



Kids Club

Elementary Leader Guide

Feb.
Week 4
Feb. 23, 2024

Leader Info

Each week kids will learn about a few books of the Bible along with some simple hand motions to help them remember what each book is about. The goal is that by the end of the 12 weeks, kids will be able to say all 66 books of the Bible from memory and have a general idea of what each book is about.

Memory Verse:

"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right." - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIRV)

Lesson 8: History Again

Scripture: Acts 9:1-19

Bottom Line: Acts tells the history of the early church.

Objective: Kids will memorize the next book: Acts.

Summary: After Jesus returned to Heaven, the church began to spread. The more people opposed the Gospel, the faster it grew! Acts tells the incredible story of the early church and the first missionaries.

Schedule:

20 minutes- Set out 2-4 rotations of seated activities for kids to play. Sit with them, play with them. Ask questions about their past week, pets, family, and other things that are important to them. This is important relation-building time!

10 minutes- Lesson intro and discussion (page 1)

10-15 minutes- Activities (page 2)

15-20 minutes- Games // Free play

MEMORY VERSE

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***"God has breathed life into all Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true. It is useful for correcting our mistakes. It is useful for making our lives whole again. It is useful for training us to do what is right."* - 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIRV)**

SUPPLIES: paper cut into strips

Begin by dividing the kids into two or more teams and giving each team a set of strips of paper with phrases from 2 Timothy 3:16 written on them, mixed up. Place the strips at a starting line, and have each team line up at a finish line. One child at a time runs to the starting line, grabs a strip, and brings it back to their team until all the strips are collected. Once they have all the pieces, the team works together to arrange the verse in the correct order. The leader checks their work, and if it's incorrect, they must rearrange it until it's right. For added fun, repeat the relay and challenge the teams to beat their previous time. Afterward, read the verse aloud as a group and discuss how it shows the importance of Scripture in our lives.

TEACHING TIME

BOTTOM LINE:

Acts tells the history of the early church.

SAY:

"The New Testament begins with what some people call the greatest story ever told. Four different men - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - each take a turn telling their version of the story of Jesus. Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament and became the Savior of the world. He died to pay for our sins, and he rose again so that he could give us eternal life.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the end of one story but the beginning of another. After Jesus went away to Heaven, he sent his Holy Spirit to Earth. The early believers, who were waiting for a sign from God, were given the Holy Spirit, and they went out to preach the Gospel. It didn't take long before a small room full of people turned into thousands of people as the Good News of Jesus spread.

Today we're looking at just one book of the Bible, but it's a book jammed with history and stories. The full name of this book is the Acts of the Apostles. It was written by Luke, who wrote the Gospel of Luke, and it tells the story of how the disciples and early believers began to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Many people were happy to hear this Good News, but not everyone. One man in particular, Saul, made it his purpose to hunt down and destroy the church and the early believers. But God had other plans for the man named Saul, and one day, Saul came face to face with Jesus.

READ ACTS 9:1-19



Main Point:

"Saul was a bad man. He wanted to find everyone who believed in Jesus and have them arrested or killed.

He had already stood by and watched as a young believer named Stephen was murdered, the first person to die for believing in Jesus, and he was on the road hunting for more believers to bring to justice.

That's when Jesus appeared to Saul. A bright light blinded Saul, but in that blinding light, he saw that he was wrong. Like the Old Testament believers in exile and like the few good kings in ancient Israel and Judah, Saul saw that he needed to get right with God. God gave Saul his sight back and Saul became Paul, the most prolific, well traveled, and important leader in the days of the early church.

Saul's story is nothing new. It's the same story we've read over and over. Man rebels against God. God stops the man in his tracks. The man says he sorry, and God gives him a second chance. This is the story of the early church - God finding people like Saul and saving them. Because of men like Saul, we are here today, worshipping God in our church."

Drive it Home:

"We've asked a lot from you guys in this series. Some weeks you only learned four or five books, but in other weeks, you've learned as many as twelve at a time. It's not easy memorizing the books of the Bible, but the bigger the chunks you learn, the sooner you'll have them all.

Our purpose today isn't to try and cram more books in your head. It's to celebrate the stories in this one book. The Acts isn't Gospel, and it isn't a letter like the books that follow. It's the story of how followers like the disciples became leaders, and how many people came to know Jesus without ever seeing him for themselves.

Acts is an important book that cannot only educate us about the past, but inspire us today. Christians are still persecuted, just as they were in Saul's time, and sometimes we have to be bold enough to stand up for Christ. God is counting on us to represent him in this world. Will we have the courage of Peter and Paul? Will we be willing to put our faith into action?

