



ACTS

Practical, Easy-To-Use Devotionals Made for Families.



BOOK SUMMARY

..... **ACTS**

ACTS



SETTING

Acts comes after the four gospels (the accounts of Jesus' life) and before the first epistles (letters to churches or some of their members). The epistles include books like Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, and 1 Corinthians.

Acts tells us the exciting story of how the Church got started, and it's the second in a two-part series. The first part of the series was the book of Luke!

Though the author of Acts doesn't give us his name, the first verse gives us a really good clue that it's Luke himself!

Luke was a doctor and a traveling companion of the Apostle Paul. As you go throughout the New Testament epistles, you'll be reading lots of Paul's letters to the churches, and you'll hear a lot about him in Acts!

Did you know?!? God used Paul and Luke to write most of the New Testament! Wow!

As you're reading Acts, you'll hear the names of many cities that Paul writes to later on in the epistles. And you can still visit a lot of those ancient cities today!!!



ACTS



OVERVIEW/THEMES

In Acts, we get to see how Jesus continued His work after He rose from the dead and went into Heaven. Our story picks up soon after Jesus' resurrection (rising from the grave)! He went right to work through the Holy Spirit's presence, building His family and strengthening them! This family would be made up of all kinds of people, eventually from all over the world!

In Acts, we get to hear how the Gospel (the good news about Jesus) started moving out and out and out from Jerusalem (where Jesus died) to the whole world! God used the apostles (those close disciples we read about in the gospels) to carry the message, and He brought many others alongside them too! He gave them the power to heal the sick, tell others His message clearly and with courage, and even sometimes raise people from the dead! He gave them the strength to do special things at just the right time! God showed the people that He was with them through the Holy Spirit just as much as He was when Jesus was there. A whole new chapter in the big story of God's relationship with His people was unfolding!

In the past, God had focused the bright Light of His presence in one place (among the family of Israel) so that everyone could see how good He is and want to come and be a part of it! Now, God was going to put His presence *inside everyone who believed in Jesus*.

People wouldn't need to go to a Temple or be in Israel to find Him—He would be with every believer all the time. When His people gathered together as a family, He would be present by His Spirit, no matter where they were! All that God had meant Israel to be...

- people who shine with His light and show people the Way
- people who know Him from the heart and enjoy the privilege of belonging to Him
- people who get a front-row seat to His work in the world

...was now open to anyone who would come to Jesus by belief and be forgiven! The Christians would be like priests in the world—helping others come home to God and love and worship Him. The time that Acts tells about was really exciting! So many promises God made in the Old Testament were finally coming true.

You'll notice as you read the stories that sometimes those who don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah (God Himself, the Rescuer, and King) are angry at those who do believe it. Often the Christians in the book of Acts are in serious danger. Some are badly hurt by those who are against them, and some are even killed because they talked about Jesus or did something brave or kind in His name. But God took the terrible things that happened and worked them for good! The suffering (called



ACTS

persecution) caused the Christians we read about in Acts to spread out from Jerusalem and carry the Gospel even farther!

One of the important points in Acts is how diverse (full of different kinds of people) God's family became! This brought some confusion at first. We also meet the Apostle Paul (he also went by Saul—his Hebrew name). You'll hear about the dramatic way he met Jesus! It's an exciting story and one that changed the history of the Church and even the world. (Did you know that Paul lived through a shipwreck? You can read about it in Acts 27-28!)

Some of the other people you'll read about in Acts are James and Peter (they were both close disciples and friends of Jesus), Timothy (you'll hear about him in some of Paul's letters, too!), Barnabas (who was an amazing encourager), and Stephen (whose life and death played a big part in the story).

HOW TO USE

The same Holy Spirit we read about in Acts lives in everyone who has trusted Jesus as their Rescuer/Forgiver/God. Wow! God calls us to follow Him, listen to His instructions through the Holy Spirit and His word, be brave in loving others and showing them Jesus, enjoy being a part of His family, and thank Him for the amazing promise of life with Him forever!

Acts is the history of how the Church got its start! It's about God's work in the world. We're now a part of that, too. This is His story—"history!"





