

Daily Study Guide Outline (for the Book of Acts)

By Shawna Duvall



What do you see?

- What happened right before these verses?
- What's happening in these verses? (Have kids paraphrase or repeat back to you the main points)
- Where are the people in these verses? (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 commands given? (Anything a follower of Jesus should obey or do?)
- 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 those *super important* words we read? What do you think they mean?
- Can we learn anything about who God is? (How about Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit?)
- How do you see God working in the lives of people? (How about Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit)
- What do you think is one of the most important things to remember from these verses?
- Is there anything confusing to you in these verses or something you don't understand?

- The main point of Acts is to tell the story about how Jesus' disciples (the very first church!) started in Jerusalem and went all the way to Rome telling people about Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. How do these verses we just read fit into that story?



In Real Life!

- Can you think of a picture or an 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

Track 1 - (Acts 1:1-5)

- Parents read aloud: Acts 1:1-3
 - Children read aloud: Acts 1:4-5
 - Younger children draw a picture of: something you are waiting for
 - Ask questions using the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark.
-

Track 2 - (Acts 1:1-5)

Use the scripture reading and the *Daily Study Guide Outline* questions from Track 1 along with the additional discussion questions below...



What do I see?

What was the author's first book about? (vs. 1)
Who made a promise? What was the promise? Who told the disciples about the promise?
How many names of God do you see in these first five verses?



What does it mean?

What does it mean that "He presented himself alive to them after his suffering...?"



In Real Life!

Have you ever read a biography? Which one? 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 did that feel like?



How can I change?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

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 while He was here on earth. This second book (Acts) is about what Jesus *continued* to do and teach after His ascension to heaven. He accomplished this by the presence and work of His Spirit in and through the church.

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 chapters 1 and 2.

Two main points from today's reading:

1. The purpose of 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 that would empower believers to tell the world about Him. (See Luke 1:1-4 for Luke's purpose) It's the story of Jesus doing His work and proclaiming His Good News (the Gospel) now through His church to the whole world.
2. Acts starts off during the transition time after Jesus' resurrection and before His ascension. He orders the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit. These verses show us the Trinity - God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Week 1: Day 2 - Acts 1:6-14

Memorize it: Acts 1:8

Track 1 - (Acts 1:6-14)

- Parents read: Acts 1:6-7;12-14
 - Children read: Acts 1:8-11
 - Younger children draw a picture of: Jesus being lifted up into the clouds
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 - (Acts 1:6-14)

- Scripture reading is the same today as Track 1
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

What did Jesus tell the disciples they would receive?

What did Jesus tell the disciples they would be?

Where would they be witnesses?

What did the disciples do in Jerusalem while they waited for the promise?



What does it mean?

What does it mean to be a “witness”?

When Jesus says you’ll be “my witnesses” what do you think He means?

Where does Jesus want them to be His witnesses? (Look at a map in the back of a Bible or online (Google “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).)

If the disciples saw Jesus go up into Heaven, where do you think He is right now? Is He alive?



In Real Life!

Give an example of someone who has witnessed to you about 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?



How can I change?

What are some ways you can be a witness of Jesus Christ?



Pray together

< Parents’ Corner >

In vs. 6, the disciples’ question shows their confusion. They were anticipating now that Jesus was resurrected from the dead that the time was right for the Messiah to restore the Kingdom of Israel in a political sense out from under Roman rule. Jesus answered them by essentially saying, “Guys, God has it all worked out. But for now, you’re going to receive power from the Spirit to bear witness about me. Not to overthrow Rome.” And as we read Acts, this spread of the Gospel message by the disciples will slowly begin to move outward - from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and ultimately to the ends of the earth. The Gospel is for all people! 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. Acts 1:8 is the springboard for the rest of the book of Acts.

Week 1: Day 3 - Acts 1:15-26

Memorize it: Acts 1:8

Track 1 - (Acts 1:21-26)

- Parents read: Acts 1:21-23
 - Children read: Acts 1:24-26
 - Younger children draw a picture of: a person praying to Jesus or playing a game with dice
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 - (Acts 1:15-26)

- Parents read: 1:15-23
- Children read: 1:24-26
- Ask the questions on the everyday study guide outline along with the questions below...



What do I see?

Who seems to be the leader of the disciples now that Jesus has gone up into heaven?



What does it mean?

Do you remember Judas? What did he do? (Luke 22:3-6 & 47-48)

Judas died because he felt so guilty. Why do we not have to feel guilty of our sin?

Why were Joseph (Barsabbas) and Matthias the two men put forward? (vs.21)

Who actually chose which man would be added to the eleven apostles (disciples)? (vs.24)



In Real Life!

How do we make important decisions as a family?



How can I change?

If there is something you feel guilty about? You can confess it and trust that Jesus died so you don't have to be guilty of sin anymore!

When you have an important decision to make, what can you do? Who can you trust to help you make that decision?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

You may want to follow Track 1 and skip over the gory detail of vv. 18-19 if your kids are too young. Judas' heart was full of evil. 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.

