

THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL



A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF

ACTS

LS DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

ACTS

THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

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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 in our study of Acts over the next seven months this movement is nothing short of a revival.

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 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 worship of God the Father and 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.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

WATCH

THE BIBLE PROJECT: ACTS bit.ly/BibleProjectActs

The first half of the Book of Acts explained with illustrations from the Bible Project.

READ

FORGOTTEN GOD bit.ly/ChanSpirit

Francis Chan rips away paper and bows to get at the true source of the church's power—the Holy Spirit. Chan contends that we've ignored the Spirit for far too long, and we are reaping the disastrous results. Thorough scriptural support and compelling narrative form Chan's invitation to stop and remember the One we've forgotten, the Spirit of the living God.

ACTS: SEEING THE SPIRIT AT WORK bit.ly/ActsStott

Covering the exciting action of the Spirit in the years just following Jesus' life on earth, John Stott's study will open your eyes to the Spirit's power in the past *and* present and help you apply the riches of Scripture to your own life.

REVIVAL bit.ly/RevivalBook

In every era the church needs revival—certainly today as much as ever. And in the heart of every committed Christian there is the longing for personal revival—to know the quality and depths of spiritual reality, and the presence of God in one's personal life. Martyn Lloyd-Jones invites us to study and hope for God's work through revival.

READING PLANS & DEVOTIONALS

The 2017 Bible Reading plans are about experiencing the Scriptures through the daily commitment to opening your heart and mind to God. This is a discipline essential to all disciples of Jesus.

WHOLE BIBLE - AS IT HAPPENED bit.ly/AsItHappenedPlan

For 2017, the pastors invite you to join them as they read through the whole Bible using the “As It Happened” reading plan, this chronological reading plan will guide us through the Bible day by day reading the story of the Bible as it historically came together. You can find this plan within the YouVersion Bible App (search: As it Happened) or through the link above.

NEW TESTAMENT - OUTREACH bit.ly/OutreachPlan

If the prospect of reading through the whole Bible is bit daunting but you’re still looking for a way to daily immerse yourself in the Bible, please subscribe to the “Outreach” reading plan. This reading plan will guide you through the New Testament day by day reading the story of Jesus and the Early Church. You can find this plan within the YouVersion Bible App (search: Outreach New Testament) or through the link above.

DEVOTIONAL - NEW MORNING MERCIES bit.ly/NewMorningMercies

Mornings can be tough. Sometimes, a hearty breakfast and strong cup of coffee just aren’t enough. Offering more than a rush of caffeine, best-selling author and pastor Paul David Tripp wants to energize you with the most potent encouragement imaginable: the gospel.

Forget “behavior modification” or feel-good aphorisms, Tripp knows that our greatest need is an encounter with the living God. Then we’ll be prepared to trust in God’s goodness, rely on his grace, and live for his glory each and every day.

DEVOTIONAL - VALLEY OF VISION bit.ly/ValleyVision

A selection of prayers and meditations in the Puritan tradition, widely valued since its publication in 1975.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 1

REVIVAL AND MISSION

Acts 1

As we begin the Book of Acts we see Jesus Christ has ascended into Heaven and he has left us as his witnesses here on Earth. But he hasn't left us alone, he's given to us the promise of the Holy Spirit to accomplish this mission in the same way he promised the Apostles. Here we see the match that is lit that begins the great revival of the church, beginning with 12 Apostles and 108 other disciples.

Discuss:

1. Luke begins the account of the Apostles with the final words of Jesus before his ascension. What does Jesus direct these disciples to do, and why do you think Luke begins with this witness account?
2. Discuss together what a witness is (maybe look at a dictionary definition). What does it mean for you to witness to the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit? What did it mean for them? Is it the same thing?
3. Why does Luke choose to focus on the Apostles? Why does he include the account of Matthias being chosen to join the 12?
4. Why is it important to know the history of the church from Jesus (33 AD) to the ends of Acts (65 AD)? How does the 'sequel' of the gospel account help us worship God and make disciples?

