

Unit 18 at a Glance

Early Church and Missions

Unit Overview

In this unit, the children will watch the amazing and powerful beginning of the church. From early on, the church faced incredible victories and painful tests. The children will see Jesus come to life in the disciples who were determined to be just like him. The children will also see the heart of Paul for the church and its mission as he traveled around the world. Ultimately, the children will see that God wants them to love his church and to be a part of it.

Unit Goals

- The children will learn that the church is God's kingdom on earth today.
- The children will understand that God is still powerfully involved in the church's mission today.
- The children will believe that God has a plan for them to become disciples.

Unit Contents

Lesson 1 Pentecost

Scripture Memory Verse **Acts 2:39**
"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

The children will see that God is the supreme promise keeper as they watch the church begin with power and glory! Not only will the children see the power-filled events that surrounded that special day of Pentecost, but they will also see that the church is God's kingdom on earth today.

Lesson 2 The Church Grows

Scripture Memory Verse **1 Timothy 2:4 (NIRV)**
[God] wants everyone to be saved.

As amazing as its beginning, the church grew rapidly in strength and numbers. The children will get a vision for their own lives as they see God's desire for everyone to be saved.

Lesson 3 Paul and the Early Church

Scripture Memory Verse **Philemon 7**
Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the saints.

Best friends just get better in this lesson about friendship in the kingdom. As the children learn about the special relationship between Paul and Philemon, they will get a vision for how they can have best friends in the church.

Lesson 4 Philip and the Ethiopian

Scripture Memory Verse **Acts 8:30-31**
"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"

The children will take the ride of a lifetime as they hear this story about Philip and the Ethiopian. Not only will the children see that God had a plan for the Ethiopian, but they will consider how God helps people to find him today.





Dear Parent,

In this unit, the children will watch the amazing and powerful beginning of the church. From early on, the church faced incredible victories and painful tests. The children will see Jesus come to life in the disciples who were determined to be just like him. The children will see the heart of Paul for the church and its mission as he traveled around the world. Ultimately, the children will see that God wants them to love his church and to be a part of it.

On the reverse side of this page, you will find an outline and a description of the lessons that comprise this unit. Included with each lesson is a Scripture Memory Verse for you to review with your child at home. Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways you can reinforce these lessons at home:

- As a family, spend a few weeks studying and writing a “book report” on the book of Acts. Draw pictures, make a timeline, and highlight one point from key chapters. Discuss ways that the Holy Spirit led, guided and helped the disciples in the early church and talk about ways that he leads, guides and helps disciples today.
- Host a theme party about the book of Acts. Invite children from Bible class and their friends (and parents!) to come dressed in Bible-time costumes or in characters from the book of Acts. Adapt familiar games to Bible themes. Think up your own. Here are some ideas: Play “Duck, Duck, Goose”—replacing with “Peter, Peter, Paul.” Play “Musical Chairs”—replacing with “Musical Mission.” Label each chair with the name of a city where Paul preached the gospel. Give each child a list of all the cities. Instead of removing a chair each time, have the children each check off the city where they land. The winner is the first child to sit in every chair. Serve “Acts Snacks” that highlight different stories, i.e. Joppa Juice and Animal Crackers from Acts 10, or ethnic pastries that remind them of Paul’s international travels. Play charades that feature events and characters from this unit. Set up an obstacle course that depicts Paul’s missionary journeys. As you play these games, help your child to see the adventure and excitement in the book of Acts as the disciples served God and reached out to others.
- Invite another family in your ministry to join you for a devotional on the mission of Jesus. Watch excerpts from the musical “Upside Down” and talk about ways that your families can turn the world upside down for Jesus in your communities.
- Write a letter or send a care package to a family who is on the foreign mission field. Encourage them with specific ways that you appreciate their service and sacrifice for the gospel.

We look forward to being partners with you as together we help plant Seeds of Faith in the heart and mind of your child.

Thank you,



Your child’s teachers