

# THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL



A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF

# ACTS

LS DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE | SPARKS EDITION



# ACTS | THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

Welcome to the Living Stones Discipleship Guide! The purpose of this guide is to act as a supplement to the current series of our church. Our teaching is out of the book of Acts, found in the New Testament of the Bible. This resource is for guiding discussions, learning more about the book of Acts, growing closer in relationship to Jesus, and knowing more about the events of our church. We hope that this is a useful resource for you to that end!

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## INTRODUCTION

The book of Acts is about the Acts of Jesus and the Holy Spirit through the early Church. It's author, Luke, details the history of the first days of the christian faith and it's spread from Jerusalem throughout Rome. As we'll see in our study of Acts over the next seven months this movement is nothing short of a revival.<sup>1</sup>

As we dive into the book of Acts we'll be investigating the nature of revival in the Church, which will bring us to celebrate and study the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. Understanding who the Holy Spirit is and how he works in our lives not only moves us to worshipping God but also encourages us in our daily lives, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The life of a Christian is centered on the mission of Jesus' kingdom and relies on the empowering of the Holy Spirit, all in the worship of God the Father. The book of Acts gives us stories of fellow Christians who have given their whole lives to this mission in full dependence on the Holy Spirit.

From now until August, the book of Acts will encourage, exhort, correct, rebuke, comfort, and awaken each of us as we hear the story of God at work through the Spirit of Revival.

Grace & Peace,  
Harvey Turner

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<sup>1</sup> A restoration of life. An awakening, in a church or community, of interest in and care for the Gospel ([dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com)). A revival is when there is an increased awareness of the presence of God, many who are Christians but have been dormant are revived, and many who are not Christians discover Christ for the first time.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **"Drawing Near" Classes - February 7th - 9th**

If you are looking for ways to grow in your Christian walk, then this class is for you! We will have a church-wide lesson every two months looking at ways we can draw near to God. These will be at the Sparks Church on February 7th, 8th, and 9th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. Each of these evenings is the same class. The Community Groups will be joining us on these nights, and all are welcome. If you are not in a Community Group and have questions, including about childcare, please contact Pastor Gavin at [gavin@lschurches.com](mailto:gavin@lschurches.com).

Please note, the next "Drawing Near" classes after this month are on April 11th, 12th, and 13th.

## **#feedNV Food Drive - Starts February 19th**

For the past few years, our church has sought to help and has made a huge difference by donating thousands of pounds of food a year when Spring hits. We are excited to do it again! Starting February 12th, bring non-perishable food items to the church on Sunday or throughout the week.

## **Ash Wednesday Service - March 1st**

The countdown to Easter begins on March 1st as we turn our attention to our need for a savior and look with anticipation to the good news of the cross and the resurrection. Please join us for a special Wednesday night service on March 1st, at 6pm.

## **Covenant Membership Class - March 13th**

If you are interested in becoming a Covenant Member of Living Stones, our next class is Monday, March 13th, starting at 6pm. Childcare can be provided, please visit the Connect Counter for more details.

## **Easter Weekend - April 14th - 16th**

Make sure to mark your calendars for Easter weekend! April 14th will be our Good Friday services. We are still planning the city wide Easter egg hunt on April 15th, and will be announcing our Easter service times closer to the date.

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

### **A GOD SIZED VISION: COLLIN HANSEN, JOHN WOODBRIDGE.** <http://amzn.to/2jAeggJ>

Throughout history, God has used revival to build and renew his church. God can bring revival again to our community, our country, and our world. Our faith grows stronger when we learn how God worked in the past. The historical stories of worldwide revivals in this book enlarge our hearts and expand our minds as we see God at work in human history with a power that is still available to the faithful today. Hansen and Woodbridge recount the details of world-changing revivals, beginning with biblical events and continuing through the Reformation, the Great Awakenings, the Welsh and Korean revivals, the East Africa Revival of the 1930s, and more recent revivals in North America and China. What did these revivals have in common? How can we prepare for—and expect—revival in our own culture?<sup>2</sup>

Reading Difficulty: Intermediate

### **DELIGHTING IN THE TRINITY: MICHAEL REEVES** <http://amzn.to/2jsfqs2>

It is no coincidence that Jesus is the one who introduced the idea of God being the father of his people, and that Jesus taught on the promised Holy Spirit. We are told in scripture that it is in Jesus that the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (Colossians 2:9), and that no one has seen God as he is except for Jesus (John 1:18). Because of Jesus, we as Christians have the Holy Spirit, and this book has a down to earth explanation of our God and how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all were involved in our salvation.

