

**Daily Study Guide Outline
(for the Book of Acts)**

By Shawna Duvall



What do you see?

- What happened in the story just before this passage?
- What's happening in these verses? (Have kids paraphrase or repeat back to you the main points)
- Where is this part of the story taking place? (Can you find it on a map?)
- Who are the people named in these verses? Does anybody say anything? Who are they talking to?
- Are there any words that you heard us repeat or read more than once?
- Are there any *super important* words you think we should really pay attention to?



What does it mean?

- Go back and find one of those *super important* words we read? What do you think it means?
- Is there anything confusing to you in these verses or something you don't understand?
- Do we learn anything about who God is? (How about Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit?)
- How is God working in the lives of people in this story? (How about Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit?)
- How do you see the Gospel of Jesus Christ moving forward and spreading to more people in these verses?
- What do you think is one of the most important things for us to understand or take away from this passage of Scripture?



In Real Life!

- Can you think of a picture or real-life illustration that helps us understand today's verses better? Maybe start out by saying, "It's kind of like..."
- Was there something today that made you think, "Wow! That's amazing!"?



How can I change?

- How does what we read today make you feel?
- What is something in your own heart or in your life you'd like to work on to change? Maybe the way you think, talk or act? Or a relationship with someone? Or a habit?
- What's something from these verses that we can pray about together today?



Pray together

Week 1
Day 1 | Acts 1:1-5

Memorize it | Acts 1:8

Read it | Acts 1:1-5

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: Acts 1:1-4
- Younger children creative prompt: *Something you are waiting for*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 1:1-3
- Children read aloud: Acts 1:4-5
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- What was the author's first book about? (v.1)
- Who made a promise? (v.4) What was the promise? Who told the disciples about the promise?
- Starting in vs. 1, find where each of the three different persons of the Trinity are mentioned in these first five verses (God the Father, Jesus the Son, Holy Spirit).



What does it mean?

- What does it mean when it says in v. 3, "He presented himself alive to them after his suffering...?" (see Luke 24:36-49 for additional insight).



In My Life!

- Have you ever read a biography? What was it about? How do you think the book of Acts is like a biography?
- Have you ever waited for something that was promised to you? What was it? How did you feel while you were waiting?



How can I change?

- Imagine Jesus talking with his disciples and telling them to wait for the Holy Spirit (v.4). Now think of some of God's promises to us. How can we show God we trust Him and believe His promises to us are true?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

- 1) *It is widely accepted Acts was written by Luke.* He was not one of the twelve disciples, but was the author of the Gospel of Luke, which he references in Acts 1:1. Acts is a biography in the sense that Luke's first book (The Gospel of Luke) was about what Jesus "began to do and teach" (1:1) while he was here on earth. This second book (Acts) is about what "Jesus *continued* to do and teach" after his ascension to heaven.¹ He accomplished this by the presence and work of his Spirit in and through the church. *Luke's purpose in writing the book of Acts is to continue on in recording and presenting all that Jesus continued to do and teach after His ascension through His promised Holy Spirit who would empower believers to tell the world about Him.* (See Luke 1:1-4). It's really the story of Jesus doing his work and proclaiming his Good News (the Gospel) now through his church to the whole world.
- 2) *The book of Acts begins during the transition time after Jesus' resurrection and before his ascension.* Luke records that Jesus gave commands to his apostles, presented himself alive to them, spoke about the Kingdom of God, and ordered them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit.
- 3) *Acts 1:1-5 shows how the Trinity (God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit) are in union, working together to continue carrying out God's purposes.*
- 4) Finally, don't get too hung up in today's reading on being "baptized in the Holy Spirit". You will read more about the coming of the Holy Spirit with your kids in upcoming chapters.

Week 1
Day 2 | Acts 1:6-14

Memorize it | Acts 1:8

Read it | Acts 1:6-14

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: Acts 1:7-10,12,14
- Younger children creative prompt: *Jesus going up into heaven*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 1:6-7;12-14
- Children read aloud: Acts 1:8-11
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- What did Jesus tell the disciples they would receive? (v. 8)
- What did Jesus tell the disciples they would be? (v. 8)
- Where does Jesus want them to be His witnesses? (Find a map in the back of a Bible or online (Google search: “map book of acts”). Move your finger from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria and to the ends of the earth, all the way to Rome, Italy).
- What did the disciples do in Jerusalem while they waited for the promise? (v. 14)



What does it mean?

