theme verse? Acts 1:8

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# ACTS: PETER & CORNELIUS

## HOOK

### CLEAN OR UNCLEAN

Materials: Half glass bottle of Water, Half glass bottle of Cooking oil, Dishwashing liquid  
*(You should practice beforehand so you know how much detergent to put in etc)*

Some things just don't mix together. Like oil and water. They are always separate from one another.

*[Pour the water into the oil and swish them around in the bottle. The liquids may seem to mix together for a while, but will then return to 2 distinct layers]*

Previously, God's special people, the Jews, would not mix with anyone who is NOT a Jew. Those people (NOT-Jews) were called Gentiles. The Jews followed God's laws, so they considered themselves "clean". The Gentiles didn't follow God, so they were "unclean". They were like oil, and Gentiles were like water. They didn't mix.

Today we will learn how Jesus came to die and save ... not just the Jews, but also the Gentiles. It is Jesus who breaks the barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles so that we can all be one family of God in Christ.

*[Pour a little bit of detergent into the glass bottle and swish it around again. This time, the water and the oil will form one mixture.]*

In today's story, we learn how God had to teach Peter (a Jew) that even the Gentiles can receive God's gift of salvation.

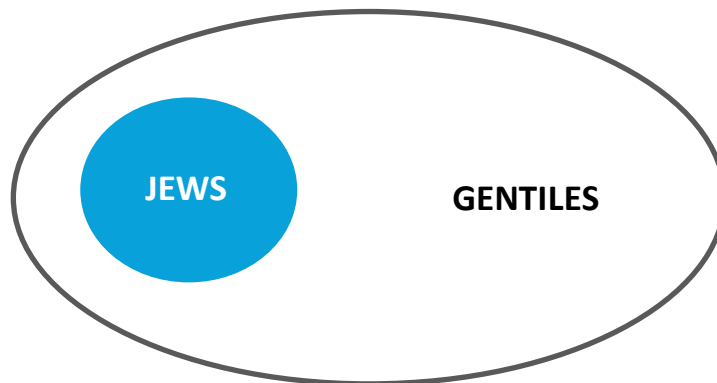
## ACTS: PETER & CORNELIUS

### STORY: PETER & CORNELIUS (Act 10)

#### BACKGROUND (for older kids)

Under the Old Covenant, God called the Abraham out as His special friend. Abraham's descendants/family would be God's special people. These were the Israelites, also called the Jews. The Jews were God's special people. God's perfect Savior was going to be born from the Jews.

God had special laws for the Jews to follow. These laws were to protect His people and also to make them different from the other people (called the Gentiles) who worshipped idols/false gods. Are you a Jew or Gentile?



One of the laws they followed was the type of food they could or couldn't eat. Jews could only eat the food that God said were "clean". They were not allowed to eat any food that were considered "unclean". It's a bit like the Muslims and their "halal" or "non-halal" food. (see pix on next page)



The laws about being "clean" and "unclean" were not to allow the Jews to think they were better than the Gentiles. The Jews may not have fully understood, but God's plan was to one day allow Gentiles to be a part of His family.

And after Jesus, the promised Saviour, came to die for the sins of the whole world (not just the Jews), God began revealing His gift of salvation to the whole world.



## ACTS: PETER & CORNELIUS

What did God say to eat under the old law?

### Clean Food



### UnClean Food



All graphics © Microsoft

# ACTS: PETER & CORNELIUS

## Meet Cornelius

Today we learn about a man named Cornelius.

**Acts 10:1-2** *At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.*

What do we know about Cornelius?

- He lived in Caesarea
- He was a centurion of the Italian Regiment (A centurion: A commander in charge of up to 100 men. Regiment: battalion/legion of about 6,000 men.)
- Cornelius was NOT a Jew, but he lived a life following the example of devout Jewish people.
- He gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Although Cornelius was a good man, he was not saved. His was had sin, which blocked him from God. He had not heard the Good News that Jesus died on the cross for his sins.

One day, God sent an angel to speak to Cornelius by sending an angel to speak to him while he was in prayer. God told Cornelius to send for a man named Peter in Joppa. So Cornelius sent 3 men to bring Peter back to him.

## Peter's Vision

*(Suggestion: Prepare a large white sheet with several "unclean" soft toy animals in them. Get 4 kids to hold the 4 corners and move the sheet up and down as you tell the story)*

While the 3 men were on the way to find Peter, God was also busy preparing Peter's heart. Why?

Because Cornelius was a Gentile (not a Jew). And to Peter, a Jew, Gentiles were "unclean". Jews were NOT supposed to mix with Gentiles.

In Acts 10:9-14, God sent Peter a dream. Peter was praying and G, around noon time, he started feeling hungry. While waiting for the food to be prepared, he fell into a trance/dream-like state.

He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. It contained all kinds uncleaned animals — four-footed creatures, reptiles and birds. Then a voice told him, *"Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."*

Peter resisted. He was a good Jew. He couldn't eat unclean animals. *"Surely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."*



## ACTS: PETER & CORNELIUS

The voice said, *"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."*

This happened again. And again. After the third time, immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

Peter wasn't sure what the vision meant. But as he was thinking about it, the 3 men sent by Cornelius arrived at the house and asked for him.

The Holy Spirit told Peter, *"Three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."*

So Peter welcomed them in.



