



St Helen's  
Bishopsgate

# Acts

## Teaching material for 3-5's

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The king is growing his kingdom.



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# The 'material' of Sunday school



The unfolding story of the Bible is revealed progressively through 66 books. These books were written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They were written with an agenda to a real audience. **Through these books, by His Spirit, God works.** He gives new life and disciples His people.

At Sunday school our desire is to teach through books of the Bible and allow our teaching to be directed by the Biblical author. We want to make the *main point* of our teaching the main point the author is teaching. We want the *aim* of our teaching to be the aim the author had. When we think about *how* we teach, we want to use the literary style, techniques, and content the Biblical author uses. In short, **we want to teach the Biblical author's point, for the Biblical author's purpose, using the Biblical author's practice.** The more clearly this is done, the more clearly the children will have heard the living God speak to them. As we strive to do this, we pray the fruit would be thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

The team at St Helen's has worked hard studying some key books of the Bible. As we have done so we have endeavoured to write our material following the principles above.

## 3-5's material

The 3-5's material is presented as a skeleton of the session with the example Bible story.

Some parts of the session are provided, and some will need to be prepared. Ie. the Concept, Bible verse, and Action Rhyme are provided. But the concept explanation, Bible verse explanation, game and ACTS prayer will need to be prepared by the leader. Use the space in the material to do this.

The example Bible story has several functions.

Firstly, it is a short talk. This talk could be given verbatim, adapted, used for ideas, or ignored by the individual assigned to give the talk. For less experienced leaders they may wish to read verbatim the example talk, adding in props and visuals. For more experienced leaders they may wish to chop, change, and adapt the example talk as they see fit. For very experienced leaders they may wish to ignore the example talk and write their own, only looking at the example to see another voice on the passage.

Secondly, it is a commentary on the passage. For those not giving the talk the example helps them to understand the passage, how it can be taught, and areas of application. It will also indicate what the speaker might say so that everyone is aligned on the teaching.

# Teaching program | Acts

## The king is building his kingdom

### Introduction to the Book of Acts

Acts is volume 2 of Luke's account of Jesus' life and work written for Theophilus. In the first verse of Acts, Luke explains that volume 1 was about all Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven. The book of Acts is about all that Jesus continued to do and teach as the risen and ascended King. As with Luke's gospel, he is writing to give Theophilus certainty that Jesus is still accomplishing the Old Testament promises as his kingdom is built. Now we see the ascended King Jesus actively growing the kingdom, through his Holy Spirit and the witness of his apostles, to the ends of the earth. This is just as promised in Luke and in the Old Testament.

**1:1-26: King Jesus lays out his plan to build his Kingdom.**

**2:1-8:3: King Jesus builds his kingdom in Jerusalem.**

2:1-4:2: King Jesus opens the doors to his Kingdom in Jerusalem as the Spirit is poured out and the apostles bear witness.

3:1-6:7: King Jesus builds his church, his new temple, despite opposition from the Jewish leaders. His plan is unstoppable.

6:8-8:3: King Jesus builds his kingdom even through the suffering of his servants.

**8:4-9:31: King Jesus builds his kingdom in Judea and Samaria.**

The gospel is making a new Israel.

**9:32-12:24: King Jesus begins to build his kingdom to the ends of the Earth.**

9:32-11:18: The first Gentiles are brought into the Kingdom

11:19-12:25: God's chosen people are now Jew **and** Gentile sharing in a new Exodus.

**12:25-16:5: King Jesus uses Paul to witness to the children of Israel (and then the Gentiles).**

12:25-14:28: Paul witnesses to the Jews in their synagogues but they thrust the word aside, so he turns to the gentiles and many believe.

15:1-16:5: At the Jerusalem council the apostles decide the Gentiles have no need to keep the law; instead, they will write to them concerning Christian conduct.

**16:6-19:20: King Jesus uses Paul to witness to idolatrous Gentiles.**

Many turn from ignorance and idols to worship the one true God.