Pray:

1. Pray for the mission of Jesus that is still going to "the end of the earth".
2. Pray that we would be effective witnesses to the gospel that has been revealed.
3. Pray that we have humility knowing countless others have labored in the mission we know apart of.

Week 2

THE SPIRIT OF REVIVAL

Acts 2

Acts 2 is one of the most pivotal moments in all of redemptive history. God's people have now received God's Spirit and He is not only with us but the reality is that He is in us. The Spirit is a person and not a force and is the One who empowers and leads our mission. This is evidenced by Peter's powerful sermon that led to the first revival in which 3,000 people were saved.

Discuss:

1. Consider what it means that God is inside you, both personally and in light of our mission.
2. Not many of us have had such a powerful moment with the Spirit filling us (howling wind and tongues of fire) but know our regeneration is just as legitimate. Take time and share the time when the Spirit of God filled you for the first time.
3. What was the outline of Peter's sermon? How did he call people to believe? Would accusing people to killing Jesus be the way you would preach the gospel to unbelievers?
4. What cut people to the heart? Do we experience something similar when we heard the gospel? What is the gospel?

Pray:

1. Pray that we would believe fully the Spirit of God rests in us and not just in other Christians.
2. Pray that we would have the boldness of Peter to wisely confront sin and preach the hope of the good news of Jesus.
3. Pray that our city would be cut to the heart and would experience this level of revival.

Week 3

GOOD WORKS & GOOD NEWS

Acts 3

Good works always go with good news. Gospel preaching is always preceded by gospel living. In this passage we see God healing a man and using it as a platform to proclaim the gospel. This is why we are *in the city, for the city*.

Discuss:

Exercise: Break up into teams of three or four people. Make a list of all the details and events you find happening in the passage. Then, make another list of questions about the text you may have for the entire group. Finally, make a third list of new lessons you have learned in the text, as God's people. Reconvene with the entire group and share your questions and what you have learned.

1. What does it look like for you to be *in the city, for the city*. Can you see how your participation at Living Stones leads to gospel proclamation?
2. How can your participation in the city lead to gospel proclamation?
3. Can you recall an experience or time where you have witnessed the Holy Spirit using the church to bring healing to someone in need? How did that impact you and bring you closer to Christ?

Prayer:

This week have a member of the group prepare communion for the group. Lead your group through a time of prayer focusing on repentance and the cross. Afterward, teach them about the bread and wine and how they proclaim the death of the Author of Life.

Week 4

COURAGE AND PRAYER

Acts 4

True gospel proclamation is always accompanied by some form of persecution. Our world does not like the gospel because it challenges their deeply held beliefs and behaviors. The true gospel will always offend both conservatives and liberals, both of which killed prophets and even Christ.

Discuss:

1. What stuck out to you the different times we read the passage?
2. Who were the Sadducees? Who were Annas, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander? Why were these groups opposing the Church?
3. What were the Church's responses to the persecution they faced?
4. What does their prayer tell you about their faith in the character, power, and faithfulness of God?
5. How does the gospel offend both conservatives and liberals in our day?
6. What does it look like for us to preach the gospel in persecution?
7. How can your participation in the city lead to gospel proclamation?
8. Make a list of prayer topics similar to the prayer we see in Acts 4:23-31 on boldness. Pray for our leaders, our city, and our nation's leaders. Keep a personal copy of your prayer list and use the list to pray during your personal prayer time. Also, schedule a few weeks to pray over your team list with your group in the Prayer Room, during our Sunday services.

Prayer:

The leader will announce five prayer topics. The group will all pray aloud in unison for a couple minutes on each prayer topic: 1. Pray for our Church. 2. Pray for our City. 3. Pray and repent for any sin we need to address to God. 4. Pray for protection against spiritual attacks and persecution. 5. Pray thanksgiving for what God is doing in our lives and His church.

Week 5

HOLINESS AND OBEEDIENCE

Acts 5

God is holy and from time to time, one of the ways his holiness is expressed is through his wrath. This story reminds us that God is less tolerant of our false image than we are.