Reading Difficulty: Easy

### **THE STORY OF CHRISTIANITY, VOL 1: JUSTO GONZALEZ** <http://amzn.to/2kRReD9>

How did the church of Acts become the global church that we see today? Justo Gonzalez looks at the good, the bad, and the ugly of the life of the church and celebrates the continual restoring movement of God in this comprehensive history of the church. Volume 1 covers the history of Christianity from Acts to around 1500.

Reading Difficulty: Advanced, this is a large, though well written, book

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Book Description on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), link included with title.

# HOW TO READ ACTS

As you read the book of Acts on your own and with others, there are a few things for you to know that can help you get the most out of this section of scripture. Parts of this apply only to chapters one through seven of the book of Acts.

*Purpose* - In a sentence, this book is about the coming of the Holy Spirit, and how the church spread the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome, proclaiming life in Christ to all people.

*Author* - Luke wrote the book of Acts. He is the only non-Jewish author of the New Testament,<sup>3</sup> as well as a doctor. Because of his dedication and personality, he wants to explain accurately the continued work of God through the Holy Spirit and the first church. To that end, he uses eye witness accounts and was present for some of the later events of the book.<sup>4</sup> When you are reading, note that Luke is including details of how something happened because it actually occurred as a historical event, and these are the details as he observed them, or heard/read from eye witnesses.

*Key Themes* - Certain themes re-occur in the book of Acts. These themes occur in Acts 1-7.

**The Holy Spirit** - The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit. You see him<sup>5</sup> in the Old Testament, but God promised that in the last days every believer would have the Spirit with him.

**Revival and Opposition** - The book of Acts moves in cycles of movements of God and opposition against Jesus and the Church. Everywhere the Spirit goes, He brings revival outwardly (people are saved and healed) and inwardly (the community of God is tight-knit and experiences awe daily). Opposition also comes from outside the church, and through issues that arise in the church.

**Mounting Persecution** - Persecution in the book of Acts gradually goes from threats to the first martyr of Christianity, and the introduction of Christianity's first great persecutor, Saul of Tarsis.

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<sup>3</sup> Other New Testament Books sometimes were a joint effort between an apostle and someone writing down the words of the apostle as he dictated. For an example, see 1 Peter 5:12

<sup>4</sup> Acts 16:10 is the first instance when the text will switch from "they traveled" to "we traveled".

<sup>5</sup> Acts 21:11 is one of many verses that shows that the Holy Spirit is personal, and not an impersonal force.

# GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following sections are for Community Group Discussion and Personal Reading. Here's a breakdown of each section.

Prayer Prompt - Every group discussion opens with a time of prayer. Each prayer prompt focuses on praising and thanking God for what he has done, that is themed after the text for the week.

Discussion - Discussion time is when the group reads and discusses the text. There are three types of questions that will be asked:

- Observation - Literally anything that the group notices in the text can be brought up and discussed. In fact, our hope is that it would! We are praying for dynamic discussion in the groups.
- Textual - Questions that arise from the text specifically that may not have been brought up during observations.
- Application - How the message of the text applies to us practically and personally.

Closing Prayer - Prayers for each others lives, for the city, our church, and a time to reflect and pray that God would move in our lives in the way that we have seen in the text. For example, the closing prayer in the first discussion focuses on our desire to be witnesses in the workplace.

Personal Devotion - This section is for your personal use every week if you desire to pray and meditate on a specific aspect of the text. This is built to take time, and hopefully help create space for you to grow deeper in your relationship with God and your faith.

# REVIVAL AND MISSION

February 12th - 16th

Acts 1:11

Prayer Prompt: Begin group with a time of worship and prayer. If you opt for prayer, direct your prayers towards thanking God for the sacrifice of Jesus, the resurrection of the dead, and God's aid that we would be his witnesses in the earth.

Discussion: Read verses 1-11 and open the floor up to anything that the group would like to discuss, both at the beginning and the end of group.

Why is it important for the disciples to wait for the spirit? What does it mean to wait for God?

What does Jesus mean by witness, and what qualifies you to be a witness?<sup>6</sup>

The text says Jesus is returning. Does this bring you hope? why or why not?