READING PLAN

..... **ACTS**

ACTS



FAMILY READING PLAN

our family name

○ Chapter 1

Jesus Goes Into Heaven, Judas' Replacement Is Chosen

○ Chapter 2

The Holy Spirit Comes, And God's Family Expands

○ Chapter 3

God Uses Peter To Heal A Man And To Tell The Good News

○ Chapter 4

Consequences For Faithfulness; Prayer And God's Answer

○ Chapter 5

God Is Serious About His Family; The Apostles Testify (And Suffer)

○ Chapter 6

Stephen Is Seized And Put On Trial

○ Chapter 7

God Gives Stephen The Power To Testify And To Die For His Sake

○ Chapter 8

God Takes What Was Evil And Uses It For Good

○ Chapter 9

Jesus Tackles (And Saves) Saul; The Spirit Works Through Peter

○ Chapter 10

God Welcomes New People Into His Family

○ Chapter 11

Peter Explains What God Has Done; God Blesses The Church

○ Chapter 12

Peter Escapes From Prison! God Brings Judgment On King Herod

○ Chapter 13

The Missionary Journey Of Paul And Barnabas

○ Chapter 14

Paul And Barnabas Meet Trouble But Strengthen The Churches

○ Chapter 15

Growing Pains, Questions, And A Sad (Temporary) Split

○ Chapter 16

Timothy Joins The Team; The Lord Sends Them On A Mission!

○ Chapter 17

Paul Reasons With The Greek Philosophers

○ Chapter 18

God Sends Friends And Helpers

○ Chapter 19

God Does Miracles Through Paul; The Idol Makers Riot

○ Chapter 20

A Very Sad Parting

○ Chapter 21

Paul Goes To Jerusalem

○ Chapter 22

Paul Addresses The Jerusalem Crowd

○ Chapter 23

Paul At The Sanhedrin (The Religious High Court); A Deadly Plot

○ Chapter 24

Paul On Trial Before Governor Felix

○ Chapter 25

Paul On Trial Before Festus

○ Chapter 26

Paul's Defense Before King Agrippa And His Sister Bernice

○ Chapter 27

A Big Disaster In Which God Shows His Control

○ Chapter 28

Paul On The Island Of Malta And In Rome





FAMILY JOURNALS

..... ACTS

Jesus Goes Into Heaven, Judas' Replacement Is Chosen

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

FIND IT

(vs.8) This is the theme verse of the book of Acts! 1) What does it say? 2) What would they receive? 3) What are they now empowered to do? "Be a witness" means being someone who has seen something and can tell about it.

WORTH A NOTE

Sometimes a few details can bring things to life! Verse 9 says that Jesus was taken into the clouds. Clouds in Scripture often signal the presence and majesty of God (like in Ex. 40:34, Luke 9:34-35). Look at Revelation 1:7. How will Jesus return? One more special detail to note. How did the disciples determine God's will for Judas's replacement? (vs. 23-26). First, they _____ (v24), second they (v26) _____. Casting lots was an Old Testament way that God showed people His choice in a matter. We don't have to do this anymore because the Holy Spirit has come!



The Holy Spirit Comes, And God's Family Expands

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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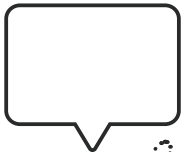
HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 1-13) In Verse 2, what sound did they hear? The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. In both languages, the word for "spirit" can also be translated as "wind" or "breath!" The Holy Spirit (God Himself) had come to live in His people forever (v3). They would each be like a temple of the Holy Spirit! What appeared on people's foreheads? Fire often represents the presence of our holy God (ex: Ex 3:2). In vs. 5-12, what amazing thing did God cause to happen?

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large, empty rectangular boxes for highlighting key details from the text.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Grey shaded area for writing thoughts or drawing related to the text.

This story inspired me to...

Grey shaded area for writing how the story inspired the reader.

RESPONSE

(vs. 42-47) What was God's family (the church) doing? What do you notice about how they treat each other? Make a list. Then take a few minutes to ask God how you can love others in His family with that level of care.



CHAPTER 3

ACTS

TODAY'S DATE

God Uses Peter To Heal A Man And To Tell The Good News

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

RESPONSE

(vs. 1-9) What stands out to you in this story? How would you feel if you were this man? What would you want to say to the disciples and God? (vs. 9-10) How did the people respond? Briefly look ahead. How does Peter use this opportunity? *Old Testament connection. Look at Isaiah 35:6. How does this event correspond to the promise of what will happen when God begins to restore all things?

FIND IT

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

(vs. 11-26) God speaks through Peter to help people see Jesus as the fulfillment of O.T. prophecies and pictures. There are at least five different titles or describing words given to Jesus in this passage. Look carefully. How many can you find? What did you learn about Jesus from this passage?

