

September 2/3 Review of Acts 1-14

Key Verse: Acts 1:8 But you will receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

Big Idea Acts is the recounting of how the Holy Spirit worked through the lives of the early church to establish and grow His church. It is a book filled with amazing true stories of how the Holy Spirit used ordinary people to do extraordinary things on behalf of His kingdom.

Why does this matter? The Holy Spirit is still alive and at work in the church today. He is still at work in ordinary people to build His church.

Read Acts 1

Ideas/Activities

A. Make a list of things that have happened to your family or friends this past summer that are evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit. Think about ways that you and your family can work with the Holy Spirit to help build the kingdom of God.

B. Pray for the children who will be attending the Wednesday church clubs this fall and all of the activities. Pray for the workers who are involved with building project. Some of them do not know the Lord. Pray for the pastors that are being trained through the outreach to India. Pray for the North Point Church that they will continue to be led by the Holy Spirit this next year. These are all examples of how the Holy Spirit might work or has worked through our church.

September 9/10 Acts 15:1-35

Key Verse: Acts 15:11 But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.

Big Idea The Apostles and Elders declare that observing the Law and circumcision is not necessary to be saved; salvation is through grace, by faith, and God gives the Holy Spirit to Jews and Gentiles.

Why does this matter? Salvation comes only through faith, it keeping any rules or laws. We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe.

Read 15:1-35 in a children's Bible or share the account of the scripture in a way that your children will understand.

Ideas/Activities

A. The Race

Choose or lay out a course for your child or children to run that requires them to remove obstacles that you place in their way (box, chair, stack of books etc.). Talk about how the obstacles slowed them down. This is what some of the Jews were trying to do to the Gentile Christians, add conditions to salvation that kept them from trusting in Jesus only for salvation.

Then remove the obstacles and have your child run the race course. Explain that the way of salvation is simple and we are not to add to it or change it.

B. Other Resources

From booklet "100 Ways to Teach Your Child About God" - Activities that share the "one way" of salvation.

#63 The Passport

#64 The Press Pass

#65 Torn Jeans

#66 Washing Hand

SEPTEMBER 16-17 Acts 15:36-16:40

Key verse: Acts 16:5 So the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily.

Big Idea Jesus strengthened and grew His church through Paul and his team by opening and closing doors for them, opening hearts to the message, empowering them and delivering them.

Why does this matter? Today Jesus grows His church using us. We can share how Jesus loves us and died for us with our neighbors and friends. We can even invite them to church. We all need to be a part of the team to help grow the church.

Read: Acts 15:36-16:40

Ideas/Activities

A. As a family, make your favorite cookie recipe. Explain that each ingredient by itself might have a use but when all of the ingredients come together, the final product is much better. Substitutions or shortcuts may get a job done more quickly, but the creator knows bests which steps need to be taken and which ingredients work best. Share the cookies with a neighbor or friend letting them know they are special in God's eyes. Invite them to church. God needs all of us and all our abilities to make a growing church.

B. Get a jigsaw puzzle for the whole family to work together. Tell your children that we are like puzzle pieces in God's hand. We can't see the big picture of life that God sees. He is working out His great plan for the church. Sometimes we don't know where we fit into that plan. But as long as we are in God's hand, loving and trusting Him, He will place us where He wants us. God links us with others in His kingdom to accomplish His purposes. Those purposes will NOT be thwarted. (100 Ways to Teach Your Child About God by Karen Henley)

September 23/24 Acts 17:1-15

Key Verse: Acts 17:11 – Now these (the Bereans) were more noble-minded...for they received the word with great eagerness

Big Idea- Paul reasons with the Thessalonians giving evidence that Jesus is the Christ, and some believe but the Jews stir up the crowds against him. The Bereans receive the word with great eagerness examining the scriptures daily to see whether these things were true, and many believe.

Why does this matter? Why is it important to learn God's word? When we share God's word with others, He will use His word and His Helper to save them if they will open their hearts to believe.

Read: Acts 17:1-15

Ideas/Activities

A. Explain to the children learning God's word is like a recipe for success in telling others about Jesus. Make a simple recipe w/and w/out the right ingredients. Show the kids how important it is to understand the words of the recipe and follow it to get the job done right.

B. Activity 2 – Jeremiah 29:13: 'You will seek Me and find Me when you search for me with all your heart'. Write this verse on a heart made out of construction paper. Read it together. Cut it into "puzzle pieces". Have the children close their eyes. You hide the pieces, except on. Place this one at Jeremiah 29:13 in your Bible. Have the children find the pieces. When they have all except the one in your Bible, Talk about how the puzzle is like us—incomplete without God's Word. Say: "Let's look in God's Word to see if we can complete this verse."---Look together.

C. Be Bereans (Acts 17:10-11) Take a taste test. Examine and compare true and imitation tastes. For example, Imitation bacon bits vs. bacon, real fruit vs. fruit flavored diet snacks, real butter vs. fake butter...

(Source: Day by Day Devotions by Karyn Henley)

September 30/October 1 Acts 17:16-34

Key Verse: Acts 17:30 - ...God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Big Idea: Paul describes God to the Athenians as our creator and we should seek Him because we are His offspring. He does not dwell in temples like an idol or is He served by human hands, and they should repent of their sins because Jesus is coming to judge the world.

Why does this matter? Why is important not to ignore God's word once we hear it? Because God will judge us and take away the word we already have if we ignore Him.

Read: Acts 17:16-34

Ideas/Activities

A. Ask your children the following questions about the passage and let them pick a prize for participating.

1. Did the people who said they wanted to understand Paul, and then laughed at him, really want to understand him? No

2. The men didn't want to hear what Paul was saying because they didn't want to change to be like Jesus. What did Paul do when he gave them God's word and they didn't even want to listen to it? He left.

3. Why did Paul leave? He knew that if people wanted to do what God's word says, God would tell them more about Himself. If people didn't want to do what God's word said, Paul knew that God would take away the word He'd already given them. Paul knew he would be wasting his time staying there because these people didn't care about knowing God.

4. Why is it important not to ignore God's word once we hear it? Because God will take away the word we already know if we ignore Him.

B. Play the memory game with your child. When you're done, talk to them about how you either used the card to make a match or you didn't get to keep it. Tell them that if we use and obey God's word, He will bless us with even more. If we don't use it and obey it, we don't get to keep what we have.