Does Jesus' return have anything to do with being his witnesses? Consider some of the parables of Jesus when he tells a story about a master leaving and then returning (Luke 19:11-27).

How can we be encouraged as we go out to be witnesses for Jesus in our city?

Closing Prayer: Spend 5 minutes as a group praying for revival in our city. Pray that we would see the power of the Holy Spirit with us as we are at work, school, etc, and that we would not dread our responsibility as witnesses of the gospel, but rejoice that God has chosen us to go and tell others about his son.

Personal Devotion: This section is for your personal use every week if you desire to pray and meditate on a specific aspect of the text.

In verse 4, Jesus tells his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. They are then seen waiting on God, and praying. Consider or pray this sentence: "Father, is there anything that I need to be waiting on you for, and is there space that needs to be created in my life to intentionally seek your presence?"

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<sup>6</sup> Hint: Only two of the disciples who weren't apostles had been with Jesus for his whole earthly ministry. Who is Jesus saying will be his witnesses in verse 8?

# THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

February 19th - 23rd

Acts 2

**Prayer Prompt:** Begin group with a time of worship and prayer. Focus the time of prayer on God's gift of the Holy Spirit. You can use these as prompts: The Spirit gives us new hearts, the spirit teaches us the words of Jesus, the Spirit equips us to proclaim the gospel, the Spirit unites us to God and to other Christians.

**Discussion:** *Read the passage and open the floor up to anything that the group would like to discuss, both at the beginning and the end of group.*

## **What do you notice about verses 1-13?**

Have you ever had an experience of God's power, peace, or love? If time, have a few people share.

What would Christianity be like without the Holy Spirit? What would our faith be like without the times that God reached out to us through touching our heart, showing his power, showing us wisdom, or even showed us a vision or a dream?

**Read verses 14-41.** How would you compare the Peter you see here to the Peter you see in Luke 22:54-62?

What are some big things you see in Peter's sermon?

What parts of Jesus' do you see Peter highlight in his sermon?

**Read verses 42-47.** What do you notice in the community?

**Closing Prayer:** Spend time again thanking God for the Holy Spirit. Pray for each other if God has felt distant, and take the time to encourage each other and repent of sin that God would be close. Pray that our church and community would bear the marks of the Spirit.

**Personal Devotion:** Read Acts 2:1-5, then read Exodus 19. Consider the differences and similarities between the two, and then think about/pray about the following:

"Lord God, you come in power and might. In Exodus your fire landed on the top of a mountain, and no one could even touch the mountain. In Acts, your very presence comes and rests on people, thanks to the work of Jesus to save us. How does the fact that I have God with me affect my life?"

# GOOD WORKS AND GOOD NEWS

February 26th - March 2nd

Acts 3

**Prayer Prompt:** Begin group with a time of worship and prayer. Spend time thanking Jesus for saving us. Then spend time in group confession or in separate prayer repenting of sins. An aspect of this study and this passage is the need for repentance.

**Discussion:** Read the passage and open the floor up to anything that the group would like to discuss, both at the beginning and the end of group.

Read verses 1-10. A lot of Christians and non-Christians think of con-artists and televangelists when they think of healing. How does the healing in these verses differ from a western perspective of false healing?

How does the miraculous healing of others in the name of Jesus help proclaim the gospel?

Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed in Christ's name? What happened? Can praying for others to be healed be an effective opening to witness?

Read verses 11-26. What do you learn about Jesus this time in Peter's sermon?

Why does Peter call for repentance in verses 19-20?

Do you tend to view repentance, and calling people to repent, as a good thing or a thing to be avoided? How do you feel about calling people out of their sin because of Jesus?

**Closing Prayer:** Pray that we would see God heal many in our church and in our city. Spend time praying for others to be physically healed, and pray for those that you know by name that they would see the goodness of Jesus, and repent.

**Personal Devotion:** Consider the Peter that you've seen in Chapters 2 and 3. Does this strike you as the same man who was stricken by fear throughout the gospels (last week we looked at Luke 22:54-62)? We see here and in the following chapters that Peter, though far from perfect, has been transformed by his time with Jesus and by the Spirit dwelling inside him. If you find that your life has more fear than you would like, spend time asking that God would bring peace to your fears, replace them with boldness, and make sure to ask other Christians you trust for prayer.