This story inspired me to...



Consequences For Faithfulness; Prayer And God's Answer

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WORTH A NOTE

In Verses 1-3, why were the religious leaders "disturbed?" In v2, what were the apostles proclaiming? Look at v3. What did they do with them? How many people had believed? (v4) Whoa! That only counts men! This likely means that they were counting by households. So, there could have been thousands more people! By what power was Peter proclaiming the truth? (vs. 7-8) Verse 12 is really important. How many ways to salvation are there? (v13) What do they notice about the men? In Verses 14-21, with what command (and in what predicament) were they left? Do you think they'll do it?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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RESPONSE

(vs. 23-37) How did the apostles and the rest of God's family respond to this scary problem? What did God do? How did the believers live because of God's power moving among them? Wow! How does what you've seen here change your thoughts on what you're going through or what makes you afraid?



God Is Serious About His Family; The Apostles Testify (And Suffer)

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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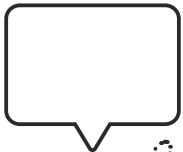
FUN FACT

(vs. 17-42) This is an awesome story. Read it and then retell it in your own words. Try to remember as many details as you can! Interesting facts: The Sanhedrin (v27) could have people put to death. The apostles were testifying before the scariest religious court in the land. (v34) What is the man's name who saves the day with his cool-headed wisdom? This man happens to be the rabbi (Jewish teacher) who trained Saul (who we know by his Roman name Paul)!

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes with dotted lines inside, intended for students to write or draw what stood out to them.

FAV WORDS



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This story inspired me to...

HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 1-10) Whoa! This is an intense story! (v3) Why were Ananias and Sapphira judged (punished)? Their sin was that they lied to God! Satan is called "the father of lies." The Lord is serious about His family's character being a reflection of His and not the enemy's. This was a strong example to the church that God takes our hearts and choices seriously (v11).



Stephen Is Seized And Put On Trial

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

HISTORY

(vs. 1-6) What problem do we hear about in vs1? What's that about? The church was made up of Jewish people who spoke Aramaic (a more traditional language closer to Hebrew) and those who spoke Greek because they lived in other lands before returning to Israel. There were probably numerous other cultural differences between these two groups, too. Unity (togetherness) is really important in the family of God, and so is caring for those who need help (in that day, widows were some of the most vulnerable people). Here we see the church organize to promote unity and care and make sure that the apostles can teach the good news!

HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 7-15) Make a list of what you learn about Stephen in this passage. Where did he get his wisdom and power? What happened to him? With what was he charged? Was it true? What does v15 tell you about how he looked because of God's presence? (Look at Exodus 34:29-35 if you have time!)



God Gives Stephen The Power To Testify And To Die For His Sake

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

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WORTH A NOTE

How do they take this? (vs. 54-59) What stands out to you about Stephen's death? List what you see. What does he say as he's dying? Of whom does this remind you (see Luke 23:34, 46)? Who does it say approved of Stephen's death? Yes! This is Paul! Saul is his Hebrew name! Interesting fact: The New Testament often talks of a believer's death as "sleep" because it's not permanent! Jesus will raise us one day when He returns—just like He was raised!

BACKSTORY

(vs. 1-53) What did the religious leaders accuse Stephen of doing (vs. 11-14)? God uses Stephen to answer them in a remarkable way. (vs. 51-53) He shows them that THEY are the ones who don't believe the Old Testament law and prophets! God wants even the hard-hearted religious leaders to be saved, so He uses Stephen to tell them that they're not actually on God's side at all!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

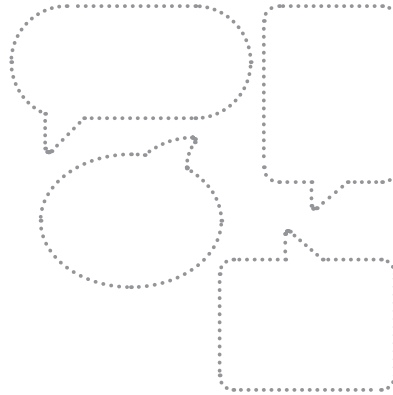
This story inspired me to...



God Takes What Was Evil And Uses It For Good

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



RESPONSE

(vs. 1-4) What happened after Stephen died?
The family of God was persecuted (attacked because of their faith in Jesus), so they scattered. What did they do wherever they went?! (v 4). How do you think God was using this evil to bring about good? How does this help fulfill Acts 1:8?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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PICK ONE

There are two major stories found in the rest of this chapter. One is about a sorcerer who wants the power he sees in the disciples (which we know is the Holy Spirit!), and the other is about an angel of the Lord sending Philip on a mission! Read both and then pick one to retell in your own words. What stood out to you? How is the power of God on display in that story?



Jesus Tackles (And Saves) Saul; The Spirit Works Through Peter

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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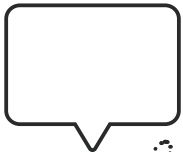
HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 1-19) This is a great story! Read the passage slowly, and then stop to record what you notice. Who did God use to restore Saul? How would you have felt if you were that man? God treasures faithful obedience like that of Ananias. (v16) What will God show Saul (Paul)? Wow! *A couple of notes: 1) What's a synagogue? A place where Jewish people gathered and studied the Scriptures. 2) Who does the voice say is being persecuted (vs. 4-5)? Jesus takes it very seriously when His family is suffering for their faith in Him. What is done against them is also done against Him!

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes with dotted lines inside, designed for students to write down what stood out in the passage.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

A large grey rectangular area for writing thoughts or drawing.

This story inspired me to...

A large grey rectangular area for writing how the story inspired the student.

PICK ONE

Read vs. 19-31 and 32-43. These are both amazing stories. Pick one to read a second time. Read slowly and write about how you see God's power working in the situation.



God Welcomes New People Into His Family

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS





FAV WORDS





BACKSTORY

Read vs. 1-23. In the Old Testament, God-focused the light of His presence in one place—on the family of Israel. He gave them His Law to teach them how to be holy, relate to Him, and live out their calling as a Light to the nations. He wanted people everywhere to see it and come to Him! Part of the Law made some food off-limits or “unclean.” In the New Testament, the food laws were fulfilled and no longer needed because of Jesus’s work. Peter didn’t know that yet. God uses these familiar rules to show him that EVERYONE can now come into His family by faith—both Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). The Centurion (an important Roman military man) was a Gentile. What do you think will happen next?

RESPONSE

Remind yourself what happened in vs. 1-23, and then read the rest of the chapter. What stands out to you? What surprised you? How does Peter explain the gospel (the good news)?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 11

ACTS

TODAY'S DATE

Peter Explains What God Has Done; God Blesses The Church

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

BACKSTORY

(vs. 1-18) Circumcision was the sign that someone was a part of Israel (God's family, which was now expanding to include Gentiles—see the note for Ch. 10). From now on, the sign of being in God's family would be baptism rather than circumcision. Sometimes Luke or Paul will refer to people as "the circumcised believers." When they use this term, they are talking about Jewish people who have believed in Jesus as the Messiah (the Savior and King).

HISTORY

Read vs. 19-30. Summarize what happened. God gave Agabus special insight for the moment. What was it? Fun fact: you can read about Emperor Claudius online. Luke does a great job of recording historical details!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



Peter Escapes From Prison! God Brings Judgment On King Herod

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WORTH A NOTE

This is such a great story! Unfortunately, it begins on a very sad note. Who was killed? He is the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred (killed for his faith). Who was James's brother? ____ (He is the same John who wrote one of the gospels, the book of Revelation, and the letters of 1, 2, 3 John. This was the same John who leaned against Jesus at the Last Supper.) Herod realized that having James killed had made him really popular with people in power, so he had Peter arrested—probably meaning to have him killed, too. What happens next? (Read v-19) What do you notice?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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HIGHLIGHT

The power of God is on such display in this chapter! God is sovereign (that means He's King—He's in full control!) Think back: how do you see that in the story of Peter escaping from prison? Next, read the rest of the chapter. How does God's power show up in judgment against Herod?



The Missionary Journey Of Paul And Barnabas

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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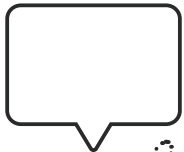
HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 42-52) What happened to Paul and Barnabas? How were they treated? Why? What does vs1 tell you about how they felt? At first glance, it doesn't seem to make sense that they would have joy. But many times, God gives us joy in the middle of very hard circumstances because we know that we've served Him faithfully. Only God can give that kind of strength in the midst of suffering. (If you have time, read Acts 5:40-42. It's a great example of this kind of joy!)

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes with dotted lines inside, intended for students to write or draw what stood out to them.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

A large grey rectangular area for writing or drawing thoughts.

This story inspired me to...

FUN FACT

(v. 9) From this point on, Saul goes by Paul. Paul was his Roman name. (It wasn't unheard of to have both.) Paul was beginning to minister to the Gentiles often, and it seems that maybe he began to use his Roman name to connect with them more easily.



Paul And Barnabas Meet Trouble But Strengthen The Churches

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

WORTH A NOTE

Read vs. 1-3. What happened in v2? What did Paul and Barnabas do in response (v3)? Whoa! What courage! God's Spirit gives His people boldness to proclaim His message, love people, and serve Him even when it's difficult. Continue reading through v7. What do you see?

HIGHLIGHT

Verses 8-19 is a crazy story! Read it and then retell the story in your own words. Who did the people think Paul and Barnabas were? Zeus and Hermes were Greek gods. The people had faith, but in something that wasn't real at all! How did Paul respond when he realized what they were doing (v14)? Tearing clothes was a sign of grief in his culture! How does Paul explain the truth to them? He's careful to use things that will make sense for them even though they don't know the story of Scripture yet. What happened to Paul afterward (v19)? What did he do (v20)? Wow!



Growing Pains, Questions, And A Sad (Temporary) Split

SUMMARY (write or draw)

HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 19-35) Why does the Bible mention those four things? Each one would have kept a Jewish Christian (who might still be keeping the old practices of the Jewish customs and the Old Testament) from being able to eat a meal of friendship with another person (according to the Law). They are removing the barriers to togetherness in the church! All the believers were saved only by faith in Jesus, and they were learning how to live for Him! * Extra: The Bible isn't afraid to tell the Truth, including the ugly parts. What sad thing happens in vs. 36-41? P.S. John Mark was Barnabas's cousin. He and Paul will work together again in the future.

A place for thoughts (write or draw)

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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BACKSTORY

(vs. 1-18) Whoa! What's going on here? First, turn back to the family journal notes for Chapter 10 and 11. Look at the first note for each one. They'll give you some helpful insight! The Jewish believers were coming to understand that God was expanding His family, Israel, to welcome in Gentile believers! Should they keep the old family practices? It was a new chapter in God's story. He was helping them understand what to keep and what was finished by Jesus' work!



Timothy Joins The Team; The Lord Sends Them On A Mission!

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

FUN FACT

(v. 10) Did you notice the use of the word "we?" Who is now in Paul's group for this second missionary journey? Luke, the writer of the story, has joined the team! These are firsthand reports. Who else did God choose to send with Paul and Silas (v 1-3)? Timothy would become one of Paul's closest co-workers throughout the years. In fact, Paul would one day send him on a very important mission to help the church in Ephesus. The books of 1 and 2 Timothy are letters from Paul to Timothy while on that assignment!

LIGHT

HIGH

Verses 16-40 is an amazing story! Read it and retell it in your own words. What question does the jailor ask (v30)? How would you have answered him? Take a moment to think about it. What does Paul say? (v31). Have you done that?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



Paul Reasons With The Greek Philosophers

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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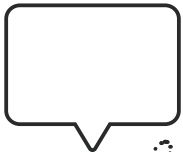
WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 16-32) God uses Paul to skillfully reason with the philosophers to help them understand the good news about Jesus. He starts with familiar topics (vs. 22-24). What is his opening point (vs. 22-24)? But Paul doesn't leave them there. He goes on to show them that God is not like any of their idols! He even quotes their poets to help his point along. We can learn a lesson from Paul about meeting people where they are and talking to them about Jesus! What stands out to you from what Paul said?

WHAT STOOD OUT

Graphic organizer with three columns and two rows for notes.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Grey box for writing thoughts.

This story inspired me to...

Grey box for writing inspiration.

FIND IT

Luke is very careful to mention women's roles in the story. That wasn't a very common thing to do in the culture of his day, but he did the same thing in his gospel, too! How many times in this chapter does Luke mention a woman or women?



God Sends Friends And Helpers

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

HISTORY

(vs. 1-3) Why did Priscilla and Aquilla come from Italy? Luke does a great job recording historically accurate details! Emperor Claudius had kicked all the Jewish people out of the city of Rome in A.D. 49! God used this unfortunate event to introduce new co-workers to the team to carry the gospel forward! (By the way, Rome is over 750 miles away from Corinth! They came a long, long way!)

FUN FACT

(v. 11) How long did Paul stay in Corinth? The New Testament includes two letters that Paul later wrote to the Corinthians! In v12, Luke gives us another historical detail. Who does he say was in charge in those days? We know that Gallio was proconsul in A.D. 51-52. These are real places and people! Read the rest of the chapter and see how God worked through Priscilla, Aquila, and Apollos.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



God Does Miracles Through Paul; The Idol Makers Riot

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

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HIGHLIGHT

(v. 11) Who was really doing the work? (v13) The Bible tells us that not only are people opposed to God, but some spirits are His enemies. Scripture says that the devil “prowls around like a roaring lion.” Demons are spirits who cooperate with the devil’s purposes. Here’s what we need to know: they’re NO MATCH for Jesus! We see this over and over in the four gospels! It’s Jesus’ power that conquers evil every single time. You can call on Him for help always!

A NOTE

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WORTH

(v. 4) What is “repentance?” It’s turning back to God and humbling ourselves. It’s admitting that we were wrong (and God is right, good, wise, and true). When we repent, we reject or turn away from our old way of being and thinking. We accept God’s help to be holy in His sight. We relate to Him as our Father. Look up Acts 3:19. What does it say will come when we repent?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

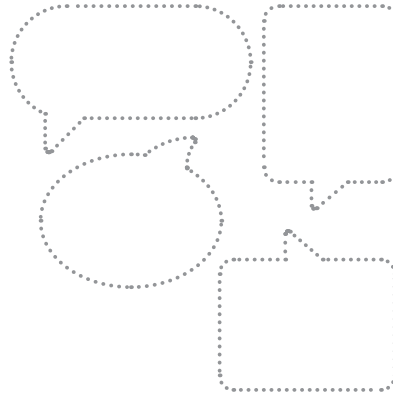
This story inspired me to...



A Very Sad Parting

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



RESPONSE

(vs. 7-12) What a wild story! Retell it in your own words! How do you think miracles like this helped people believe the good news about Jesus?

Empty box for writing a response.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

Three horizontal dotted lines for writing an inspiration.

HISTORY

(v. 1) What uproar is Luke talking about? Look back quickly at Chapter 19. Fun Fact: The theater where the riot happened is still in Ephesus (19:29)! Next, read 20:1-6, 20:13-38. How long had Paul ministered there (v31)? He'd established very strong relationships in Ephesus. What stands out to you from Paul's words to the elders (leaders) of the church? How would you sum it up? How would you describe their emotions?



Paul Goes To Jerusalem

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

Blank space for writing a summary of the chapter.

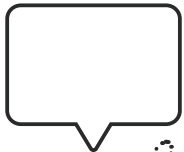
BACKSTORY

(vs. 1-15) What future is awaiting Paul? How does he know? Can you think of someone else who knew that he was going to His death via Jerusalem, but that God was sending Him anyway (Luke 18:31-33)? The Holy Spirit chose to move Paul's life in a direction that honored, and in some ways, paralleled or reminded people of Jesus. Can you think of anyone who tried to warn Jesus not to go to His death? See Matthew 16:21-23.

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large rectangular boxes with dotted outlines for writing notes on what stood out in the chapter.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Large grey area for writing thoughts or drawing, with a dotted line separating the top and bottom sections.

This story inspired me to...

HIGHLIGHT

Read v16 through the end of the chapter. How does the Holy Spirit inspire Paul to make the most of his opportunity? One of the patterns we see in Acts is that God takes awful circumstances and uses them for good. Here He opens an opportunity for many people to hear the Truth!



Paul Addresses The Jerusalem Crowd

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









HISTORY

Things to know for Verses 1-21: 1) Aramaic was a language related to Hebrew. Though Paul could speak both Greek and Aramaic, he chose Aramaic in this case because he was signaling to the people that he was a Jew—just like them. 2) Paul makes it really clear that Christianity is not a new religion. It is Judaism fulfilled—the promises of God in the Old Testament have come true in Jesus! He is where the whole Story was going all along! The problem is that many of the Jewish people didn't believe that Jesus was the Savior for whom they had been waiting.

BACKSTORY

(vs. 22-29) How does the people's treatment of Paul remind you of the way that people treated Jesus in the days before His death? (John 15:18-25 is coming true. Turn there if you have time.)

