

SECTION 2.5 | Acts



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Best News Ever!

What You'll Need: Newspaper or computer and printer or smartphone or tablet with Internet

PREP: Before class, search a newspaper or Internet for two or three positive news stories (you can type "positive news" in a search engine), make sure the stories are age appropriate.

STEP 1: Share with kids an overview of one or two of the news stories. Then ask the following questions:

- What makes this story good?
- Why is it easier to share good news instead of bad news?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His followers to tell everyone the good news that He died and rose again to pay the punishment for sin.
- The book of Acts shares how Jesus' followers began to share this good news with everyone they met. As a result, the early church began.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying and obeying the book of Acts in the Bible.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Special News Bulletin

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Have the kids stand in a line. Explain you will be sharing special news bulletins with the person on the one end of the line, and then the kids will need to whisper the message in the ear of the person next to them to pass it along, like the game Telephone, the last person to receive the message will tell the group what they heard.

STEP 2: Start the game, by whispering the first message to the child at the beginning of the line.

Here are the messages you can share, or you can make up your own:

A missing pet is returned.

Two brothers dig up a dinosaur fossil in their backyard.

A little girl discovers a priceless treasure hidden in her family's attic.

STEP 3: After you have finished playing, share these key concepts:

- Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His followers to tell everyone the good news that He died and rose again to pay the punishment for sin.
- The book of Acts shares how Jesus' followers began to share this good news with everyone they met. They shared it from one person to the next, just as you did in your game. As a result, the early church began.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying and obeying The book of Acts in the Bible.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Examples to Follow

What You'll Need: A box wrapped up like a present (it doesn't need to have anything inside), Bible, paper, string, hole punch

PREP: Write Giver on one paper, and Receiver on the other piece of paper. Punch holes on two corners of each paper. Mark the following passages of Scripture in your Bible (Acts 3:1-8, Acts 8:4-6, Acts 16:25-31) so you have them ready.

STEP 1: Explain that the book of Acts tells us many stories about how God's followers shared the good news about Jesus with other people. Sharing the gospel is like giving someone a present, because it is good news that gives hope. Show them the present, and explain that you are going to play a game.

STEP 2: Ask for two volunteers to stand at the front. Give one the sign Giver and the other the sign Receiver. Have the Giver hold the present. Explain that in each story the group will be working to identify who gave the good news, and who received it.

Read the following passages out loud from your Bible, and have the kids identify who is the giver of the good news in the Bible, and who received it. The answers are written for you in parenthesis to reference if needed.

The stories you will read:

- Acts 3:1-8 (Peter and John give to the crippled beggar.)
- Acts 8:4-6 (Philip gave to the crowds in Samaria.)
- Acts 16:25-31 (Paul and Silas gave to the jailer.)

STEP 3: After the group has worked through these stories, tell the kids that the believers in each passage are good examples to follow. Just as these people in the early church shared the good news of Jesus, we also get to do so. When you share about God's love, it is like giving a gift to

someone. Sometimes he or she will receive it, and sometimes he or she won't, but our job is to be the giver of the good news, regardless of how it is received.

STEP 4: Share the concepts from the Main Lesson Teaching Outline in the Large Group Guide, and follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Early Church Activities

What You'll Need: Bibles, Early Church Activities Handout

STEP 1: Explain to the kids that you will be doing a matching game together to talk about the book of Acts. Acts is about the beginning of the early church, and together you are going to read about what the people in the early church did.

STEP 2: Read Acts 2:41-47 aloud. Encourage the kids to follow along as you read.

STEP 3: Have 16 volunteers get bracelets, and find the person with the bracelet whose picture or words match their own. Below are listed the matches.

Actions in the early church:

They were baptized. (drop of water)

They devoted themselves to teaching/doctrine. (speech bubble)

They devoted themselves to fellowship. (two smiley faces)

They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread. (loaf of bread)

They devoted themselves to prayer. (praying hands)

They cared for one another by selling their possessions and dividing them among themselves. (money symbol)

They met together in homes every day. (house picture)

They had glad and generous hearts. (heart)

They praised God. (praising hands)

They had favor with all people. (thumbs up sign)

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- The apostles and the early church depended entirely on their relationship with God, and began to share Jesus Christ with the world.
- These early believers then went out and shared Christ everywhere they went. People saw their testimonies and believed in Jesus.
- We get to follow the example of the early church in Acts and share the good news about Jesus Christ around the world.

STEP 5: Discuss the following questions:

- How were these believers like people in our church?
- How are they different?
- What would our church look like if we followed the example of people in the early church people?
- How can you personally follow these examples?

STEP 6: Close in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids follow the examples of the early believers in Acts.

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Early Church Activities Handout

They were baptized.

They devoted themselves to teaching/doctrine.

They devoted themselves to fellowship.

They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread.

They devoted themselves to prayer.

They cared for one another by selling their possessions and dividing them among themselves.

They met together in homes every day.

They had glad and generous hearts.

They praised God.

They had favor with all people.



Early Church Activities Handout