Discuss:

1. Do a recap of the past four weeks of Scripture. How does the text from previous weeks connect to this week's discussion? What would you say is the main theme so far?
2. Pretend you are watching the interaction between Peter and Ananias and Sapphira (5:3-9). How would you report this incident?
3. What have Ananias and Sapphira done that is not consistent with Christian community (5:1-2)? What are other examples of inconsistency in the church today, or even your life?
4. How is your giving of tithes and offerings?
5. In what ways are you spinning a false image of yourself (either through religion or rebellion)
6. How can you help others understand what Christian community is about?
7. This story shows how highly God hold truth and unity in the Church, how can we foster these characteristics in our lives and community?

Prayer:

Pray and acknowledge and worship God and ask for his help. Specifically, pray in regards to what was discussed tonight. Spend a few minutes thanking God for how he has shown who he is in what we discussed tonight. We'll then also spend a few minutes asking for the Holy Spirit to empower us to live differently this week. (Please pray for yourself aloud, and when others are praying, pray for them also silently)

Week 6

THE SEED OF REVIVAL

Acts 6-7

The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church - Tertullian. Acts 6 begins with the appointing of deacons and concludes with Stephen being seized by those from the Jewish synagogue and chapter 7 consists primarily of a speech given by Stephen condemning the Jewish people for their rejection of God's prophets and disobeying his commands. Friction in Christian movements and in our own life is usually followed by traction, they usually feed each other; The more the Church is persecuted the more it tends to thrive, and the more it thrives the more it tends to be persecuted. Jesus says in John 15:20, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you". We have no reason to not expect this to be true today. The more we grow and thrive as a church, the more reason we have to expect the hatred of the world.

Discuss:

1. What is the purpose of appointing deacons in the text? How does the church hold this same structure today?
2. Why do you think Stephen responds this way to the people who are accusing him? What happens?
3. As the Church continues to be persecuted, it continues to grow and spread. Discuss why the church tends to thrive in the midst of persecution.
4. Have any of you personally experienced persecution for being a Christian? How did that affect your faith?
5. How can we use suffering and persecution as a way to grow closer to God rather than push us away?
6. How has your heart been similar to the ones who killed Stephen? How have we been redeemed from that heart?

Prayer:

1. Spend some time praying for the persecuted Church around the world.
2. Pray that God would use our persecution as a way of growing closer to Him and showing others the character and satisfaction of God.
3. Pray that the Gospel would spread throughout Carson City even with the probability of being persecuted and ridiculed.

Week 7

REVIVAL AMONG THE NATIONS

Acts 8

Many belief systems stay most concentrated in the place that they originated: Confucianism and Taoism in China, Hinduism in India, etc. However, as the gospel is preached, Christianity begins to spread throughout all the nations, beginning in the Middle East and expanding outward. The gospel of Jesus has the power to penetrate into all cultures and nations. This is something all Christians are called to seek and desire according to the Great Commission in Matthew 28.

Discuss:

1. Why is Christianity largely seen as an “American” religion by much of the world? Is this a good thing?
2. Are we called to see the gospel spread through all nations? How can we as Christians have an impact on the nations around us?
3. There are two types of missionaries, those who go and those who stay ie. Paul and Timothy. How do both of these accomplish the great commission? Which do you gravitate towards the most?
4. What does this mission reveal about the character and nature of God?
5. How do we know that the Gospel isn't for one specific nation?

Prayer:

1. Pray that we would see revival wouldn't be constrained to Carson City but that we would see revival throughout our whole nation.
2. Pray that we would seek revival not only within the U.S. but also for the nations among us.
3. Pray that God would make clear the calling of those who are called to stay and those who are called to go.

Week 8

RADICAL REVIVAL

Acts 9

Saul is a picture of radical revival. He was a man who committed great atrocities against the people of God yet he went on to write much of the New Testament books that we have today. It's very easy for us to look at people in our lives and think that they could never be saved because of how far away they are, yet God shows us through the transformation of Saul that anybody can be saved through the gospel of Jesus. This should give us a deep hope for ourselves as well as a motivation to tell those around us about the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Discuss:

1. Who was Paul before Jesus transformed his life? What are some of the things that he did?
2. Who were you and how did you act before Jesus saved you? How are you and Paul similar?
3. What does this say about the grace and love of God? Can we go so far to be beyond saving?
4. How did God use Paul's personal revival to further the Church? Do you think He can use you here in Carson City?