Another major point is how clearly vs. 16 reveals that the Holy Spirit was responsible for inspiring the words of David in the Old Testament. 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).

Finally, as we read here about decision making, specifically in how the disciples cast lots, it's important to keep the main thing the main thing. Whether people cast lots today or not, the main focus is the centrality of prayer and the knowledge that Jesus Christ is the one making the decision Himself. This is the only mention in the book of Acts and the rest of the NT where believers used "lots" to determine their course of action. Teaching our kids to pray, seek wise counsel and read the Word of God for life's tough decisions is the best course of action here.

Week 1: Day 4 - Acts 2:1-13

Memorize it: Acts 1:8

Track 1 - (Acts 2:1-7)

- Parents read: Acts 2:3-7
 - Children read: Acts 2:1-2
 - Younger children draw a picture of: a campfire or a fire in the fireplace
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark.
-

Track 2 - (Acts 2:1-13)

- Parents read: 2:5-13
- Children read: 2:1-4
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

What did it sound like when the Holy Spirit came? What did it look like?

Who promised that the Holy Spirit would come? (Acts 1:4 & 8)

What was the reaction of the Jewish people in Jerusalem that heard the disciples speaking in their own foreign languages? (vs. 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 saying in these foreign languages? (vs. 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 was an annual pilgrimage Jewish feast also called “The Feast of Weeks” (see Lev. 23:15-22). The people would offer the “firstfruits” of their harvest back to God showing gratitude to Him as their provider. Over time, it also became a day of remembering God’s revelation of Himself to Moses and the giving of the Torah (the Law) on Mt. Sinai. So, the Holy Spirit coming on this particular day was no coincidence! It shows that: 1) Jesus’ resurrection makes Him the “firstfruits” of the Lord’s harvest (1 Cor 15:20). We offer up thanksgiving to God for His provision for us in Christ and that His Spirit makes our spirit alive in Him. 2) God revealed His presence and glory on Mt. Sinai with fire, smoke and giving His Word. In the same way, the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost with fire, wind and opening tongues to speak and reveal God’s glory and His word. (See Ex 19:16-20; 32:15-16 for similarities between Mt. Sinai and Pentecost). 3) The Spirit would no longer dwell in the temple “building”, but in the temple “hearts” of men and women (Rom 8:11). 4) Finally, The Holy Spirit filled these Jewish disciples of Christ and opened their mouths to speak in the languages of “every nation under heaven”. This shows that God’s provision in Christ (The Gospel) is not just for the Jews, but is to be for the whole world! 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

Track 1 - (Acts 2:14,22-24,36)

- Parents read: Acts 2:14,22-24
 - Children read: Acts 2:36
 - Younger children draw a picture of: something amazing you've seen in nature
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 - (Acts 2:14-36)

- Parents read: 2:14-21,25-35
- Children read: 2:22-24, 36
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

Which two Old Testament prophets did Peter mention? (vs. 16 and 25)

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



What does it mean?

Who do you think Joel was writing about? Who do you think David was writing about?

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

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



In Real Life!

Has someone ever made a promise to you? Did it happen yet? 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 and heard Peter stand up and say all these words about Jesus, what would you think or feel?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

Today's text is long, so just focus on the main points with your kids. First, Peter refers back to two OT prophecies in order to explain and confirm the amazing thing happening at Pentecost. Joel had prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on God's people. King David had prophesied that the descendant who would sit on his throne and rule forever would be raised from the dead. This descendant is Jesus Christ. And Jesus, now risen and exalted to God's right hand, is the One who is pouring out the prophesied and promised Holy Spirit from Heaven.

A few important verses to highlight might be:

vs. 17 - The Holy Spirit coming is prophesied by the prophet Joel.

vs. 21 - Salvation is for anyone who calls on the name of the Lord

vs. 23 - Even though evil men killed Jesus this was part of God's plan. It is impossible for God to be held by death for He is Life itself.

vs. 36 - This is the main point of Peter's sermon. The man Jesus whom the Jews put to death is both supreme Lord and Messiah.

Daily Study Guide Outline (Book of Acts)



What do you see?

- What happened right before these verses?
- What's happening in these verses? (Have kids paraphrase or repeat back to you the main points)
- Where are the people in these verses? (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 commands given? (Anything a follower of Jesus should obey or do?)
- 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 those *super important* words we read? What do you think they mean?
- Can we learn anything about who God is? (How about Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit?)
- How do you see God working in the lives of people? (How about Jesus Christ and/or the Holy Spirit)
- What do you think is one of the most important things to remember from these verses?
- Is there anything confusing to you in these verses or something you don't understand?

- The main point of Acts is to tell the story about how Jesus' disciples (the very first church!) started in Jerusalem and went all the way to Rome telling people about Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. How do these verses we just read fit into that story?



In Real Life!

