

WEEK 1

In Jerusalem

Preparation:

Read Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-4, 37-47, using the Bible study notes to help you.



Lesson Aim:

To discover Jesus' promise to his disciples and see how it began to be fulfilled

Acts

- 1:1-2 See Luke 1:1-4. It is not known who Theophilus was – possibly an educated Roman.
- 1:4-5 See Luke 24:46-49.
- The Spirit had been promised many years before (Joel 2:28-29, Ezekiel 36:24-28), and now the Scriptures were about to be fulfilled. Jesus commands them to wait for the gift the Father had promised.
- Acts 1:5 – see Luke 3:16.
- 1:6 The disciples could be referring to an earthly kingdom and freedom from Roman oppression, or to the end of the age (see Matthew 24:3).
- 1:8 The coming of the Holy Spirit would give the disciples power to be Jesus' witnesses (see Isaiah 43:1-13).
- 1:9 A cloud signified the glory of God in Exodus 40:34 and 1 Kings 8:10-11.
- 2:1 Pentecost was the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:9-11) and occurred 50 days after the Passover.
- 2:4-11 The Galilean dialect was distinctive and very difficult for other Jews to follow (see Matthew 26:69-73). The disciples were given a miraculous gift so that the barriers of language were broken. The curse of Babel was reversed (Genesis 11:5-7). Everyone gathered in Jerusalem could understand the disciples' message. God gave his Spirit to all the early Christians (Acts 2:3-4) on the day of Pentecost and everyone could see and hear the results. The miracle of

'tongues' (other languages) enabled the hearers to be told of the mighty works of God.

2:5-36 This passage is studied in detail in the series on Peter Discovers the Life of Service (Book 5). It should be summarised for the children to provide continuity of the story.

2:38 Repentance involves a change of mind. Baptism was the public confession that the person was now a follower of Jesus and signified cleansing from sin. The Holy Spirit would be given to everyone who took this step.

Use a pen and paper puzzle such as 'Hangman' to get the word communication.

Ask the children to state all the different ways they know of communication. List them on a flip chart or similar.

Discuss some of the ways listed. How can they communicate something to someone who is deaf, or blind, or who does not speak their language? Let's see what the Bible has to say about the way Jesus' disciples communicated the truth about Jesus.

Remind the children about Jesus' command to his disciples before he ascended into heaven (Luke 24:46-49). Study the passage then mark the A3 maps to show where the people came from (see Activity instructions).

Make sure that the children realise the impossibility of the disciples communicating the gospel in all those different languages without supernatural help. Also point out the way they changed from being frightened to being bold.

Teach the memory verse.

Lesson Plan



One of the aims of this series is to see the way the gospel spread out from Jerusalem to the 'ends of the earth', just as Jesus said would happen in Acts 1:11.

Over the next 4 weeks the children will complete a map to show the spread of the gospel. Photocopy page 9 enlarged to A3 for each child. Before the

Activities



children start to work on their maps use a globe or large atlas to show them where the area on their maps is in relation to the rest of the world. The children mark Jerusalem on their maps and find the places that the people mentioned in Acts 2:5-11 came from (see page 10).

To make your map exciting obtain tiny stickers of smiling faces and stick them onto the map at the places mentioned. If stickers are unobtainable make them from coloured paper, cut out and glue onto the map.