Prayer:

1. Pray that God would remind you of your radical revival and the hope that he has given you.
2. Pray that God would use your own revival to affect the lives of those around you.
3. Pray that you would see this spiritual transformation in the lives of the people that you know.

Week 9

ETHNIC REVIVAL

Acts 10

The Church of God is filled with those of every nation and people. Revelation 7:9-10 says that at the end of time, people from every nation and every language will stand before Jesus and say “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”. In Acts, we see revival including the salvation of more than just one people group. As the people of God, we should seek to see everyone of every nation and ethnicity hear and accept the gospel of Jesus.

Discuss:

1. Why do you think the church is called to be diverse?
2. In what ways have you failed to seek those who are different than you (race, beliefs, personalities etc.)?
3. What are some practical ways that you can grow in this area?
4. How does the gospel apply to all people groups? ie. - We are all broken and sinful and we are all saved by the grace of God.
5. Read Eph. 2:13-22 - We have been reconciled to one another through the gospel and are now fellow citizens in the household of God.

Prayer:

1. Pray that our church and the churches around us would grow to be more diverse.
2. Pray that you would be willing to go out of your comfort zone to build relationship with those who are different than you.
3. Pray that ourselves and those around us would see that we have been reconciled together by the blood of Christ.

LS KIDS SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Week 1- Acts 1: 6-11

WE ARE WITNESSES

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. - **Acts 1:8**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we will talk about what it means to be a witness. In Acts 1 the disciples watched the resurrected Jesus ascending into heaven. Another way we could say this is “the disciples *witnessed* Jesus ascending into heaven.” So in Acts 1:8 when Jesus tells the disciples to be his witnesses he is simply telling the disciples to tell others about what they have seen and heard. They saw Jesus ascend into heaven but we have seen different things God has done. In class today we will discuss what we have seen and heard and how we can tell others about it.

Toddlers- Read from Jesus Story Book Bible “God Sends Help”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. None of us were there with the disciples when Jesus ascended into heaven. However, we have been witnesses to different things. Take some time to discuss some things you have been a witness to. (i.e. maybe you got to see your friend meet Jesus. Or maybe your parent told you about Jesus and you believed it for the first time).
2. Activity- Play Telephone Game either with a message or dance move. Symbolizes the message that we are to share, The Gospel.
3. As a witness why is it important to have the Holy Spirit? What does verse 8 mean when it says, “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you?” Does this mean we’ll be able to shoot lightning bolts out of our eyes and webs out of our hands?
4. In Verse 8 Jesus commands his disciples to go to the end of the earth telling others what they have seen and heard. Did all of Jesus’ disciples make it to the end of the earth in their life time? Did any of Jesus’ original disciples make it to Nevada?

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, please help to be witnesses to all who do not know you.

Worship Songs:

Amazing Grace

Grace Alone

Week 2- Acts 2: 32-39

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GIFT

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” - **Acts 2:38**

LESSON SUMMARY:

In this week’s lesson we will be talking about the gift of the Holy Spirit. Last week we saw that the Apostles got to see Jesus ascend into heaven. This week we see they had to wait 10 days before God would send them the Holy Spirit. When God sent the Holy Spirit all of the people could suddenly speak different languages so others around them could understand the great things they were saying about Jesus. Some people thought they were crazy but others heard about Jesus and believed in him for the first time. Verse 41 tells us that about 3000 people were saved that day.

