

# KID'S CHURCH



## Family Studies

This term we are starting an 8 week series in Acts and we're going to try something a little different. Each week we'll send home 2-3 short bible passages to read together as a family and 1 or 2 suggested questions. It doesn't matter if you don't do these studies, it's just there to be a help to those families who want to use them.

Suggested answers are also provided, not to be read word for word to the kids but just to inform parents thinking in case you have no idea where the question is heading.

If you do use these studies it would be great to know how you found them.

The bible text provided is from the Children's International Bible. It's a good translation with a reading age of 6



# Acts 1:1-5

## Luke Writes Another Book

1 To Theophilus,

The first book I wrote was about everything that Jesus did and taught. 2 I wrote about the whole life of Jesus, from the beginning until the day he was taken up into heaven. Before this, Jesus talked to the apostles he had chosen. With the help of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told them what they should do. 3 After his death, he showed himself to them and proved in many ways that he was alive. The apostles saw Jesus during the 40 days after he was raised from death. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. 4 Once when he was eating with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem. He said, "The Father has made you a promise which I told you about before. Wait here to receive this promise. 5 John baptized people with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

## Suggested Questions

*There's a couple of tricky terms in this passage that are important in Acts. Take some time to talk about them:*

**Holy Spirit** - Sometimes called the Holy Ghost or God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a part of our amazing 3-in-1 God along with God the Father and God the Son (Jesus). God gave his spirit to some people in the Old Testament like Moses and King David and the Prophets. His Spirit gave them encouragement, the power to do what God wanted and the words to teach people about God. Now that Jesus has died and risen again and gone into heaven, everyone who trusts in Jesus can have God's Spirit living inside them, giving them comfort, helping them to pray, to read and understand God's word and to obey him. We can't do any of those things by ourselves, but our great God gives us himself so that we can! Isn't God's Spirit amazing!

**Kingdom of God** - The kingdom of God is something a little bit tricky. It's something we look forward to, when Jesus comes back again and we get to go live with him. It's where God is undisputed King, just like in the garden of Eden where God lived with his people and they were able to walk and talk with him. When Jesus came we started to get a taste of what this kingdom would be like. In Luke we find lots of Jesus teaching on God's kingdom as a place free of sin and death where God's children can be with him and worship him.

We get to experience a bit of God's kingdom when we pray or when we come to church. God's people gathered together joyfully worshipping God and talking with him.

**Baptism** - Baptism with water is a symbol. It doesn't do anything magical but it has a very special meaning. When we trust in Jesus God baptises us with the Holy Spirit, which means God cleans away all our sin and makes us pure like Jesus so we can be a part of his family. Water baptism is all about being a part of God's family, being made new. It shows that it's not us that get ourselves into the Kingdom of God, but something that God does in us.

# Acts 1:6-11

## Jesus Is Taken Up into Heaven

6 The apostles were all together. They asked Jesus, "Lord, are you at this time going to give the kingdom back to Israel?"

7 Jesus said to them, "The Father is the only One who has the authority to decide dates and times. These things are not for you to know. 8 But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world."

9 After he said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up. A cloud hid him from their sight. 10 As he was going, they were looking into the sky. Suddenly, two men wearing white clothes stood beside them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking into the sky? You saw Jesus taken away from you into heaven. He will come back in the same way you saw him go."

## Suggested Questions:

### ***What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus?***

To share the good news about how Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Jesus' disciples were "witnesses" for Jesus because they were his friends, they heard his teaching and they saw him die and rise again. But we have seen Jesus too, in the bible. We know who Jesus is and what he's done and Jesus wants us to be a witness for him too.

### ***How can our family be a witness for Jesus?***

For example, you might be able to tell your friends and family what Jesus has done for you. Or as a family you could pray for each other that you will be bold and that God would give you the words to speak. Or you could write a letter together to Kavidhi (our Village compassion child) and tell her how precious Jesus is to you. Or.....

# Acts 1:12-26

## A New Apostle Is Chosen

12 Then they went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. (This mountain is about half a mile from Jerusalem.) 13 When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon (known as the Zealot), and Judas son of James were there. 14 They all continued praying together. Some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers were also there with the apostles.

15 During this time there was a meeting of the believers. (There were about 120 of them.) Peter stood up and said, 16-17 "Brothers, in the Scriptures the Holy Spirit said through David that something must happen. The Spirit was talking about Judas, one of our own group, who served together with us. The Spirit said that Judas would lead men to arrest Jesus. 18 (Judas bought a field with the money he got for his evil act. But Judas fell to his death, his body burst open, and all his intestines poured out.) 19 Everyone in Jerusalem learned about this. This is why they named the field Akeldama. In their language Akeldama means "field of blood.") 20 In the book of Psalms, this is written: 'May his place be empty.

Leave no one to live in it.' ***Psalm 69:25***

And it is also written:

'Let another man replace him as leader.' ***Psalm 109:8***

21-22 "So now a man must join us and become a witness of Jesus' being raised from death. He must be one of the men who were part of our group during all the time the Lord Jesus was with us. He must have been with us from the time John began to baptize people until the day when Jesus was taken up from us to heaven."

23 They put the names of two men before the group. One was Joseph Barsabbas, who was also called Justus. The other was Matthias. 24-25 The apostles prayed, "Lord, you know the minds of everyone. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to do this work. Judas turned away from it and went where he belongs. Lord, show us which one should take his place as an apostle!" 26 Then they used lots to choose between them, and the lots showed that Matthias was the one. So he became an apostle with the other 11.

## Suggested Questions:

***Read verses 21-22 again. Why was it so important for man they chose to be an apostle, to also be an eye witness to Jesus life, death and resurrection?***

Christians don't believe in a fairy tale. We believe the truth. In those days there were no cameras or televisions. The only way you knew if something happened was if you saw it happen, or you heard that it happened. It was really important to have men who loved God and who knew Jesus and saw everything that he said and did to be in charge of the new church because they would be the ones sharing the truth with people.

***How can we know the truth about Jesus?***

We're very lucky to have 4 accounts of Jesus life written down for us as well as the book of Acts and many letters the apostles wrote to the church. They all tell us the truth about Jesus.