- When Jesus says, “you will be my witnesses”, what do you think He means?
- If the disciples saw Jesus go up into Heaven, where do you think He is right now? (v. 11)



In My Life!

- Give an example of someone you know who is a witness of Jesus Christ.
- Have you ever seen anything lift off the ground? What did it look like? Can you imagine what the disciples were thinking when Jesus went up into Heaven? What do you think their faces looked like?



How can I change?

- What are some ways you can be a witness of Jesus Christ to the world?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

- 1) Because of Jesus' resurrection and the promise of the Holy Spirit, *the disciples were anticipating the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel* and the new Messianic era to begin as it had been prophesied and promised in the Old Testament. Along with this they hoped for national freedom from the political and military oppression of Rome (Acts 1:6-7).
- 2) *Acts 1:8 is the springboard for the rest of the book of Acts. It is the central structure that will shape the framework of the whole book.*ⁱⁱ The Gospel message will spread through the disciples starting in Jerusalem and moving outward to Judea, Samaria and ultimately the ends of the earth (Rome). It will be good news not just for the Jews, but for the whole world!
- 3) *The Holy Spirit's main purpose is to empower disciples to witness to the world about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.* The church today shares the same commission (and the same power!) as was given to the remaining eleven disciples in Acts 1:8. You might also want to read Matt 28:16-20. This helps us understand our purpose as disciples and therefore witnesses of Christ Jesus.

Week 1
Day 3 | Acts 1:15-26

Memorize it: Acts 1:8

Read it: Acts 1:15-26

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: Acts 1:15,23-26
- Younger children creative prompt: *The twelve men who were Jesus' apostles*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 1:15-23 (consider skipping over 1:16-20 for younger children)
- Children read aloud: Acts 1:24-26
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- Who seems to be the leader of the disciples? (v.15)
- Who spoke through David when he wrote some of the Psalms? (v.16)
- Who took Judas' place as the twelfth disciple? (v.26)



What does it mean?

- What did Judas do? (Acts 1:16; see also Luke 22:3-6 & 47-48)
- Why were Joseph (Barsabbas) and Matthias the two men put forward to take Judas' place? (vs.21&22)
- How did the apostles and brothers choose Matthias? (vv. 24-26).
- Who actually chose which man would be added to the eleven apostles? (vs.24)



In Real Life!

- How do we make important decisions as a family?



How can I change?

- Peter used the Scriptures to help him lead and make decisions. How does the Bible help you know what to do?
- When you have an important decision to make, what can you do? (v. 24) Who can you trust to help you make that decision?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

- 1) You may want to just skip over the gory detail of 1:18-19 if your kids are too young. Judas' heart was full of evil. Scripture says he was "a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). *This sad text shows the ultimate aim and desire of Satan for every human being and the end result of a heart full of sin...death and destruction, God's just judgment of sin.*ⁱⁱⁱ
- 2) Acts 1:16 reveals that the *Holy Spirit was responsible for inspiring the words of David* in the Old Testament.^{iv} This is significant as we teach our kids that *all* of scripture was written by God through the mouths and pens of men (2 Tim 3:16).
- 3) Finally, as we read Acts, it's important to keep in mind what is *descriptive* and what is *prescriptive*; meaning, unless what is being described (in this case, using casting lots to determine an outcome) is *clearly stated* as something that should be established as a norm for the church as a whole, then it should not be prescribed as a norm for the church as a whole.^v *So in 1:21-26, the focus shouldn't be on whether or not we should cast lots, instead our greater focus in on God's desire for the church to carry out the mission of sharing the Gospel message with the world* and how these early disciples took the next obedient step in that direction as they waited for the Holy Spirit. This is the only mention in the book of Acts and the rest of the NT where believers cast lots to determine their course of action. As we read this text with our kids, we want to emphasize prayer, seeking wise counsel and reading the God's Word as reliable tools in decision making as we obediently carry out God's mission.

Week 1
Day 4 | Acts 2:1-13

Memorize it | Acts 1:8

Read it | Acts 2:1-13

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: Acts 2:1-4
- Younger children creative prompt: *a campfire or fire in the fireplace*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 2:5-13
- Children read aloud: Acts 2:1-4
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- What did it look and sound like when the Holy Spirit came?
- Who promised that the Holy Spirit would come? (Acts 1:4,8)
- What was the reaction of the Jewish people in Jerusalem when they heard the disciples speaking in their own foreign languages? (vv.5,7,12)



What does it mean?

