



GO, THEREFORE...

God's Incredible Plan • U10# 2 1st-3rd Grade • May 3, 2026

Concept

The Holy Spirit empowers His church to spread the gospel to all nations.

Goal

Students will learn that the Holy Spirit will empower them to tell people about Jesus.

Passage

Acts 1-2

Key Verse: "But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world." Acts 1:8 (NCV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Photocopies from You Can Change the World, by Jill Johnstone & From Arapesh to Zuni, Karen Lewis, Akedu to Zapotec – a Book of Bibleless Peoples, June Hathersmith, 1 copy/student</i>• <i>Bible Atlases</i> <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"Spread of the Early Church" large laminated map</i> <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Water gun</i> <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Miniature tootsie rolls, 1/student</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant, Glen Keane</i>	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small maps of the Roman Empire, 1/student• Pencils, markers• Black, red, white, yellow, and green "pony" beads, 3 of each color/student• Elastic cord, 8"/student• 6 shallow white plastic trays• "Share the Good News!," 1/student• Crayons, markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

God's Incredible Plan • U10# 2 1st-3rd Grade

The book of Acts is crucial to understanding the definition, inception, purpose, and progression of the church. It explains the transition of God's plan of redemption in the Old Testament to His plan of redemption in the New. "Suppose we had not this record, would it be possible for us to understand the Epistles on the background of the Old Testament? In the Epistles we have Christianity, and in the Old Testament we have Judaism, but without the Acts we could not know how the one came to supersede the other, how the Church displaced the Temple and synagogue, and how national privileges yielded to world-wide blessing." [1] In addition, there would be no explanation for the apostleship of Paul.

Acts 1:1-11 recounts Christ's final instructions to His disciples. Jesus charged His followers with the task of carrying His message of salvation to the remotest parts of the earth. This commission, a basic reiteration of His command in Matthew 28:19-20, was His final statement of purpose for His people. Then He returned to heaven.

Acts 2:1-13 explains how Jesus' commission was to be carried out. Verses 1-4 describe the initial coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. "There were Christians before Pentecost (i. 13, 15. I Cor. xv. 6), but on this day they were constituted the Christian Church by the Descent and Baptism of the Holy Spirit: Christian believers became Christ's Body." [2] With the price for sin paid, the Spirit could now permanently indwell people (see John 7:39; Romans 8:9 and Ephesians 1:13). Under the new Covenant, God Himself lives inside every Christian! And the arrival of the Holy Spirit ushered in the church.

The arrival of the Holy Spirit had to be simultaneous with the beginning of the church in order for the church to fulfill Jesus' commission of Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses. . ." Without the power of the Holy Spirit, God's people are powerless to reach the world with the gospel. For the first time in biblical history, God is telling His people to go out into the nations, instead of to remain separate from them. Armed with the power and protection of the Spirit, God's people can now remain spiritually unified even among the nations!

[1] W. Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*, vol. 2 (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1976), p. 178.

[2] *Ibid*, p. 205.

Set Up

- Hang the "Spread of the Early Church" laminated map on the white board using the heavy magnets or poster putty. PLEASE DO NOT use tape or tacks on the map.
- The teacher who will be the mystery person for the DRAMA should get props/costume items (hats, glasses, beard, etc.) from the storage room (if at Main Campus) and also fill the water gun.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations

- **World Study**
 - **Instructions:** Set out photocopied pages from You Can Change the World, From Arapesh to Zuni & From Akedu to Zapotec. Discuss the fact that these pages tell us about people groups who have never heard about Jesus. Have students choose one people group to learn about. Give each student a pencil to underline 2-3 facts and 1-2 prayer points to share with the class, their family or to help them remember to pray.
- **Map Work**
 - **Instructions:** Set out Bible Atlases. Give each student a copy of the Roman Empire map. Have them use the Atlas to find and label Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and as many of the nations mentioned in Acts 2:9-10 as possible. Then draw a line from Jerusalem out to each of the locations. Color the maps.
- **Craft – Gospel Bracelets**
 - Today we will be talking about the purpose of the church, which is to share the good news of Christ with others. We are going to make bracelets that you can share with a friend. The colors on the bracelet each represent a truth about how to become a member of God's family. When you give your friend the bracelet you can share the good news about Jesus as you explain the meaning of each color.
 - **Instructions:** Give each student an 8" piece of elastic cord. Put several beads of each color in the plastic trays. Tie a knot at one end of the elastic cord. Thread the beads on the elastic in the following order: black, red, white, yellow, green. Tie the ends of the elastic together in a knot. Give each student a "Share the Good News!" sheet to remind them of the meaning of each color. Color the hearts with the corresponding colors.
- **Missions Prayer**
 - **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Introduction

This year we've learned about God's Incredible Plan—to send a Savior, who was descended from Abraham and David, to deliver people from their sins.

Introduction Continued

Last week, we learned about the most important event(s) in history: the death and resurrection of Jesus. Why was this important? (Because He died and took the punishment we deserve.) Jesus was the promised Savior. When Jesus died on the cross, payment for sin was made. Everyone grab a Bible and turn to the book of Acts.

Who knows what Jesus did after He rose from the dead? Did He go back to heaven? (Let the students answer.) He stuck around for about forty days and showed Himself to over 500 people. Let's read about the last thing He said before He left the earth to go back with God, the Father.

Follow along while I read Acts 1:8-11. So Jesus gave them one last command and then got sucked up into the clouds while they looked on. That must have been really strange! But these two men in white, probably angels, said, "What are you staring at? Don't worry, He'll be back some day."

Let's look again at verse 8. This is the command Jesus gave the disciples and it is your key verse for this week. "But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world" (Acts 1:8). (Point on the map to the regions of Judea and Samaria and all over as you read.) So, in your own words, what was Jesus' last command to His followers? (It was to tell people all over the world about Jesus.)

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Drama - Surprise, you're a witness!

Goal: Participation as a witness

Instructions: The mystery teacher will suddenly run into the room from the hall. Run around the room, in and out through the students while squirting them with the water gun. Yell out, "There are 7 days in a week." Then run out of the classroom. The teacher who was doing the introduction will continue with the debrief.

Debrief

Who would like to tell us what just happened? How would you describe the person; what did he/she do? What did he/she say? (Allow students to respond.) You were all just witnesses to this surprise event. When you're asked to be a witness, what does that mean? It means to say what you've seen or what you know to be true. You saw this person come in the room and were able to tell what he/she looked like and what he/she did and what he/she said. Or if someone sees a bank robbery, then he can call a policeman and witness or tell about the crime he saw. He shares what he saw and what he knows, even if he doesn't know everything. In the same way, Jesus wants His followers to tell people everything they know about Him.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Jesus told the disciples, "But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world" (Acts 1:8). So, what was it that Jesus' followers told about Jesus? (They told what He was like, what He said and what He did.) Who remembers from the map activity station where they were to go to tell about Jesus? (They were to start in Jerusalem, go to the surrounding areas and out to the whole world.)

Let's talk about what Jesus said He would give His followers to help them tell others about Him.

Right before Jesus gave His last command to the disciples, He said something else. Follow along as I read **Acts 1:3-5**. So Jesus said, "Stick around here in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes, like I've been saying He would." Before Jesus died, He told His disciples that when He left, the Holy Spirit would come to help them. He can do things we can't—like tell us what to say, guide us, give us power to do great things, and go ahead of us to prepare the hearts of the people we will talk to. He helps us to tell other people about Jesus. What do people need to know about Jesus? (That he lived a perfect life and then died on the cross so that we can have a relationship with God, even though we don't deserve it. We need to know how to be forgiven by God even though we don't deserve it, so that we can live forever with God.) Not everyone knows this. Many people think they have to do good things to go to heaven. They don't know they can be forgiven for everything bad they've ever done just by asking God to forgive them. Knowing how to have a relationship with God is the most important thing for anyone to know, because it's forever! Just as you will be excited to tell your moms and dads about the surprise squirt gun event in our classroom, we have all been given this great exciting news to tell about Jesus. That's why Jesus' last words were, "But the Holy Spirit will come to you. Then you will receive power. You will be my witnesses—in Jerusalem, in all of Judea, in Samaria, and in every part of the world" (Acts 1:8).