**19:21-28:16: King Jesus uses Paul to witness to Kings.**

## Action rhyme

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

Lesson 1      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

Lesson 2      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He pours his Spirit out  
To make his people shout  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

Lesson 3      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
His disciples speak of him  
Throughout Jerusalem (im?)  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

Lesson 4      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
There's no one who can stop it  
Until all the world has got it  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

Lesson 5      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
It might be very tough  
Some people may be rough  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

Lesson 6      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
The good news it will spread  
Like butter on hot bread (!)  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

Lesson 7      *King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
The good news is for all  
From Peru to Nepal  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his kingdom*

## Teaching plan

Week	Lesson	Passage	Story	Concept
1 2	1	1:1 and 1:8	The Plan	King Jesus has a plan to grow his kingdom. Wk 1: Focus more on the Holy Spirit Wk 2: Focus more on the Good News Spreading
3 4	2	2:1-13	The Holy Spirit in Jerusalem	King Jesus gives the Holy Spirit.
5 6	3	2:14-41	The Good News in Jerusalem	King Jesus' kingdom grows
7 8	4	5:12-42	Enemies	King Jesus' plan can't be stopped.
9 10	5	6:8-8:3	Suffering	King Jesus' plan will be hard.
11 12	6	8:4-40	Judea and Samaria	King Jesus' good news will spread.
13 14	7	10	The Ends of the Earth	King Jesus' good news is for everyone.



# The Plan



Concept | King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom.

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

## Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

## Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom.

**Concept explanation:**

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## Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

**Visuals and props:**

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 1:8

**Bible verse explanation**

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**Action rhyme**

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

**🎵 Closing song**

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

**Game**

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## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Story

### The Plan

I wonder if you've ever thought, what's **Jesus** doing now? We can't see him with our eyes. Does that mean he's not real? No! If I go behind this screen [go behind screen] am I not real? No! We can't see him with our eyes. Does that mean he's not alive? If I go behind this screen [go behind screen] does that mean I'm not alive? We can't see him with our eyes. Does that mean he's not doing anything? No! [Go behind the screen and do something silly.] What do you think I might be doing behind this screen? [Take some guesses.] I was actually \_\_\_\_\_. We don't need to guess what Jesus is doing. We're going to look at a book in the Bible this term that tells us what King Jesus is doing even when we can't see him. The Book of Acts.

The book of Acts starts when people could see Jesus. It was after Easter Sunday. Jesus has come back to life from the dead. He went around to his disciples proving to them that he was alive. [Use toy figures or puppets and move them around a table.] After 40 days proving he was alive it was time for him to go up into heaven to be with his Father and sit on his throne. First, he had one, last, very important thing to say to his disciples. He had to tell them his plan, because he wants them to do it with him. [Have Acts 1:8 printed out in a speech bubble with pictures to help illustrate.]

'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...

Jesus promised to send his apostles a special present so they could do Jesus' mission. If you've got a special mission you might be given all kinds of things to do it... binoculars a disguise, rope. The apostles are given something or rather someone much better to do their mission. The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God living with us. The apostles would receive all God's power to help them. Wow! But what kind of power? Would they be like superheroes with powers of super strength? No! Listen to what Jesus says next...

'And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

They would have power to make them super bold to tell others the good news about Jesus. Jesus showed them he was alive [refer back to the puppets/figures from earlier] and now they were to tell others what they'd seen. King Jesus wanted the good news that he was alive and king to spread. [Get out a map or an inflatable globe.] From Jerusalem where Jesus died to the country around Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, to every corner of the world. [Show on globe at each point.]


Let's play a game to show that. [Play a game of Chinese whispers. Get one child from each line to come out of the room and give them a message. They go in and tell the next person in the line and so on. You could do it once with a silly sentence and once with 'Jesus is king'.]

King Jesus wants the good news to spread, because that's how people come into his kingdom. Jesus wants people from every country to be part of his kingdom.

After Jesus told them the plan, clouds came down and took him into heaven [Have a cloud picture to take the puppet/doll Jesus up to heaven.] But just because they couldn't see him and just because we can't see him it doesn't mean he's not alive and working. King Jesus is growing his Kingdom as people speak about Jesus. [Could blow up a balloon to illustrate the kingdom getting bigger as people speak about him.] It started in the book of Acts and it's carrying on today. We can join in the plan as we hear about Jesus and speak about him to others with his Holy Spirit's help. Isn't that exciting!


## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.


Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.


Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.

Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.

Please God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God,  
And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# The Holy Spirit in Jerusalem



Concept | King Jesus gives the Holy Spirit

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

### Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus gives the Holy Spirit

### Concept explanation

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### Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

## Visuals and props:

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 2:1-4

**Bible verse explanation**

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## Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He pours his Spirit out  
To make his people shout  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

## Game

## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Story

## The Holy Spirit in Jerusalem

How do you know when a race has started? We say, '**Ready, steady, go!**' [Get them to join in on the 'Go!' They can do the same as you repeat this phrase throughout the talk.] In the Olympic running races they might fire a gun or blow a horn and then everyone knows the race has started. Run! [Could play a game at this point or earlier to illustrate this.] Today's true story from the Bible is a very exciting moment. It's like Jesus saying, '**Ready, Steady, Go!**' His plan started in Jerusalem just like he said it would. It started when he gave the disciples the very special gift he promised.

The disciples are in Jerusalem, where Jesus died [show on globe] all huddled together in one place, a bit like we are. Then suddenly a sound like the blowing of a very strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. [Put on a fan in the corner.] That's not loud enough. Can you help me make the sound of a rushing wind? How loud can you be? [Get them to make rushing wind noises.] So, that's what they could hear, but what could they see?

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that came to rest on each of them. [Have little flames for them to hold above their heads. Crumpled up crepe paper?] It sounds a bit scary; a loud sound of a powerful wind and fire on their heads. What's going on?

The wind and the fire were signs that God was there with them. They were signs that God was not just visiting, but he was coming to live in each of them. What an amazing gift! King Jesus was giving them the Holy Spirit just like he promised.

What is the gift of the Holy Spirit for though? Is the Holy Spirit going to give them power to run super fast? [mime running really fast]. Is the Holy Spirit going to give them power to be super strong? [show your muscles!]. No! The Holy Spirit gives them power to speak! [sign speaking] They started speaking about Jesus in all different languages. Does anyone know any other languages? [You could get them to copy you saying 'Jesus is Lord' in a few different languages.] Imagine being able to say those words without ever being taught! That is what the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to do.


You see, outside the door of their room, there were thousands of people visiting in Jerusalem. They had come from all over the world for a special festival called Pentecost.

The disciples came out speaking to them in many different languages and the people were amazed. Everyone could understand as they told them about Jesus who died and came back to life to be King.

**Ready Steady Go!** King Jesus' plan has started in Jerusalem. He started it by giving the Holy Spirit, just like he said. Now, the disciples have power to tell everyone about Jesus. Did you know King Jesus is still giving people his Holy Spirit today? Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit, so we can know him and tell others about him. There isn't wind and fire anymore when the Holy Spirit comes, but it's just as amazing and special. We should say, thank you Jesus for giving us your Holy Spirit.


## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.


Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.


Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.

Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.

Please God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

 **Closing song**

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.*

*We've gathered together to hear from God,*

*And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# The Good News in Jerusalem



Concept | King Jesus' kingdom grows

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

### Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus' kingdom grows.

### Concept explanation

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### Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

## Visuals and props:

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 2:36

**Bible verse explanation**

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## Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
His disciples speak of him  
Throughout Jerusalem (im?)  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

## Game

## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Story

### The Good News in Jerusalem

We've seen that King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom. Jesus wants the number of people who follow him as king to get bigger and bigger and bigger. Last time Jesus' plan started when he sent the Holy Spirit on his disciples. But they are just a few disciples in a room. That's not very big. Will the rest of Jesus' plan happen? Will his kingdom grow? If you want this plant to grow what has to happen? [Have a real plant and water it.] If you want this balloon to grow what has to happen? [Blow into a real balloon.] How will Jesus' kingdom grow? Let's see what happens next...

We're in Jerusalem and it's packed full of people from miles around. People have travelled to Jerusalem from far away. They are buying and selling, laughing, and eating, chattering in all different languages, because there's a big festival happening called Pentecost.

The disciples have just received the Holy Spirit and they come out into the street speaking about Jesus in all different languages. It's so strange, people think they've drunk too much wine. Peter stands up to explain what's going on.