# COURAGE AND PRAYER

March 5th - 9th

Acts 4

Prayer Night: This week, you will have a much shorter discussion and spend more time in prayer.

## Discussion:

Read the whole chapter. What do you observe?

As a group, we are going to pray for our church and our city just like the Christians in chapter 4 did. We are going to spend a few minutes of prayer on each of these prayer points that we see in Acts 4:23-31.

## Prayer:

23-24 - Start the time of prayer acknowledging God as God, and thanking him for all of his works. These can be personal (salvation, a recent act of grace) or over-arching (thank you that you created the mountains, this land, you are in control). The idea is to center our minds on the idea that God is in control and is king.

25-27 - Confess our sins of turning away from God as a group. This can be personal, culturally, and even as a nation. The disciples believe in a sovereign God that predestines events (v. 28), but also acknowledge that those who sin because of their own desire to sin. Ask God for help to walk away from sin.

29 - Pray for boldness in your witness, and the witness of Christians in our city, to proclaim the gospel to those that don't know who God is. Pray specifically for boldness in your workplaces, schools, family settings, and that God would give all of us the words to say and the boldness to declare Jesus through His Spirit.

30 - Pray that through the name of Jesus, God would do many signs and wonders and healing in this city. These can look like divine healings, divine appointments, favor with the city, amazing opportunities for faith to be shared, etc.

Personal Devotion: We see in Acts 4 more examples of the generosity of the church. The early church was unique in that it did not require the selling of personal wealth, but it also held it loosely enough to care for the needs of each other. Meditate on this, and ask, "God, what is the link between your grace and our generosity to the church and the poor?" For reflection, look at verses 34-35.

# HOLINESS AND OBEEDIENCE

March 12th - 16th

Acts 5

**Prayer Prompt:** Begin group with a time of worship and prayer. In verse 41 and 42 of this passage, there is rejoicing in suffering and the proclamation of the Gospel. Spend a few minutes praising God for sending Jesus, and praying for those locally and around the world that suffer on account of the gospel. It might be worth your time to do some research on the persecuted church beforehand.

**Discussion:** Read the passage and open the floor up to anything that the group would like to discuss, both at the beginning and the end of group.

**Read verses 1-16.** What did Ananias and Sapphira do wrong? Why is the reaction of the Holy Spirit so strong?<sup>7</sup>

Have you ever found yourself wanting to make yourself look better to increase your reputation at home, work, or the church? Why did you do this?

What do you notice about the signs and wonders performed in the name of Christ in this chapter?

What truth about the gospel would encourage you that you do not need to project a false image to others to be accepted or to belong?

**Read verses 17-42.** What stands out to you from the trial?

From verse 29-32, why is witnessing about Jesus ultimately an act of obedience? How do we know that we are also witnesses, and not just the apostles (verse 32)?

The most amazing movements of God have occurred when Christianity spread not by force but by the power of the Holy Spirit. How can you be encouraged by your faith from verses 35-39?

**Closing Prayer:** Spend time praying for each other and that we would not need to resort to making ourselves look better to try to appeal to others. Pray also that we would witness about our Lord and Savior and point to how good he is.

**Personal Devotion:** Read verse 41-42 and consider and pray the following: "Lord God, I have been raised all of my life to avoid suffering, and that suffering is never a good thing. The attitude of the apostles challenges me, because despite all the amazing things that have occurred in the book of Acts, this is the first time they rejoice. My fear of suffering keeps me from proclaiming the faith. Lord, have mercy on me, and please give me boldness and opportunities to tell others that Jesus is the Christ."

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<sup>7</sup>God does not always punish someone with immediate death for sin.

# ORGANIZED REVIVAL

March 19th - 23rd

Acts 6:1-7

**Prayer Prompt:** Begin group with a time of worship and prayer. We serve a God who cares for the poor. Spend time thanking God for his posture towards us, that he would save us, and that he would call us to care for those who need it.

**Discussion:** Read the passage and open the floor up to anything that the group would like to discuss, both at the beginning and the end of group.

**Read verses 1-7.** What do the apostles mean by their statement in verse 2?

Why would taking care of the widows and raising up leaders for that task cause many to come to Christ, including some of the priests?

There are many people and issues that you may have a heart for. This is a good thing, and maybe even an invitation from God to help. What causes do you feel passionate about?<sup>8</sup>

How do you currently support or seek to take care of this need?

What does it mean to be of good repute, full of the spirit, and full of wisdom?