Acts is the story of how God grew his church. It's the story of the power of the Holy Spirit. It's a story of redemption and forgiveness. It is the story of us."

HAND MOTIONS:

"Do you realize that the church we are in would not exist if it weren't for the early believers who built the early church? People like Peter, John, James, and the other disciples could not possibly have imagined churches like ours. They met in people's homes. Sometimes they had to hide from the authorities for fear of their lives. But because of their faithfulness and courage, our church and thousands like it are open today, worshipping God because of their acts.

The book of Acts is the story of the early church. It's an amazing story of the brave believers who risked everything, including their lives, to spread the Good News of Jesus. The story of Acts can help us appreciate the church we have, but it can also challenge us to be stronger and more bold about our faith.



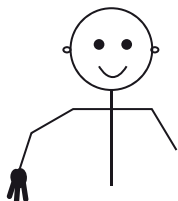
Our hand motion for this book is an easy one. Put your hands together like you're holding an axe. Good. Now swing like you're chopping down a tree. Acts. I think you'll all remember that one, won't you? "

Repeat the Gospels and Acts with their hand motions with the kids 2-3 times then review all the books from Genesis to Acts to wrap up the lesson.



MATTHEW

Make a big "M" with two hands



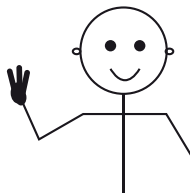
MARK

Make a small M with 3 fingers on one hand



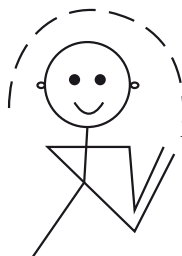
LUKE

Make an L with the thumb and index finger of one hand



JOHN

Make a W to remember, "In the beginning was the Word..."



ACTS

Swing a pretend axe with your hands

ACTIVITIES

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever had a moment when something completely changed the way you thought about something or someone? What happened?

This question connects to Saul's dramatic transformation on the road to Damascus and encourages kids to reflect on their own experiences of change or new understanding.

GAME: BLINDFOLD JOURNEY

SUPPLIES: blindfolds (one per child or team), simple obstacle course items (e.g., chairs, cones, books, or other objects to create a path)

1. **Set Up the Course:** Create a simple obstacle course in the room with a clear starting and ending point.
2. **Introduce the Activity:** Talk about how Saul was blinded on the road to Damascus and had to trust others to guide him to Damascus (Acts 9:8).
3. **Blindfold the Participants:** Blindfold one child or team member at a time. Another child acts as their guide, giving verbal directions (no touching allowed) to help them navigate the obstacle course safely.
4. **Switch Roles:** Once they complete the course, switch roles so everyone has a chance to be both the guide and the one being guided.
5. **Debrief:** After everyone has had a turn, discuss how it felt to be blindfolded and rely on someone else. Connect this to Saul trusting others and ultimately trusting God after his encounter with Jesus.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Ask the kids questions like, "What do you think Saul learned from being blinded?" or "How can we trust God even when we can't see the whole plan?" This activity reinforces the lesson of trusting God and others while engaging kids in a hands-on experience.

REVIEW: KIND OF A BIG DEAL

SUPPLIES: **Books of the Bible Key Chain Cards(1 set/kid), metal binder rings (1/kid)**

PREP: Cut out the books of the bible sets so each kid has a set. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card.

Each week, kids will add the books they are studying each week to their key chain. Make sure their names are on their keychain somewhere. They will leave it at church and take home at the end of the Books of the Bible Unit.

Add the books from today: Acts.

Recite the books and practice the motions as kids add to their keychain. Have volunteers read the clues on the back of each card.



PRAYER:

SUPPLIES: Paper hearts (pre-cut or kids can cut their own), Markers, crayons, or pencils, a basket or container

"Open My Eyes" Prayer Activity

1. **Reflect on the Story:** Briefly recap how Saul was blinded on the road to Damascus and how his sight was restored through Ananias. Explain that God used this moment to open Saul's physical and spiritual eyes to His truth.
2. **Guide the Prayer Exercise:** Ask the kids to think about areas in their lives where they might need God to "open their eyes" (e.g., seeing His plans, recognizing His love, understanding how to treat others).
3. **Silent Prayer or Writing:** Older kids can write down their thoughts or prayers on paper, asking God to help them see clearly in those areas. Younger kids can draw something they'd like God to help them understand or see better.
4. **Pray Together:** Lead a group prayer asking God to open everyone's eyes, hearts, and minds to His will and ways, just as He did for Saul. Encourage the kids to pray silently or aloud if they feel comfortable.
5. **Closing Reflection:** Share how Saul's transformation reminds us that God has a purpose for each of us and can guide us, even when we don't understand everything at first.