

# ACTS 1: CALLED TO BE MISSIONARIES

## SUMMARY

Acts is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Chapter one begins with Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit and charge to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Then Jesus rose into Heaven (the Ascension). Finally, the believers replace Judas with Matthias then wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit.

## QUESTIONS

1. Jesus commands his followers to do something after they receive power from the Holy Spirit. What is it? (Verse 8)
2. A witness (v.8) is someone who declares and gives evidence to Jesus and is a follower of him. How can you be a witness for Jesus in your neighborhood? At work? At school?
3. As the crowd watched Jesus ascend, two men in white robes (angels) appeared. What promise did they give? (Verse 11)

## ILLUSTRATIONS/SONGS

- **Ascension:** Explain how a helium-filled balloon gives us joy, but it can be sad watching it float away into the air. The disciples were sad as Jesus ascended, but it was in order for the Helper, the Holy Spirit, to come and unlike a balloon, Jesus will return.
- **Great Commission:** Use a globe or world map. Explain Jerusalem=Thomson; Judea/Samaria=Georgia/U.S.; Ends of the Earth. All of it our mission field, starting at home.
- **Church:** Use a Church Directory to explain how the church is made of individual followers of Jesus, not a building.
- **Song:** "I Will Follow You" by Chris Tomlin

## LIVING IT OUT

- Ask each family member, if saved, to share his/her testimony.
- Create a list of unbelieving friends, coworkers or family members to pray for specifically. Each family member take a name or two.
- Pray for leaders of the church. Specifically for the Search Committee as they begin the process of finding a Worship Pastor.
- Discuss creative ways as a family to reach people in your neighborhood

## PRAYER

- Ask God to give us a heart and burden for our community, state, and the nations.

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## FAMILY DEVOTION



## READ FOR THIS WEEK ACTS 1:1-26

### MAIN TOPICS

1. Ascension of Jesus
2. Jesus' Commission
3. Promise of Holy Spirit
4. Gathering of the Church
5. Importance of Right Leaders
6. All Christians Called to Be Missionaries

### CROSS REFERENCES

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 16: 15-16
- 1 Timothy 3:1-13
- Titus 1:5-9

### CHILDREN BIBLES/APP

- **Jesus Storybook Bible:** "Going Home," 318-325.
- **Big Picture Story Bible:** "God's New Kingdom Spreads, Part 24, 413-417.
- **The Bible App for Kids:** "Into the Clouds: Jesus Returns to Heaven"

### MEMORY VERSE ACTS 1:8

### READ FOR NEXT WEEK ACTS 2:1-41

# ACTS 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT

## SUMMARY

In Acts chapter 2, the Holy Spirit dramatically arrives to the believers in what we call the day of Pentecost. All the believers were filled with the power of the Spirit, as believers are today. Peter immediately gives an amazing sermon. “Jesus, whom you crucified, is both Lord and Messiah!” (Acts 2:36) Afterwards, the early church explodes with 3,000 people being saved and baptized.

## QUESTIONS

1. What were the signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost? (Verses 2-4)
2. Describe the difference we see in Peter before Jesus is about to be nailed to the cross (Luke 22:54-62) compared to Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-41). Did anything change? Why?
3. If you are a Christian then you have the same power of the Holy Spirit as Peter. How can you be more like a Spirit-filled Peter?

## ILLUSTRATIONS

- **Holy Spirit:** The same word for Spirit in the Bible also means “wind” or “breath.” Explain how we know the Holy Spirit exists as much as we know the wind and breathing exists. This conversation will be enhanced if you bring it up outside on a windy day.
- **Tongues of Fire:** Draw a picture of what you imagine the scene at Pentecost would have looked like.
- **Bible for Kids (App)** – Download the free *Bible for Kids* app on your device or smart phone. Play the lesson, “God’s Wonderful Gift: The Holy Spirit Comes.”
- **A.D. The Bible Continues (TV)** – Watch previous episode 3, “The Spirit Arrives” at NBC.com. NOTE: Series Rated PG-13. Currently, this miniseries based on Acts plays new episodes Sunday at 9PM (NBC).

## LIVING IT OUT

- Have each person make a list of their natural talents, skills or abilities.
- Ask each person to share what spiritual gift(s) God has given them and challenge them to find ways to use these gifts to glorify God.
- Discuss possible ministries the church could start that would allow Christians to use the spiritual gifts that God has given them.

## PRAYER

- Go to [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org) and select an unreached people group and begin praying that God will call missionaries to take the gospel to them.

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## FAMILY DEVOTION



## READ FOR THIS WEEK ACTS 2:1-41

### MAIN TOPICS

1. Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
2. Gift of Speaking in Foreign Languages
3. Peter Preaches the Gospel
4. Importance of Repentance in Salvation
5. Baptism

### CROSS REFERENCES

- Joel 2:23-32
- John 16:7-15
- 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

### CHILDREN BIBLES/APP

- **Jesus Storybook Bible:** “God Sends Help,” 326-331.
- **Big Picture Story Bible:** “God’s New Kingdom Spreads, Part 24, 418-426.
- **The Bible App for Kids:** “God’s Wonderful Gift: The Holy Spirit Comes”

## MEMORY VERSE ACTS 2:21

## READ FOR NEXT WEEK ACTS 3:1-26