What does it mean that the Holy Spirit filled them?

After they were filled with the Holy Spirit, why do you think the disciples spoke in so many different languages?

What do you think the disciples were talking about in these foreign languages? (v.11)



In Real Life!

Does anyone in your family speak a foreign language?

Do you know any words in another language?

Does God speak foreign languages? How many?



How can I change?

Is there someone in your life that needs to hear about the mighty works of God? How could you share with them?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

Pentecost (fifty days after Passover) was an annual Jewish pilgrimage feast in Jerusalem explaining the large number of various nationalities present. Also called the "The Feast of Weeks" (see Lev. 23:15-22), Jewish people would offer the "firstfruits" of their harvest back to God showing gratitude to Him as their provider.^{vi} The Holy Spirit coming on this particular day was no coincidence! Here are three significant points to consider:

1) God had manifested His presence and glory to His people in the past with the sound of wind and the sight of fire and smoke. The Jewish people would have unmistakably recognized the mighty rushing wind and fire of Pentecost as a visible manifestation of a powerful movement of God's Spirit among them.

2) The repeated word "filled" is significant. The Spirit of God would no longer fill (and dwell) in the Temple "building", rather He would fill (and dwell) in human hearts who confess and believe Jesus as Lord (Rom 8:11). This fulfilled the promise of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:5,8. The filling of the Spirit mark the beginning of the New Covenant era.^{vii} When the Spirit filled them, it was for the purpose of service or to speak God's word.^{viii}

3) Finally, The Holy Spirit filled these Jewish disciples of Christ and opened their mouths to literally speak in the languages of "every nation under heaven" showing how God's provision in Christ (The Gospel) is not just for the Jews, but is to be for the whole world!^{ix} Even you and me! This is the main theme and trajectory of Acts.

Week 1
Day 5 | Acts 2:14-36

Memorize it | Acts 1:8

Read it | Acts 2:14-36

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: Acts 2:14, 22-24, 36
- Younger children drawing prompt: *Someone speaking loudly*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 2:14-21, 25-35
- Children read aloud: Acts 2:22-24, 36
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

Which two Old Testament prophets did Peter mention? (vv. 16, 25)

Whose plan was it that Jesus would be killed and then raised from the dead? (v. 23)



What does it mean?

What can we learn about Peter from 1:15 and 2:14?

Who do you think Joel was writing about? (v.18) Who do you think David was writing about? (v.23-25, 27)

Why is it not possible for Jesus to be held by death? (v. 24)

What does Peter want to make sure everyone knows? (v. 36)



In Real Life!

Have you ever had a plan that didn't work out the way you wanted it to? Do God's plans always work out?



How can I change?

If you were there that day at Pentecost and heard Peter stand up and say all these words about Jesus, what might you think or feel?

God wants us to "know for certain" that He has made Jesus both Lord and Christ (Messiah). (v.36) What does this mean to you in your own heart?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

Today's text is long, so feel free to adjust, skip what you need, and just focus on the main points with your kids:

1) This is the first of three longer discourses (or sermons) by Peter in Acts. In today's reading, the main point of Peter's sermon is to explain and confirm what is happening at Pentecost. It is the *fulfillment* of Old Testament prophecies and promises centered around Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension, proving He has been made both Lord and Messiah (Christ) by God (v. 36).

2) In Acts 2:16-21, Peter refers to Joel 2:28-32, explaining how what they were experiencing (the pouring out of God's Spirit on his people) is the sign of the beginning of the "last days" or the New Covenant Era they had been waiting for (see also Jer. 31:31-33 & Ez. 36:22-28).

3) Peter shifts his focus to the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, showing how everything was directed by God according to His sovereign plan and purposes. Peter quotes David's Psalm 16:8-11 and refers to Psalm 110 & 132, ending with the main point, "...that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36).

4) This is a beautiful Trinitarian text to share with your kids showing them how God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all working together to redeem the world.

