

The **Book of Acts** tells us how his followers began to do just that. Jesus also said that since he was returning to Heaven to prepare a place for each of us, we should be filled with the HOLY SPIRIT to give us the power to carry out God's Plan. **Acts 1:8.**

He told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came to them, and in **Acts 2** we read how that happened.

1a

They went outside and PETER started preaching about Jesus - and at the end, over 3,000 people had become Christians!

After that the believers met together every day to worship God, have teaching, and share everything they had to help the poor. God even did miracles among them. This was the beginning of the Early Church, which grew bigger and bigger every day.

2a

The religious leaders didn't like it that so many people were becoming Christians, so they had Peter and John arrested to try to stop them, but they would not stop, and the Church kept growing. But a man called ANANIAS and his wife SAPPHIRA wanted to look good to other believers, so lied about the money they gave in the offering. But God showed He knew the truth and struck them both dead in front of the others.

3a



After that, a great persecution broke out against the Christians in Jerusalem and many ran away to live in other parts of the country. But they continued to preach the Gospel to everyone they met, and so the Church spread to other towns.

4a

One of the Jews who was particularly against the Christians was a man named SAUL. He did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah and so hunted down the Christians to put them in prison.

But one day Jesus appeared to him in a bright light that knocked him to the ground.

**Acts 9**

5a



Paul and the other leaders of the Early Church obeyed Jesus' command to "Go and preach the Gospel to the world" and the Church has continued to grow ever since.



19b

When everyone saw that Paul did not die, they recognized that God was with him. PUBLIUS, the chief official on the island invited him to stay in his home for 3 days. There, the father of Publius was very sick, and so Paul prayed for him and he was healed. Afterwards, all the sick on the island came to Paul for prayer and were healed. They stayed on the island for 3 months before leaving on another ship for Rome.

18b

In **Acts 27 and 28** we read the exciting story of that voyage and how one storm lasted for 2 weeks. But Paul encouraged everyone because God had told him that he had to go and speak in Rome, and that no-one would die if they stayed with the ship. Finally the ship ran aground and was wrecked, but all 276 people survived and swam to the shore. They were on the island of Malta.

17b



But also many Jews became jealous and stirred up trouble for Paul and Barnabas, so that they had to leave town. In some places they were even stoned out of town!

8a

But there was such an argument among the Jewish leaders that again Paul had to be taken away to save his life. When the Roman commander learned of a plot to kill Paul, he had him taken to safety in Caesarea to meet with the Governor FELIX. **Acts 24** tells of Paul's trial before Felix which lasted two years.

16b



Paul and his group were returning to Jerusalem when a prophet named AGABUS warned him from God that he would be bound and handed over to Gentiles. Hearing this, his friends told him not to go on to Jerusalem, but Paul was ready to face what was ahead.

15b



Many of the Jews felt that they were God's chosen people and that Jesus had not come to save the Gentiles as well. But in **Acts 10** we read how God spoke clearly to Peter in a vision while he was visiting a man called CORNELIUS. Peter led Cornelius and his family to accept Jesus, and God poured out the Holy Spirit upon them as proof. After that, Peter and the Church began to accept that the Gospel be preached to EVERYONE! 6a

But in **Acts 12** we read that the other believers all prayed for Peter, and during the night, an angel came to him. Even though he was chained between two soldiers, Peter was miraculously led out of the prison by the angel, and went to be with the other believers. His escape caused a great stir and Herod had the guards put to death. Soon after that, God struck Herod dead for wanting to be called a god.

7a



But Ephesus was a city known for its temples to Greek gods, and soon many people feared they would lose their business if everyone became Christians. There was a huge riot and soon after that Paul left and traveled again through Greece.

14b



Paul stayed in Ephesus for over 2 years preaching, and many Jews and Greeks heard the Gospel. God did many miracles through Paul and he even drove out evil spirits.

13b

Churches were growing up all across the region and the believers met together in homes to preach and study the scriptures.



12b

Then in **Acts 15** we read that Paul and Barnabas also had a disagreement, so they split up and Barnabas went with JOHN MARK to Cyprus, and Paul took SILAS with him to return to strengthen the new churches they had started. Along the way they met up with TIMOTHY, whose mother was a Jew but whose father was Greek. Then Paul had a vision from God to cross the sea to Macedonia (Greece) to preach there.

9a



Paul then went on to the city of Corinth, where he met a couple called AQUILA and PRISCILLA who had moved there from Rome because the EMPEROR CLAUDIUS had made all Jews leave.

11b

One day, Paul cast a demon out of a slave girl because she kept interrupting his preaching. As a result, Paul and Silas were thrown into prison in chains. But they sang songs and praised God long into the night. **Acts 16** says that at midnight, God sent an earthquake that shook the prison doors open and broke off all their chains. Paul and Silas were free! But the jailer was so frightened he wanted to kill himself. 10a

Paul called out to tell him not to, and the jailer asked what he should do to be saved. Paul and Silas led the jailer and all his family to accept Christ and baptized them. Paul and Silas were released the next day.



10b

In **Acts 20**, we read that Paul was preaching very late one night in the town of Troas. Sitting on the window ledge of the upstairs room was a young man named EUTYCHUS. He fell asleep and then fell out of the third floor window to the ground! They rushed outside and found him dead, but Paul held him in his arms and prayed for him, and he came back to life. Everyone praised God for the miracle.