Transition

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Sometimes we may think that just one person can't make much of a difference. But let's see what God can do through one person who has God's Spirit living in him and is willing to tell one other person about Jesus.

Game - Many from One

Goal: To see the possible result of sharing Christ with 1, 2 or 3 people.

Instructions: Clear an opening in the middle of the room, pushing the tables and chairs against the wall. Ask for one volunteer to stand in the middle of the room. Divide the class into 3 groups. Arrange the groups in a circle around the volunteer. Give the volunteer the tootsie rolls. Teachers may need to help with division of the tootsie rolls.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

I want one volunteer from each group to go to <<person in the middle>> and take a tootsie roll for each person in your group, including yourself. Go back to your group. Keep a tootsie roll for yourself and divide the rest of the tootsie rolls in two equal piles. Now you choose 2 people and give each of them one of those two piles. Now you next two keep a tootsie roll for yourself and divide the rest of the pieces in two equal piles. (Continue in the same way until everyone has a tootsie roll.)

Debrief

Everyone with a tootsie roll, hold it up in the air. How did you get the tootsie roll? (Someone gave it to me.) We can trace these tootsie rolls back to <<the person in the middle>>. Everyone has a tootsie roll not because <<the person in the middle>> gave each of you one, but because s/he gave 3 people tootsie rolls and those three people each gave 2 others and those 2 others. The news of Jesus begins with one person telling another, who tells another, who tells another and on and on. That is God's plan for the world to know about Christ. He puts His Spirit in people who believe in Him. Then God does great and wonderful things through those who choose to trust Him to help them share the message of Jesus Christ. If we have Jesus in our hearts, we have this very same power at work in our lives. If we're willing to be His witnesses, He'll use us to give others the opportunity to hear and have their lives changed for eternity. This doesn't necessarily mean that everyone we witness to will believe and ask Jesus to forgive their sins, but it does mean that everyone we tell has had a chance to hear.

Transition

Let's read a story about Adam Raccoon. King Aren told him to go tell others about his kingdom.

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Story - Adam Raccoon and the Mighty Giant Good News

What do people need to know about Jesus? (We need to know how to be forgiven by God even though we don't deserve it, so that we can live forever with God.) Not everyone knows this. Many people think they have to do good things to go to heaven. They don't know they can be forgiven for everything bad they've ever done just by asking God to forgive them. Knowing how to have a relationship with God is the most important thing for anyone to know, because it's forever!

Are all people a part of the church? How do you become a part of God's church? All you have to do is tell Jesus you want Him to forgive all your sins. Then the Holy Spirit comes to live inside you. Those people who have the Holy Spirit living in are a part of God's church.

Let's get into small groups to talk about this story.

Transition

Learning Activity#4 Sm. Groups

Optional Activity

Small Group

- Everyone in the story was afraid to tell the giant about King Aren. But Adam did finally go. What if he hadn't? (The giant wouldn't have heard about King Aren and his kingdom from Adam Raccoon.)
- King Aren asked the animals in his kingdom to tell the giant about him. Who does God ask to go and tell others about Jesus?
- Jesus said that the church should tell people about Him. Most people think that the church is a building. But what does the Bible say about the church? (It's people, not a building.)
- What would you say is the purpose of the church?
- If you are part of God's church, Jesus says He wants you to tell others about Him. Who will you tell? What will you tell them?
- How can we do this big job? Who did God give us to help us? (He gave us the Holy Spirit.)

Let's pray

- Have students who studied about the other countries present their findings and pray for those countries.
- Practice using the bracelets to share the gospel.