### **Peter tells Cornelius about Jesus**

The next day, Peter went to Cornelius' house with the 3 men and some other believers from Joppa.

Cornelius greeted him warmly, and his house was full of people waiting for Peter.

Peter said to them, *"You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean."*

*"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."*

Peter told them all about Jesus and what He did when He was on earth, how He died on the cross and was raised from the dead, and the gift of forgiveness that comes from Him.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all those in the house. The Jewish believers were surprised to see the Holy Spirit touching the Gentiles (the "unclean" people) — they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God!

Since God already poured out His Spirit on the Gentiles, Peter decided to baptize all those who wanted to believe in Jesus. *"Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."*



# ACTS: PETER & CORNELIUS

## LESSON

**Sin makes us unclean. Jesus makes us clean.**

Before, Gentiles couldn't go near to God because of sin. Even the Jews could not go near to God unless they made all the sacrifices for their sin and washed themselves to make them clean.

Jesus' death on the cross cleansed everything unclean. When we have Jesus, we are clean enough to stand before God.

**God's love is for everyone. Jesus' gift of Salvation is for everyone.**

God doesn't look at people the same way as we do. He doesn't like people or not like them based on their skin color, size or where they live. He doesn't care if they are smelly and dirty, or big and important. God sees the heart of every man, woman, boy and girl. And He loves us all.

When Jesus died on the Cross, He died for every one of us. So that you and I, who are Gentiles, can now be part of God's family.

So now ... let's share this Good News to everyone who does not know Jesus yet!

**MEMORY VERSE: Acts 10:34-35** *"I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right."*

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for those whom they want to share Jesus to.

### SONG: Jesus loves the little children

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cg6W76q6a2E>

### DANCE: Salvation is here

[https://youtu.be/euF\\_A2-0D7Q](https://youtu.be/euF_A2-0D7Q)

### SONG: Refuge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>

### REVIEW ON ACTS (Act 1-9)

*Keep it fast-paced, interactive and fun. You can make it a quiz or give out small prizes for correct answers.*

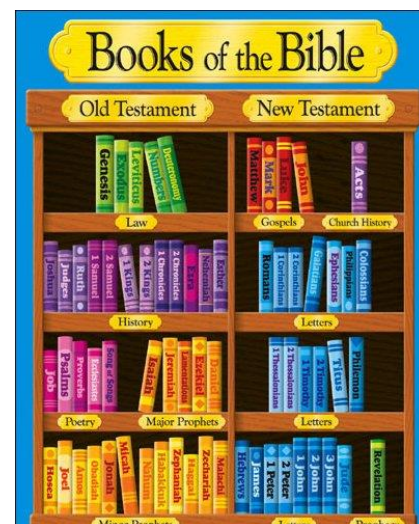
#### Book of Acts

We've been going through the book of Acts.

Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? *New*

Which book in the NT was it? *5<sup>th</sup>*

Who can name the first 4 books? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*



#### Acts of the Holy Spirit

Acts tells us about God's Holy Spirit working among those who believed in Jesus.

Before Jesus went to Heaven, He gave His disciples a promise and some instructions.

Can you remember what Jesus said? (with actions)

**Acts 1:8** *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

How did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit? *God sent tongues of fire during Pentecost, Peter preached and 3,000 were saved.*



#### The church grew and grew with many signs and miracles.

Do you remember any of the miracles?

*Peter and John healing the lame beggar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFZJFXvuvOA>*

*Angels opened prison doors so the disciples could walk out free.*

As the group grew, the disciples chose how many men to help serve the widows and care for the people? Do you remember their names? *7 — Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolaus.*

**Those who believed in Jesus were also persecuted/attacked by the religious leaders.**

Who knows what happened to Stephen? *Stoned. First Christian martyr (person who died for what they believed)*

Even when he was dying, Stephen kept his eyes on Jesus.

**They never stopped talking about Jesus.**

The believers in Jerusalem were scattered — they ran to Judea and Samaria. But they never stopped talking about Jesus wherever they went.

Who was the disciple who went preaching about Jesus in Samaria? *Philip*

Who was one powerful person who heard Philip preaching and decided to follow Jesus? *Simon the Sorcerer*

Who was the other powerful person whom Philip spoke to about Jesus? *The Ethiopian Eunuch.*

God showed Peter a vision that demonstrated how His salvation was for all people, Jews or Gentiles. What was the vision about? *Clean and unclean animals.* Who did Peter go to share the gospel to after that? *Cornelius and his family.*

**Jesus showed Himself directly to someone important too.**

This was someone who was busy dragging Jesus' followers to prison. Who was he? *Saul*

Who can tell me what happened? *Saul went to Damascus to arrest the believers; Jesus came as a bright light; Saul was blinded until Ananias came to pray for him. He believed in Jesus and changed his name to Paul. He was used to spread the word about Jesus to the ends of the earth.*

Jesus shows Himself to us too. And today, His Holy Spirit lives in us, so we can show Jesus to others too!

How do we know? Because that's Jesus' promise to us in Acts 1:8.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

### HUDDLE TIME

Get the kids into small groups to pray for those who do not know Jesus. Get them to discuss how they can share about Jesus with them.

### SONG: Oh Praise His Name

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYdGxKkAwIM>

### SONG: Refuge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9BbT90NrXg>

### DANCE: Salvation is here

[https://youtu.be/euF\\_A2-0D7Q](https://youtu.be/euF_A2-0D7Q)