Toddlers- [Read from Jesus Story Book Bible “God Sends Help”](#)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How do you think the Apostles felt during the 10 days they had to wait for the Holy Spirit?
2. **Activity-** Have the students choose three words and those three words are the only words that they can use to communicate. Have the kids then try to communicate a message to the class.(this will be tough and the point is that when the Holy Spirit was sent to the 10 they were all talking in different languages so others can hear the Gospel). Have the
3. How did Jewish people traditionally celebrate Pentecost?
4. About how many people we saved on Pentecost?
5. Read Acts 42-47. What are some of the things the new believers did? Are these things we do today?
6. Can we do anything special to deserve to Holy Spirit? How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, thank you for forgiving us for our sins.

Holy Spirit, please give us boldness to tell others about you.

Worship Songs:

Grace Alone

Amazing Grace

Week 3- Acts 3:1-10

JESUS HEALS US

Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” - **Acts 3:6**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we will be hearing the story of the lame beggar who was healed. First of all, we must know that Peter and John are not the ones who heal the lame beggar. Jesus is the one who heals the beggar and we see the beggar jump up and start praising God not Peter and John. Then the beggar and everyone watching began to run towards Peter and John because they were amazed. Peter then tells the crowd that this is not something he or John could have done on their own. Instead, only God could heal this man.

Later Peter tells the crowd that they are all spiritually lame and need Jesus to heal them. We like the crowd need Jesus to heal us from our spiritual lameness. We have been called to turn from our bad things and follow Jesus.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you feel if you saw someone who was disabled walk for the first time?
2. *Activity- Have the kids play freeze tag (remind them to be careful). When someone is tagged, they frozen and cannot move unless one specific person touches them to unfreeze them (the person is is the unfreezer symbolizes Peter and John and how through Jesus they healed the lame man.)*
3. In verse 6 why does Peter say, “In the name of Jesus”? What are some things that we might say in the name of Jesus?
4. What do you need the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?

PRAYER:

Jesus, thank you for healing us.

Holy Spirit, please help us to turn from our sin and follow you.

Worship Songs:

How He Loves

Desert Song

Week 4- Acts 4: 20-21

LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS BOLDLY

For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard. - Acts 4:20

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we see Peter and John get arrested and go before the council for teaching people about Jesus. The council then charges them to not speak about Jesus anymore. Peter and John then explain to the council that they cannot stop speaking about Jesus because he is the good news. The council cannot find a good reason to put them back in jail so they are let go. At this point many of us might go home and ask God for protection or pray for safety from persecution. But Peter and John go home, tell everyone what happened, and pray for boldness and courage to tell more people about Jesus.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Considering the previous week's lesson where the disabled man was made to walk. Why do you think the priests and Sadducees were upset? Why would they disagree with what Peter was saying and doing?
2. **Activity-** Have act out what it means to be bold. Some might enter the classroom body with opening the doors to make a statement. Have them then talk about something in a bold manner.
3. Have you ever told someone about Jesus? Was it easy? What was difficult about it?
4. If someone threatened to put you in jail unless you stopped talking about Jesus what would you do?
5. Read verse 31. Have you ever prayed and your whole house shook?

PRAYER:

Father, you know all things.

Holy Spirit, give us boldness to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Worship Songs:

Grace Alone

Amazing Grace

Week 5- Acts 5: 27-32

WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN

But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” - **Acts 5:29**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week we will be hearing a story from Acts 5 about how the Apostles were healing the sick and telling people about Jesus. In this story the Sadducees did not like what the Apostles were doing so they arrested them and said they must stop teaching the people about Jesus. The Apostles respond by saying, “We must obey God rather than men.” (v.29)

As followers of Jesus we also must obey God rather than men. In class we will discuss situations where it may be difficult to obey God but easy to obey men. In these times we must obey God.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In our story Peter and the Apostles faced the scary situation of being in jail. Has anyone here ever had to go to jail for telling people about Jesus? Are there people today that are put in jail for telling others about Jesus?
2. Activity- Play Red Light/ Green Light (this symbolizes that we obey what God has told us to do.) We are to always share the Gospel and we need to listen to God. Another game that you can play is Simon Says.
3. If obeying God meant you'd be sent to jail would it be easy to obey God? Is there ever an excuse to disobey God?
4. This week we have talked a lot about obeying God. In fact, our memory verse tells us that we “must obey God.” Does Jesus love us more if we are more obedient? Can our obedience save us from our sin?