15a

But there were 7 men there, all sons of a Jewish priest called SCEVA. They also wanted the power that they saw in Paul, so they went around casting out demons in the name of Jesus, but not believing in Jesus. One day one of the demons spoke and said: *"We know Jesus and we know Paul, but who are you?"* Then the man with the demons jumped on them and beat them up badly. This caused many people to fear God and repent. 14a

In **Acts 19** we find that at times believers only knew about JOHN THE BAPTIST's teaching on repentance, or had never heard of the Holy Spirit. As Paul and the leaders of the Early Church traveled around they had to make sure all the Christians believed the same truths. If you read the **Epistles** (letters written by Paul or other apostles) you can see that they often had to address false teachings or problems in a church. 13a

Many people, including Jewish leaders there were saved and baptized. So Paul stayed in Corinth, teaching for 18 months and started a church. Then Paul went to Ephesus before returning to visit the churches again in Syria. A man named APOLLOS arrived in Ephesus. He had become a Christian and was eager to learn more, so Aquila and Priscilla took him into their home to teach him more. 12a

As Paul and Silas went on to other towns in Greece, their reputation went before them. Some people were eager to learn about Jesus, but often there were Jews expecting them who caused trouble for them. Finally Paul arrived in Athens, where he addressed a big crowd in the main meeting place. The Greeks were great thinkers, but Paul spoke by the Holy Spirit as he shared the Gospel and some became followers. 11a

After that, Saul gave his heart to Jesus and changed completely - so much so that he changed his name to PAUL. He began to preach about Jesus with great authority, and especially to the GENTILES because Jesus had told him that his special calling was to preach to those who were not Jews. So Paul became the first missionary, and God did many miracles through him. Many of the stories in the Book of Acts are about Paul. 5b

As Christians traveled further and further from Jerusalem, the Church also spread to many other lands. But back in Jerusalem, Herod continued to persecute the Christians. He killed JAMES, the brother of John, and threw Peter into prison.



6b

**Acts 13** tells how the Holy Spirit set apart Paul and BARNABAS to be sent out as missionaries from the Church. They sailed to Cyprus and then to what is today called Turkey.

Everywhere they went they started by preaching to the Jews in the synagogues and then also preached to Gentiles. Many people accepted Christ and were saved, and God did many healing miracles.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to many places, at times staying for months to start new churches. Finally they returned to Jerusalem to report to Peter and the church there. They told about their experiences and everyone marveled. But they did not all agree on everything. So they all prayed and talked together, and finally agreed on the advice they would give to new Gentile believers, which they wrote in a letter. 8b



One of the first to accept Jesus there was LYDIA, a business woman, who invited them to stay in her home. So Paul and Silas preached the Gospel to many there in Philippi.

9b



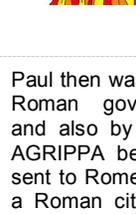
Learn about the Old Testament of the Bible in the booklet **"God prepares the way!"**

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When they arrived in Rome, Paul was met and welcomed by some Christians, and even allowed to live in a house by himself with a soldier to guard him. He was allowed to preach and many believers came to his home to hear him. He stayed there for two years teaching about Christ, and also wrote many letters to the churches he had started on his missionary journeys. You can read them in the New Testament Epistles. 19a

Everyone was cold and wet but the islanders came to help them and built a fire to warm everyone. As Paul helped with the fire, he was bitten by a deadly snake and everyone expected him to die. But he

shook it off, confident that God would let him live and get to Rome.



18a

Paul then was tried by the new Roman governor, FESTUS, and also by the Jewish King AGRIPPA before finally being sent to Rome because he was a Roman citizen by birth. So Paul and some other prisoners were put on a ship to sail to Italy. But soon they were hit by bad winter storms and everyone was terrified.



17a

In Jerusalem Paul met again with JAMES and the elders of the church. But soon some Jews from Asia arrived and wrongfully accused Paul, which led to a riot. The Roman commander arrested Paul to protect him, but allowed him to speak to the crowd. So Paul told them all his testimony, but afterwards the crowd still demanded he be killed. Then Paul was taken to speak with the Sanhedrin - Jewish leaders

16a

## Introduction

In the New Testament of the Bible we read in the **Gospels** how the Messiah, JESUS CHRIST, was born, lived and died on earth, but was resurrected to show us we can also have eternal life in Heaven. He told us how we can become his followers, and he gave us the **Great Commission** - to go and preach the Gospel to everyone on earth. **Mark 16:15**



The disciples were all together in a room when the Holy Spirit came upon them, like a great wind and flames of fire. They were immediately filled with boldness and God's power.

1b

PETER had already been told by Jesus that he had been chosen to be the founder of the Church, and as he continued to preach and teach the people, God began to do miracles through him. In **Acts 3** we read how the faith of Peter and

JOHN healed a beggar who had been unable to walk all his life.



2b

This caused the people to fear and respect God even more. As the number of Christians grew greater, the religious leaders stirred up trouble against them. In **Acts 7** we read how they arrested STEPHEN and after he had preached to them all, they stoned him to death for his faith.



3b

PHILIP was one of those who went to Samaria, where his preaching led to crowds of people accepting Christ. In **Acts 8** we read how Philip was then led by the Holy Spirit to walk in the desert, where he met a man from Ethiopia, who was seeking to understand the scriptures. Philip was able to explain them to him, and led him to accept Christ, and then baptized him in a pool of water.

4b

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1. Print Page 1 and then Page 2 on the back of it
2. Trim top and bottom borders
3. Cut vertically in half
4. Cut horizontally along lines
5. Lay out page 1a/19b on table, then place on top in order 2a/18b, then 3a/17b and so on
6. Fold in half\*
7. Add colored cover and staple. Trim edges even.

\*(It is best to fold each little double page in half separately before you staple it as sometimes the printing is not quite even and part of the words could be lost. At the end after you've put on the cover and stapled it all together you can just trim off the extra on the outside edge of the pages to make them even.)

Here are some of the other mini-books planned:

