

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Acts is the sequel to Luke. Acts opens with Jesus Christ still around; it is after His resurrection and He is instructing His apostles. Luke, as a traveling companion to Paul, chronicles the life of Paul and the beginning of the church. He documents the Jewish hope in the Messiah which spread even to the center of the Roman empire. Let's discover what happened in those days.

Say it! Play it! Pray it!

Objectives:	Play out the Role of Jesus, His followers and his enemies after his resurrection. Gain insight into your own faith. Have fun with your family.
Number of Players:	3 - 6 or more (Scene one: narrator, Jesus, Apostles, two men in white; Scene two: narrator, Jesus, Peter, Men of Judea; Scene three: narrator, Jesus, Saul of Tarsus, Ananias)
Length:	30 minutes - 1 hour
Set up:	You can get as elaborate as you like. There are 3 scenes. You could choose to do one scene a night for 3 nights. As the Narrator is reading, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel.

Scene one: Jesus instructs His Apostles.

Narrator: Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them:

Jesus: do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the Promise of the Father, which you have heard from me. John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Apostle: Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?

Jesus: It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Narrator: Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who said, "Men of Galilee, who do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Scene two: The Holy Spirit is received and they become witnesses in Jerusalem.



FAMILY STUDY

Narrator: When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and they were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Peter standing up with the eleven raised his voice and said,

Peter: Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath; Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. the sun shall be turned to darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved."

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, you have crucified, and you have put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

This Jesus God was raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Narrator: When they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

Men of Israel: What shall we do?

Peter: Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

Scene three: The Gospel is spread throughout Judea and Samaria. Saul of Tarsus is saved.

Narrator: At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.



FAMILY STUDY

Saul was consenting to Stephen's death by stoning. Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from his to synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him,

Jesus: Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?

Saul: Who are You, Lord?

Jesus: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

Saul: Lord, what do You want me to do?

Jesus: Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

Narrator: And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one, for he was blind. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was there three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision,

Jesus: Ananias, arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight. Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.

Narrator: And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on Saul he said,

Ananias: Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Narrator: Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized. So when he had received food, he strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed. Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

Discussion: Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played, God's character and their own life. Questions to consider: How are you a part of the book of Acts? How did the Holy Spirit help the church to grow? How is the Holy Spirit working in your life to help you grow? And, to empower you to serve God?

Extras: Have each family member write one page about something that God has done through them. Share your stories with the entire family and then make them into a nice family book. Have fun creating the cover and decorating the pages with colors, stickers, pictures, etc. You could do this as an activity once a year and over your family's lifetime you will have a record of the Holy Spirit's acts in your own family!

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.