Week 2
Day 1 | Acts 2:37-47

Memorize it | Acts 4:12

Read it | Acts 2:37-47

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: Acts 2:37-38, 42-47
- Younger children creative prompt: *something you have shared with someone else*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 2:40-47
- Children read aloud: Acts 2:37-39
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- In Acts 2:37, the people heard Peter's words and then asked the question, "Brothers, what shall we do?". What was Peter's answer to their question? (v.38)
- Who came together and shared everything? (v.44)
- What were some of the things these believers in Jesus were doing together? (vv.42-47)



What does it mean?

- What do you think it means that the people were "cut to the heart?" Why? (v.37)
- Why were the believers doing all of these things (like sharing everything, meeting together, listening to the Apostles' teachings, giving away their things)?



In My Life!

- Think about your church. Does your church family do any of the same things the first believers did together?
- Can you think of a time when your family has done any of the same things the early church was doing in vv.42-47?



How can I change?

- Have you ever been "cut to the heart" over your sin or unbelief towards God? God's answer is to repent, turn to Jesus, and receive the gift of the Spirit to live for Him.
- Is there anyone in your life you can think of that has a need right now? What could you do to help? Share something with them? Pray for them? Invite them over for a meal?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

1) When confronted with the Gospel (that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die in our place and then raised Him up as both Lord and Savior), our appropriate response should be like that of the early church asking, "What shall we do?". The answer is to repent, turn to Christ for forgiveness, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to live fully for Him. This is what we see happening in these verses today.

2) These verses are a beautiful depiction of the early church's joyful and grateful response to their salvation in Christ Jesus and the gift of His Holy Spirit. They weren't obligated to do any of these things, but it was their joy to do so because of all that Christ had done for them. The result was genuine and effective community, loving God and their neighbor.^x It may look a little different, but our response should be the same today as the modern church. We also see here the manifested unity among believers that comes from being One in the Spirit. As we live focused on Christ and the needs of others we grow in unity.

3) As the early believers responded in Christlike love and praise, God added to their number. Notice it wasn't because of their skill, effective programming or trying to draw people in. They were just simply loving God and loving others as Spirit-empowered believers in Jesus Christ.

Week 2
Day 2 | Acts 3:1-16

Memorize it | Acts 4:12

Read it | Acts 3:1-16

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: 3:1-10
- Younger children creative prompt: *a picture of yourself walking, leaping and running*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 3:1-5, 11-16
- Children read aloud: Acts 3:6-10
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- How long had the man been lame? (v.2)
- What did the lame man receive instead of alms? (v.6-7)
- Did the man do anything in order to become healed?
- Who did Peter say really healed the lame man? (v.16)
- What did the man do when he was healed? (v.8)
- What was the reaction of the people who saw him healed? (v.9-11)



What does it mean?

- In what way are we like the lame man?
- Why does Peter say, “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth” when he reaches down to heal the lame man? (v. 6 & 16)
- Why did Peter address the crowd of people in the temple? (vv. 11-16)
- What do you think it means to have faith in the name of Jesus? (v.16)
- For something a bit more challenging, dig a little deeper and look for similarities in the stories found in Mark 2:1-12 & Acts 3:1-10. How is Jesus proving and confirming his continued ministry through his disciples in the Acts 3 story?



In My Life!

- If you were lame from birth and had just been miraculously healed, what would you look like walking and leaping and praising God?



How can I change?

- Has God ever healed your body? How about your heart?
- How can you praise God for your salvation?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

1) This story is the first recorded example of a “sign and wonder” being done by the Holy Spirit through the apostles. In Acts 2, the Spirit opened their mouths to bear witness. Now in Acts 3 the Spirit gives them His power to heal and *to be a sign to the people that Jesus Christ is Lord and Messiah and the New Covenant Era (Joel 2) has begun*. Jesus is continuing his work to establish his Kingdom now through his disciples (See note on Week One/Day One in the Parents' Corner).

2) God worked through the compassion and obedience of Peter to meet more than the physical needs of the lame man. He gave him new life in Christ.^{xi} *The lame man didn't have to do anything to receive healing*. He had no money and no right to be healed. This is like us. We are beggars, bringing nothing except our deep need. But Jesus provides it all and graciously reaches out His hand to us.^{xii} It is by faith in His name (who He is and what He has done) we receive healing for our souls and receive the gift of life in His Holy Spirit. Our lame hearts are now made strong and alive in Him and our right response is just like the healed beggar, “walking and leaping and praising God”!