- Can you think of a picture or an 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 2: Day 1 - Acts 2:37-47

Memorize it: Acts 4:12

Track 1 - (Acts 2:37-47)

- Parents read: Acts 2:40-47
 - Children read: Acts 2:37-39
 - Younger children draw a picture of: People sharing a meal together
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark.
-

Track 2 - (Acts 2:37-47)

- Scripture reading is the same today as Track 1
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

Who came together and shared everything? (vs. 44)

What were some of the things they were doing together? (vs. 42-47)



What does it mean?

What do you think it means that the people were “cut to the heart?” Why? (vs. 37)

What was Peter’s answer to them? (vs. 38)

Why were the believers doing all of these things (like sharing everything, meeting together, listening to the Apostles’ teachings, giving away their things)?



In Real Life!

Think of your church. Does your church do any of the same things the first believers did together?



How can I change?



Pray together

< Parents’ Corner >

These verses are a beautiful description 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. 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.

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 being the church of Jesus Christ.

Week 2: Day 2 - Acts 3:1-16

Memorize it: Acts 4:12

Track 1 - (Acts 3:1-10)

- Parents read: Acts 3:1-5;9-10
 - Children read: Acts 3:6-8
 - Younger children draw a picture of: a person walking, leaping, and running
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 - (Acts 3:1-16)

- Parents read: Acts 3:1-5;9-16
- Children read: Acts 3:6-8
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

Did the man do anything in order to get healed?
Who did Peter say really healed the lame man? (vs. 16)



What does it mean?

What do you think it means to have faith?
What do you think it means when we pray “In the name of Jesus Christ”?



In Real Life!

Can you get up and show us an example of: walking, leaping, praising God?



How can I change?

How can you praise God for your salvation?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

This story is the first recorded example of a “sign and wonder” being done by the Holy Spirit through the apostles. In Acts 2 He 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. 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 bring nothing to the cross, but Jesus provides it all and graciously reaches out His hand to us. 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 response is “walking and leaping and praising God”!

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

Memorize it: Acts 4:12

Track 1 - (Acts 3:19-20; 4:1-4)

- Parents read: Acts 3:19-20; 4:1-3
 - Children read: Acts 4:4
 - Younger children draw a picture of: the back of a person and then the front of a person
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 - (Acts 3:17-4:4)

- Parents read: Acts 3:17-26
- Children read: Acts 4:1-4
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

What things did God “foretell” through the prophets? (vs. 18, 21-24)

What is happening as the Gospel is being proclaimed? (v. 4:4)



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)



In Real Life!

Do you know anyone who share the same name as one of the Old Testament prophets?



How can I change?

Are there sins in your life you need to repent of and turn back to God?



Pray together

< Parents’ Corner >

A key phrase in this text is “God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago...”. Peter is wanting 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 every prophesy and promise is ultimately fulfilled in Christ Jesus. Peter is offering salvation to the Jews and calling them to respond with repentance (vs. 19).

In vs. 20 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.

In vv. 25-26, even though Christ’s death is for all people, we see that 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.

Week 2: Day 4 - Acts 4:5-22

Memorize it: Acts 4:12

Track 1 - (Acts 4:5-10;13-14;17-20)

- Parents read: Acts 4:5-10;17-20
 - Children read: Acts 4:13-14
 - Younger children draw a picture of: Peter and John standing with the man who used to be crippled
 - Ask questions from the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 - (Acts 4:5-22)

- Parents read: Acts 3:5-12;15-22
- Children read: Acts 4:13-14
- Ask the questions on the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



What do I see?

Who is “examining” Peter and John in this text? (vs. 5-7)
Who gave Peter the boldness to speak to the Jewish leaders this way? (vs. 8)
Who does Peter say Jesus is in vs. 11?
Where can we find salvation for our souls? (vs. 12)



What does it mean?

Why were the Jewish elders, rulers and scribes astonished and had nothing to say? (vs. 13-14)
Why did they command Peter and John to stop speaking and teaching about Jesus? (vs. 15-18)



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?

You may feel like you are uneducated or common or “just a kid”, but who gives you the power to speak about Jesus?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

In today's text we read of the first persecution of 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) Vs. 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). 3) Vs. 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

Track 1 | Acts 4:23-24; 29-31

- Parents read: Acts 4:23-24;29-30
 - Children read: Acts 4:31
 - Younger children draw a picture of: Friends praying together
 - Ask questions using the *Daily Study Guide Outline* or the tear-out bookmark
-

Track 2 | Acts 4:23-31

- Parents read: Acts 4:23-28
- Children read: Acts 4:29-31
- Ask the questions using the *Daily Study Guide Outline* along with the questions below...



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 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?

What did these believers think about the evil that was against Jesus and was now against them (because of Jesus)? (vs. 27-28)
Why do you think they prayed for boldness but not for their own safety or protection from evil?

How did the believers see themselves and the Lord Jesus before God? Why? (vv.27,29,30)



In Real Life!

Have you ever felt an earthquake? What was it like?



How can I change?

How would you respond if you were faced with persecution because you believe in Jesus?
Do you have friends or family you can pray with 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 whom we can pray for that are experiencing persecution?



Pray together

< Parents' Corner >

The believer's response to persecution was to gather together and to pray. 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.

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?