Do you consider yourself to have the qualities listed here? What do you wish you could grow in?

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for the things that your group has a heart of compassion for, and that God would grow in us all good repute, being filled with the Spirit, and being filled with wisdom. Pray also for the leaders of our church.

**Personal Devotion:** Consider the invitation that God makes to his people through Acts 5. Our hearts often gravitate towards "serve us" instead of "service". Through the Spirit, God's people organize and care for the needs of their community and the poor. We are not told much about the ones appointed here except that they had a good reputation, were filled with the spirit, and were filled with wisdom. All three of these things are given freely by God (Galatians 5:22-23, Acts 4:31, James 1:5). No one who pursues God should have any doubts about their ability to transform their community for the sake of Christ. Pray and consider how God would have you live into Christ, for the good works that he has prepared for you to walk in (Ephesians 2:10).

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<sup>8</sup> This could include church planting, world missions, caring for the poor, stewardship, trafficking, health, etc.

# THE SEED OF REVIVAL

March 26th - 30th

Acts 6:8 - 7:60

**Prayer Prompt:** Begin group with a time of worship and prayer. Stephen's sermon recaps much of what God has done for his people. Turn to Psalm 136 as a group, and have each member read a verse, including the part where it says "his steadfast love endures forever", and thank God for his great love.

**Discussion:** *Read the passage and open the floor up to anything that the group would like to discuss, both at the beginning and the end of group.*

What is the accusation made against Stephen? What stands out to you from Stephen's summary of the Old Testament? What do you notice from Stephen's defense?<sup>9</sup>

Why did the crowd end up killing Stephen?

Why is Jesus standing in Stephen's vision?

How is the vision comforting to believers today when it comes to suffering and death?

What would you expect would be the effect on the church from this killing? After you have discussed this for a couple of minutes, read Acts 8:1-4. How did God take an evil thing and use it for good in this passage?

**Closing Prayer:** Pray for each other and encourage each other about the reality of eternal life and resurrection thanks to the work and life of Jesus. Pray that God would use the suffering of Christians around the world to spread the Gospel, and that God would bring revival to Nevada.

**Personal Devotion:** Read Stephen's sermon again in chapter 7. Consider the commands of God that you have neglected or avoided because of your desire to not do it. Pray that God would change your heart towards these things. Pray also that you would never be drawn to falsely accuse another person based off of anger, envy, or spite.

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<sup>9</sup> Much of Stephen's defense can be summarized as saying "You accuse me of not keeping the law of Moses, but you, my accusers and judges, have a track record of disobedience to law given by God."

# REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH

April 2nd - 6th

Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37

**Prayer Night:** This week, you will have a much shorter discussion and spend more time in prayer.

## **Discussion:**

Read the whole chapter. What do you observe?

As a group, we are going to pray for our church. When God brought revival, the church showed certain marks of health that were amazing to behold, and turned people's attention to the Gospel. Lets pray that our church and the churches in our valley would experience what we see in these two passages.

## **Prayer:**

**Gospel Recovery** - The new church daily devoted themselves to each other, the word, and the scriptures (2:42). Because they had come to Christ, their fellowship was marked with grace and truth. Pray that this would be present in the personal lives and corporate lives of the Christians in the valley.

**Gospel Wakefulness** - Because of the Spirit's movement, the Lord kept saving people daily (2:47). Pray that God would move in this way, and that he would save non-Christians, people who aren't Christians but think they are, and re-awaken people who are Christians but have become non-active in their faith.

**God's Extraordinary Presence**- God's presence was felt and many signs and wonders occurred because of the presence of God. Pray that this would be true for our church, and that many would encounter God during our Easter season.

**Radical Repentance** - Turning to Christ means casting off anything that would keep you from him. Pray that God would give His Spirit for His people to turn from their sin.

**Extraordinary Prayer and Generosity** - The disciples were dedicated to prayer, and part of revival was their extraordinary generosity. Pray that all needs of the church would be filled, not just for ministry but also the physical needs of those in the church.

**Personal Devotion:** As we pray through the above, how could you get more involved with others this week? Could you have dinner with someone, take care of someones needs, or pray with others?

# DRAWING NEAR TO GOD | SILENCE AND SOLITUDE

A Spiritual Discipline is an activity paired with the presence of the Holy Spirit, done regularly, that can lead us to knowing God more and becoming more like Christ.