PRAYER:

Father, your laws are greater and better than any rules that we could make up.
Jesus, thank you for being perfectly obedient when you knew we could not be.
Holy Spirit, help to always obey God over man.

Worship Songs:

Christ is Risen
Amazing Grace

Week 6- Acts 6: 2-6

WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVE

And the twelve summoned the full number of disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.” - **Acts 6:2**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we will hear about how the Body of Christ was growing. More and more people were hearing about Jesus and believing in him. This meant that there were more and more people for Jesus’ disciples to take care of. Specifically in this story the widows needed to be taken care of but there weren’t enough disciples to do it. So the twelve decided to appoint seven men who would help them care for the widows.

In verse 2 they say, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.” This does not mean serving tables is a bad thing. It simply means that the most important thing for the Apostles to do was preach the word of God.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Has anyone here ever gone through a growth spurt? After you grow can you wear the same clothes you used to wear? No, you need to get new clothes to fit your body. In the story the body of Christ was growing. Did the Body of Christ need new clothes? What did the Body of Christ need?
2. **Activity-** Have the kids play tag in the classroom with these new rules. A. Everyone has to walk- no running. B. the person who is it, when they tag someone they hold hands and now the both of them are able to tag people. C. when the taggers tag others, those add on to the link of people. D. play until everyone has been tagged (you can play this a couple of times) What we were able to see in this game that the taggers grew just like the body of Christ grows.
3. Does the body of Christ continue to grow today? What can we do to help the body of Christ grow?
4. In verse 6 the disciples pray for the seven who were chosen to serve. Should we pray for one another as we all serve the church?

PRAYER:

Father, thank you for letting us serve in your kingdom.
Jesus, thank you for being the perfect example of serving.
Holy Spirit, help us to serve one another as the Body of Christ grows.

Worship Songs:

Grace Alone
Amazing Grace

Week 7- Acts 7: 54-60

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US STRENGTH & COURAGE

Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their did to the prophets. - **Luke 6:22-23**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we will be hearing the story of Stephen from Acts 6 & 7 (read Acts 7:54-60). In this story Stephen suffers for following Jesus and boldly telling others the truth about him. If we follow Jesus and tell others about him it is likely that we will also suffer. We may not be stoned to death like Stephen but we can expect the enemy to do everything he can to stop us from telling others about Jesus.

In the story we see that the Holy Spirit gives Stephen strength and courage even in the face of death. The Holy Spirit can give us strength and courage as well when we tell our friends and neighbors about Jesus.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When we become a Christian suffering (hardship) is something we can expect to encounter. How do you feel about suffering in the name of Jesus? What things does Jesus command us to do that may cause us to encounter suffering? How does standing firmly in our faith cause us to be faced with hardship?
2. *Activity- have the students hop on one leg for thirty seconds. Remind them that they need to hop on that one leg for the entire time, they cannot switch in between legs. Then have them imagine that that was the only way they can move around. What are some of their thoughts. Would it be difficult to to only hop on one leg forever? (this has the kids start thinking of what suffering is and how it changes our life)*
3. Stephen reminds us that God's people have always treated his prophets poorly. What is the difference between Jesus and all the prophets who came before him?
4. At the end of our story Stephen prays for the people who are throwing rocks at him. Does this remind you of another story in the bible? (Need help? Read Luke 23:34). Should we also pray for our enemies?
5. Are there Christians today who suffer like Stephen suffered? What can we do for them?

PRAYER:

Father, please help those around us who are persecuted for following you.
Jesus, thank you for meeting us in our suffering.
Holy Spirit, please give us strength and courage to tell others about you.

Worship Songs:

Desert Song
Cornerstone

Week 8- Acts 8: 26-35

THE BIBLE IS ABOUT JESUS

Scripture Reading:

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. - **Acts 8:35**

LESSON SUMMARY: (Read Acts 8:26- 35)

This week in LS Kids we will be hearing a story about how Philip was able to tell people how the Bible is about Jesus. In Acts 8, Philip hears an Ethiopian reading the book of Isaiah as he return to Ethiopia in his chariot. The Ethiopian did not understand who the passage was talking about (Isaiah 53: 7-8) and asked Philip to help him. Philip was able to show the Ethiopian that the Bible is all about Jesus.

