

THE CONTINUING ACTS OF THE CHRIST



Week Two - Babel Reversed

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The book of Acts is the continued story of how Jesus has changed everything through his life, death, and now resurrection. His Spirit fills his followers so they can continue the work of Jesus, bringing good news, caring for the vulnerable, loving one another, and bringing restoration as a sample of God's kingdom to come. Pray this lesson helps our kids see they are invited into this work too!

- **Big Idea:** Human glory brings division / God's glory brings unity

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Languages Discussion**

Do any of you speak other languages besides English? Can we hear some words? What if we all spoke a different language here and couldn't understand each other — what would that be like? What language do you think God speaks?

Sing Together

Story - from Acts 2:1-21

God had sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue all of creation. Jesus was born by the Spirit, lived obedient to the Father, loved others well, healed the sick, fed the poor, taught about God's kingdom, and even raised the dead to life to reverse the effects of sin. Then he willingly gave his life over to death so that he could conquer death on our behalf. The same Spirit who brought Jesus into the world, who Jesus did all his work through, breathed life back into Jesus' dead body and raised him to new life!

Then Jesus came back to his followers and promised them that they would continue to follow him into new life, but in the meantime they would continue the work of Jesus here and now — and all of this through the power of the same Spirit of God. Jesus told them to wait until God's Spirit came upon them so they could do the work of God.

One day when thousands of Jewish people had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate a holiday called the Feast of Weeks (where they remembered how God made a covenant promise with His people after He rescued them out of slavery to Egypt), Jesus' followers were sitting in a room praying to God.

Suddenly, a strong wind filled the whole building and something like wildfire spread throughout them. It was the Spirit of God, just as Jesus had promised! Jesus' followers, filled with God's Spirit, all began speaking in different languages they had never spoken before. All of the Jewish people who had traveled there for the celebration were from different countries, so they spoke different languages. Now, all the people could understand because God's Spirit was speaking in every language through Jesus' followers!

Most people were amazed. Some were confused how it was happening. So Peter, one of Jesus' main followers, started explaining what was going on. He retold the Story of God promising to rescue His people. He reminded them of the history of God's people and how Jesus was the promised Rescuer they had always been waiting for — but instead of welcoming him as King, they had him killed. But God raised Jesus to life through the Spirit and now His Spirit was filling His people.

Interestingly, a long time before this God had done something similar. When people everywhere all spoke one language, a bunch of them came together to build a large tower to the heavens to make themselves seem great. God made them all speak different languages and scattered them across the earth. That time it was to stop people from glorifying themselves. This time when God's Spirit made people speak different languages, it was to unite people together to see the glory of God.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why did God cause the people building the tower to speak different languages?
- Why did God allow Jesus' followers to all speak different languages in Jerusalem?
- What was the main difference in these two situations?
- What do you think God wants from people?
- Do you think you can also be filled with God's Spirit? If God doesn't cause you to speak another language, what might He fill you with His Spirit for? (What was God's goal?)

Breakout Time

• **Prayer:**

God, help us to listen to you when you speak. Fill us with your Spirit so we can follow Jesus better and share your good news with others. Amen!

• **Craft:**

- Use the ears on the next page to color, cut out, and attach a pipe cleaner from end to end to make a wearable headband. Talk about how God opened the ears of the crowd to hear in their own language the day the Spirit spoke through Peter
- OR use the coloring sheet on the final page

BLESS Activity

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. God wanted to speak to people through every language. How can you take time this week to listen to what God wants to say to you?