Week 2
Day 3 | Acts 3:17-4:4

Memorize it | Acts 4:12

Read it | Acts 3:17-4:4

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: 3:17-20, 4:1-4
- Younger children creative prompt: *things that grow*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 3:17-18, 21-24; 4:1-3
- Children read aloud: Acts 3:19-20, 25-26; 4:4
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- What things did God “foretell” through the prophets? (v.18,21-24)
- What is happening as the Gospel is being preached? (v.4:1-4)
- Who arrested the apostles? (4:1-3)



What does it mean?

- What do you think it means to repent? How is it related to “turning back”? (vv.19,29)
- In what way are our sins blotted out? (v.19)
- Why did the Jewish leaders arrest the apostles?



In Real Life!

- Can you think of something that grows and spreads? How was the church growing and spreading?



How can I change?

- In what ways are we blessed so we can be a blessing to others? (v.25-26)



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

1) A key verse in this text is "God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago..." (v.18) *Peter wants his Jewish listeners to hear that Christ's life, death, resurrection and future second coming are all things God spoke of through His prophets in the OT scriptures.* And, that every prophesy and promise is ultimately fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Peter is emphasizing God's rich grace in offering salvation to the Jews instead of judgment, calling them to respond with repentance. (vs. 19)^{xiii} In vv. 20-21 he speaks of the refreshment we experience from living in the presence of the Lord (having the Holy Spirit dwell in us) and also of the restoration of all things that will happen when the Father again sends Jesus Christ from Heaven.

2) Following this in vv. 25-26, even though Christ's death is for all people, salvation is first being offered to the Jews as God's chosen covenant people. *They are to be Abraham's offspring that will be a blessing to all the families of the earth by proclaiming the good news of the Gospel to the nations.* God is giving them a chance to respond and receive the blessing of repentance and faith, that they may *be blessed to be a blessing.* How might this be a motto in your own home?

3) In vv. 4:1-4, this is the first of many accounts of rising persecution against the early church by the Jewish leaders, which we'll discuss more as the story progresses. There is a surfacing *pattern in Acts* to note here and continue to look for as you read together: Prayers of the church → miraculous signs and wonders → Gospel proclamation → opposition and persecution → church growth.

4) Finally, in this section, *note in 4:4 how both preaching the Gospel and miraculous healing through the Holy Spirit led to the many hearing and believing.* The number in the church has grown from 120 (1:15) to 3000 (2:41) and now 5000 men alone (4:4)!^{xiv} The movement of the church, it's growth and spread from Jerusalem outward is the main theme in Acts.^{xv}

Week 2
Day 4 | Acts 4:5-22

Memorize it | Acts 4:12

Read it | Acts 4:5-22

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: 4:5-10, 18-20
- Younger children creative prompt: *example of someone bold and courageous*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 4:5-12, 15-18, 21-22
- Children read aloud: Acts 4:13-14, 19-20
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- Who is “examining” Peter and John in this text? (v. 5-7)
- Who is the crippled man he is talking about? (v.9-10)
- Who gave Peter the boldness to speak to the Jewish leaders this way? (v. 8)
- How does Peter describe Jesus in v.11?
- Where can we find salvation for our souls? (v.12)



What does it mean?

- Why were the Jewish elders, rulers and scribes astonished and had nothing to say? (vv.13-14)
- Why did they command Peter and John to stop speaking and teaching about Jesus? (vv.15-18)
- How did Peter and John respond to the Jewish leaders’ command? (v. 19-20)



In Real Life!

- Can you think of an example of someone who chose to obey God even when it went against what someone else told them to do?



How can I change?

- Do you ever feel like you aren't smart enough or important enough to tell someone about Jesus? Or maybe that you're "just a kid"? Who gives us the power to speak about Jesus?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

In today's text we read of the first (of many) acts of persecution against the early church. They were being opposed by the Jewish religious leaders, which wasn't a new thing to Peter and John since Jesus' entire ministry was largely opposed by these same men, ultimately leading to his death. The main things to notice in these verses are:

- 1) Even though Peter and John were uneducated, common men, *the Holy Spirit filled them with boldness to be His witnesses and testify of Jesus Christ*. God still works the same way today in and through us despite our shortcomings.
- 2) Acts 4:11 is a prophesy quoted from Psalm 118:22 (which Jesus also referenced regarding himself). *The Jews rejected Jesus (the stone) as the Messiah, but He has now become the head of the church (the cornerstone).*^{xvi}
- 3) Acts 4:12 is very clear that there is *no other way to be saved other than by faith in the name of Jesus Christ*. This is a great opportunity to talk with your kids about what it means to be saved. Also, how the world offers many "other names under heaven" that might look like the way to salvation, but none of them can truly save our souls and grant us eternal life.