It is easy for us to forget that the Bible is all about Jesus. When we read our Bibles, we tend to think that the Old Testament is about everything before Jesus and that the New Testament is about Jesus' life. Every passage in the Bible is about Jesus and points to His coming.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When reading the Bible, do you see how it points to Jesus or how it is about Jesus? Which passage do you know is about Jesus and/ or points to Jesus?
2. **Activity-** Have the students try to create a riddle and share it with the class. When they cannot understand the riddle, have the student who created the riddle help explain the riddle (this is like what Philip did with the Ethiopian and explaining what the scriptures meant)
3. How is it comforting to know that all of scripture is about Jesus?
4. Which passage from the Bible is your favorite? Are you able to explain it?

PRAYER:

Father, Thank you for giving us the Bible and having your people write it down your scripture Jesus, Thank you for fulfilling scripture and teaching us that the Bible is all about you Holy Spirit, help us continue to read our Bibles and see Jesus in all of scripture

Worship Songs:

Christ is Risen
Amazing Grace

Week 9- Acts 9: 10-19

JESUS REVIVES US

The Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” - **Acts 9:17**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we will be hearing the story of how Saul (now known as Paul) had scales from his eyes removed. Saul was persecuting the early church and did not like Jesus or His followers. Saul was on his way to Damascus to arrest Christians when Jesus appeared. Jesus spoke to Saul and then made him blind.

Saul went into Damascus and Ananias met him. Ananias prayed for Saul and Saul's eyes were opened and he could see. He saw that Jesus is the promised one and immediately was transformed. Saul went from hating Christians to becoming a Christian.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How have we had scales covering our eyes? Are there some things that we don't want to see?
2. **Activity-** Have the students blind folded (or close their eyes) and have them try to describe what is being held or drawn. Then have the kids without blind folds and show or draw the same things. Ask them “how did this activity remind you of Saul and the scales being removed from his eyes?”
3. Why do you think that Saul had scales on his eyes? What happened when the scales were removed from his eyes?
4. After seeing what we have been saved from, how does that change what you do in the future?

PRAYER:

Father, Thank you for loving us and sending Jesus to save us
Jesus, Thank you for removing the scales from our eyes so we can see you
Holy Spirit, Thank you for reminding us that we can see Jesus and

Worship Songs:

Grace Alone
Amazing Grace

Week 10- Acts 10:34-43

JESUS LOVES ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. - **Acts 10:34-35**

LESSON SUMMARY:

This week in LS Kids we will be learning about how the Gentiles heard the good news. Peter spoke to the Gentiles and those who heard received the Holy Spirit and believe. This is huge because before Jesus came to live with us, there was a huge separation between Jews and Gentiles. Gentiles were viewed differently and Jews thought that they were God’s only people.

Peter explained to the Gentiles that God has no favorites, God loves all of his children and wants to have a relationship with all of them. Now we are all able to be part of God’s family and be his chosen people.

Toddlers-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why was it such a big deal that the Gentiles heard the Gospel?
2. **Activity-** Have the students stand in the middle of the room. When you ask them a questions, tell them to either go towards one wall or the other (ie. Pizza go to the left or hot dogs go to the right). You can even have 4 options so the kids could move around. This activity shows that we all are different and have different likes. With that, we are all loved by Jesus no matter what our favorite pizza toppings are or favorite cartoon show is.
3. What caused us to be God’s children? Did we have to earn God’s love? How are we able to have a relationship with God?
4. How do you feel when you hear that God has no favorites?

PRAYER:

Father, Thank you for seeing us through Jesus and his cross
Jesus, Thank you for saving us and bringing us into God’s family
Holy Spirit, Thank you for reminding us that we all are God’s children

Worship Songs:

How He Loves
Cornerstone