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



Paul At The Sanhedrin (The Religious High Court); A Deadly Plot

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

HISTORY

In Chapter 22, God used Paul's Roman citizenship to help him escape immediate danger from the government. Now in Verses 1-11, he has to go before the Sanhedrin—the religious high court. We met them in Acts 5. Remember how Gamaliel saved the day at that time? They had the power to order someone's death (In fact, they condemned Jesus!) The Sanhedrin was made up of men from two different sects (groups with differing views). Paul very wisely pits them against each other to help his cause. He knew that the Sadducees didn't believe in angels or resurrection!

RESPONSE

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Verses 12-35 is a great story! Read it and then retell it in your own words. What do you notice? How would you feel if you were Paul? Fun Fact: Herod's palace's ruins at Caesarea (where Paul was held) are still there. You can visit!

This story inspired me to...



Paul On Trial Before Governor Felix

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FUN FACT

In Acts 9:15, when God saved Paul, he gave Ananias a prophecy about Paul's future. What did it say? (P.S. this is a different Ananias than the one in Ch 24!) As you read Chapters 24 and 25, notice the number of Roman (Gentile) rulers before Paul as he gives testimony! How is God causing His word about Paul to be fulfilled? We can always trust that what God says will come true in the end!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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HISTORY

(v. 22) What is Christianity called in this verse? (vs. 24-27) What does Paul share with Felix and his wife? Even though Paul is on trial, he still cares for their souls! We know from history that they had done some ungodly things. Paul wants them to believe in Jesus and be saved! For what is Felix hoping (v26)? How long does he keep Paul? In A.D. 59, Felix was called away to Rome.



Paul On Trial Before Festus

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

HISTORY

Read vs. 1-22. Sum up what happens in your own words. Any Roman citizen had a right to appeal to Caesar. Caesar isn't a first name, but a title (like "President"). The reigning Caesar at that time was Nero, who would later go on to be one of the very worst persecutors of Christians. FYI, Bernice is King Agrippa's sister. Agrippa is the Jewish king who was being permitted to rule some areas under Roman control.

WORTH A NOTE

Sometimes we look at our situations and think that things aren't moving along as they should be. Here, we can see that God uses Paul's long imprisonment to allow him to share the gospel. (Paul wrote a lot of his letters from various prisons!) Are there any circumstances in your life in which you need to trust God? Ask Him to give you His perspective on things.



Paul's Defense Before King Agrippa And His Sister Bernice

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 23-24) The Messiah (or Savior, "Anointed One") is the "first" to do _____?!? Jesus was raised from the dead forever! And He's going to do the same thing for all who belong to Him!!2 Corinthians 5:8 tells us that when we die, we're immediately in His presence! Nothing can separate us from Him, even for a single moment! But that's not all! He will raise our bodies, too, when He returns one day! We'll be fully alive with Him for all eternity! *For More Info: Look at 1 Corinthians 15:12-58. To see what Jesus' raised body was like (and therefore what ours might be like, too), look at John 20-21! (Spoiler: He ate and walked and talked and everything!)

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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RESPONSE

Read Paul's defense before King Agrippa. Pay close attention as you read. See how many points of Paul's defense you can retell from memory! Then check to see if you forgot anything!



A Big Disaster In Which God Shows His Control

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

WORTH A NOTE

Read Chapter 27. Look for ways in which you can see that nothing can stop God's plan—not even a disaster! P.S. Notice the word “we”—that means that Luke was on the voyage, too. It seems that he stayed with Paul through his entire imprisonment. What a faithful friend and co-worker in the gospel.

HIGH LIGHT

How would you describe Paul's emotions and attitude during this story? Why do you think he was so calm? How does God give Paul wisdom? How did the sailors respond?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



Paul On The Island Of Malta And In Rome

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 1-6) What happened to Paul after they came ashore on Malta? How did the people interpret it? Isn't it crazy how fast people's opinions change? (vs. 7-10) How did God use this opportunity to minister to the people of Malta? (Fun Fact: Malta is a beautiful island! You can look up pictures of "Saint Paul's Bay" online. That's where people believe the shipwreck occurred!)

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

RESPONSE

Verses 11-30 tells us about the rest of Paul's journey to Rome and his time in house arrest. Paul was allowed to have companions while he waited to see Caesar. He was able to proclaim the gospel! Read the final part of the chapter, paying special attention to the last sentence. May that be true of all of us! What has stuck with you the most about the book of Acts? Stop and give God thanks for what you've learned.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