Week 2
Day 5 | Acts 4:23-31

Memorize it | Acts 4:12

Read it | Acts 4:23-31

Track I

- Parents (or children) read aloud: 4:23-24, 29-31
- Younger children creative prompt: *people praying together*
- Discuss the text together using the simplified bookmark or the *Daily Study Guide Outline*

Track II

- Parents read aloud: Acts 4:24-30
- Children read aloud: Acts 4:23 & 31
- Dive Deeper: Discuss the text together using your choice of the simplified bookmark, the *Daily Study Guide Outline*, and/or the Dive Deeper questions below as a guide.

Dive Deeper | Discussion Questions



What do I see?

- What was the first thing the believers did after Peter and John reported to them what had happened? (vs.24)
- What specifically did they pray for? (vs. 29) How did God answer? (vs. 31)
- So far in our study of Acts, every time someone is filled with the Holy Spirit, what do they immediately begin doing? (vv. 2:4, 4:8, 4:31)
- What happened to the place they were staying when the Holy Spirit filled them? (vs. 31)



What does it mean?

- Who did the early church believe was ultimately in charge of Herod, Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel who were against Jesus and now against them? (vs. 27-28)
- Why do you think they prayed for boldness but not for their own safety or protection from evil?
- In their prayer, they used the word “servant” to describe David, Jesus and themselves. Why do you think they described themselves as servants? (vv.25,27,29,30)



In Real Life!

- Have you ever felt an earthquake? What do you think it felt like when the building shook while they were praying? (v.31)



How can I change?

- The first thing Peter and John did when they were released from the Jewish rulers was to go meet with their friends and pray. What can we learn from their example?
- Can you think of a situation in your life where you might want to pray and ask God to help you “continue to speak the word with all boldness...”?
- Do you know of any Christians in our country or around the world experiencing opposition or persecution? How can you pray for them?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

In this section, we see the early believers' response to persecution. The first thing they did after being released from custody was to gather together and to pray. Note these observations about what they prayed and the result:

1) *Surprisingly, they don't pray for safety or relief from the opposition, instead they appeal to God's sovereignty over the evil threats and ask for more boldness to keep on speaking His Word.* God powerfully and immediately answers their prayer by pouring out His Spirit and giving them a tangible experience of the Spirit's presence and power in an earthquake.

2) The key word “servant” in this text is used to refer to David, Jesus and the believers in the early church. *There is a theme here of recognizing and praising God as the “Sovereign Lord” who is over all things and has all things under His rule, reign and control.* Even Christ Jesus, who was fully God and fully man viewed Himself as a servant, always obeying God's will. How much more so should we?

3) In Acts 4:31, we see the *continued forward movement of the mission of the church from Acts 1:8.* Persecution leads to fervent prayer and dependency on God. God responds to their prayers with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the result was the continued verbal proclamation of the Word of God (the Gospel) with boldness.

ⁱ Crossway Bibles, *ESV: Study Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2007), 2080.

ⁱⁱ David Cook. *Introducing Acts: A Book for Today* (Geanies House, Fearn, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2012), 45.

ⁱⁱⁱ Darrell Bock. *Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 83-85.

^{iv} Crossway Bibles, *ESV: Study Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2007), 2081.

^v Gordon D. Fee, Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014), 123-124.

^{vi} Crossway Bibles, *ESV: Study Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2007), 248, 2082.

^{vii} Crossway Bibles, *ESV: Study Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2007), 2082.

^{viii} Darrell Bock. *Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 99.

^{ix} Crossway Bibles, *Gospel Transformation Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2011), 1452-1453.

^x Darrell Bock. *Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 154-155.

^{xi} Darrell Bock. *Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 164.

^{xii} Crossway Bibles, *Gospel Transformation Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2011), 1456.

^{xiii} Crossway Bibles, *Gospel Transformation Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2011), 1457.

^{xiv} Crossway Bibles, *ESV: Study Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, Ill: Crossway Bibles, 2007), 2087

^{xv} Gordon D. Fee, Douglas Stuart. *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014), 188.

^{xvi} Darrell Bock. *Acts* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007), 192-193.