Humans were created to have a close relationship with God but this was severed during the fall.<sup>10</sup> Because of the work of Jesus and through the Holy Spirit, Christians are able to see restoration in their relationship with God as they submit themselves to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.<sup>11</sup>

**Silence and Solitude** is an important way for us to draw nearer to Christ. The definition of this discipline is to **purposely engaging your senses to be present with God through Christ**. Jesus himself would often go to a solitary place to pray and seek the will of his father, and we know from his statements that he went into these times of solitude expecting to hear from His Father.<sup>12</sup>

**How to Practice Silence and Solitude:** At least 10 minutes a day, 3-4 days a week, get to a solitary place and practice silence. A solitary place may be in a darkened room, or walking around nature. Silence means taking away as many distractions as possible. This includes podcasts and music. It is helpful to use a bible verse to help anchor your thoughts on Christ, but you do not use a bible during this time (reading is also distracting you from silence and solitude). During this time you strive to put to-do list items and distractions out of your mind, as you are seeking to be present with God through Christ.

**Examples:** Susan finds herself in a place where she needs to reflect on the love of the Father, and so she finds time during the week to sit in a quiet place, recite Luke 15:21-22, and then sit with God. Tom has a hard time sitting still, so he walks around his neighborhood with the expectation of drawing near to Christ. Rachel is a busy mother, and so sometimes the best times for her to engage with God is when sitting next to her toddler as they fall asleep or setting aside a few minutes during morning preparation. Rick has a 20 minute commute, so he turns the radio off during his drive and asks God to speak to him in the quiet.

**Fruit:**<sup>13</sup> Learning to discern between your own thoughts and the leadings of God, to quickly turn your heart and mind towards God, becoming more aware of your true thoughts, emotions, and feelings, increased freedom from sins of the mouth, constant noise, and the addiction of being seen and heard, and an increased amount of self-control and ability to turn from sin.

It can be helpful to have someone help keep you accountable to try this discipline. If you have questions or want to talk more about this discipline, talk to a Community Group Leader or a pastor.

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<sup>10</sup> Genesis 3:8

<sup>11</sup> Ezekiel 36:26-27, Acts 2:3-4, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Romans 12:1-2

<sup>12</sup> Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, John 7:16-17 is an example where Jesus says he gets information/activity for his ministry from the Father.

<sup>13</sup> Some of the items on this list come from "Spiritual Disciplines Handbook" by Adele Calhoun

# LS KIDS LETTER TO PARENTS

Hello parents! I hope you are well, and I am grateful for the hard work you do every single day in parenting your children and loving them as ambassadors of Christ. I want to give you a few announcements for what we are doing in LS Kids for the first part of this year.

We are going through the book of Acts in LS Kids. The kids who are in LS Kids will learn about the early church, the work of the Holy Spirit, and about who Jesus is. There are parts in Acts that focus on specific parts of who Jesus is and what he accomplished, and we will be pairing those facts with the stories in scripture where they are most clearly seen. As we get into the summer, we'll be getting to parts of Acts that will be less interesting for our younger kids, and so the current plan is that our summer series will shift to the ten commandments. Our hope is to approach the law in a way that also points the children of our church to Jesus, our great advocate.

As you may already know, we have switched the elementary room to the common meeting space. The kids seem to like the larger space and so this is looking more and more like a permanent change, but I will let you know if we make that final.

Finally, as we begin our new series I would like to ask for your help in LS Kids as a volunteer. We have the honor of helping kids love Jesus and the local church, while creating space for their parents to worship God. To do that, we need eager and willing volunteers to play with the kids, take care of them, and point them to Christ. Recently several of our volunteers have had to step out of LS Kids for various reasons, and we need replacements. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email me at [gavin@lschurches.com](mailto:gavin@lschurches.com). Additionally, if you are a covenant member who has children in LS Kids, and are not already serving in kids, safety team, or the worship ministry, I'm asking you to serve 2 times this year. Having all of our members who fit that description serve will be an amazing help, could allow us to have two classrooms in the evening, and we may be able to open up our fourth classroom in the mornings so we can separate infants and toddlers more thoroughly. You'll also get a chance to serve the youngest of our church, show them the love of God, and tell them about Jesus!

If you have any questions, need prayer, or want to talk, let me know! I'm grateful to serve alongside you and to see the children of our church grow in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Gavin.