[Pretend to be Peter by putting a teatowel on your head and picking up a homemade megaphone.] Peter then gave a long speech to tell them the good news about Jesus. He told them that Jesus is alive and that he is sitting on the throne as King in heaven. He told them Jesus was giving his Spirit. This is how he finished...[stand up on chair and speak through megaphone] "Let all Israel know this for sure: God has made this Jesus, whom you put to death on a cross, both Lord and Messiah." The people listening were shocked [ask the children to show on their faces]. They said together, "what shall we do?" [Get the children to repeat.] They knew they were in trouble and needing saving.

Peter told them, "Turn away from your sin and trust in Jesus and you'll be forgiven." About 3000 people listened to the good news and believed in Jesus that day in Jerusalem!

Isn't that amazing? King Jesus has grown his kingdom. It's got bigger by 3000 more people in Jerusalem. How did it get bigger? The disciples spoke the good news about Jesus. **King Jesus' kingdom grows with the good news.**


It's a bit like this balloon. When we use our breath to speak about Jesus and people believe the kingdom grows [demonstrate using the balloon].


King Jesus' plan started with the disciples speaking the good news on that first day in Jerusalem, just like Jesus said it would. And guess what? King Jesus has been carrying on his plan ever since. Whenever anyone speaks the good news about King Jesus and


someone believes it, the kingdom grows a little bit more. King Jesus is growing his kingdom whenever people speak the good news about him.


## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.  
Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.  
Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.  
Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.  
Please God... \_\_\_\_\_

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God,  
And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# Enemies



Concept | **King Jesus' plan can't be stopped**

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

### Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus' plan can't be stopped

### Concept explanation

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### Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

## Visuals and props:

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 5:40b-42

**Bible verse explanation**

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## Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
There's no one who can stop it  
Until all the world has got it  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

## Game

## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*“Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.”*

### Story

### Enemies

Last time we saw King Jesus' plan to grow his kingdom happening in Jerusalem! Jesus' friends, the apostles, were telling everyone the good news about what Jesus said and did. Many people believed and the kingdom was getting bigger! King Jesus was growing his kingdom. Hooray!

BUT...some people don't like Jesus' plan. They want to stop Jesus' plan [hold up stop sign]. They don't want Jesus to be king and they don't want his kingdom to grow. These people are the Jewish leaders [hold up picture or puppets]. Will they be able to stop King Jesus' plan?

The Jewish leaders are so angry at the apostles for talking about Jesus they put them in prison. [Use figures for apostles and put them in a box or printed pictures and put them behind bars.] Oh no! Surely this is going to stop Jesus' plan. They can't talk about Jesus to everyone when they're locked up in a room. [Put a stop sign on the box or over the prison.]

But in the middle of night, Jesus sent an angel, who opened the doors to the prison and let them out! [Remove the bars/open the box]. The angel told them 'Go stand in the temple courts and tell everyone about this new life'. So they did! The Jewish leaders couldn't stop Jesus' plan. [rip up the stop sign.]


The next day the Jewish leaders went to the prison to get the apostles and tell them off, but the prison was empty! They couldn't find the apostles anywhere. 'Where have they gone?' they asked each other. Then someone said, 'I just saw them in the temple talking about Jesus!' How do you think the Jewish leaders felt about that? Very angry!


So the Jewish leaders went to get them again and they brought them to their special court and said, 'We told you not to talk about Jesus! You have to stop talking about Jesus'. [Hold up another stop sign.] But Peter stood up and said 'We have to obey God rather than you. Jesus is king not you. The apostles were not going to stop talking about Jesus. [Rip up stop sign.]


King Jesus' plan couldn't be stopped then and it can't be stopped now. Even though some people don't want to hear about him and don't want us to talk about him, no one can stop his plan. His kingdom will keep getting bigger and bigger and bigger. [Could use the balloon illustration again from previous weeks.] That means if we're on King Jesus' side, we're on the winning side! Hooray!


## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.  
Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.  
Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.  
Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.  
Please God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God,  
And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# Suffering



Concept | King Jesus' plan will be hard

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

## Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

## Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus' plan will be hard.

### Concept explanation

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## Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

## Visuals and props:

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 8:1-2

**Bible verse explanation**

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Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
It might be very tough  
Some people may be rough  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

### 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

**Game**

## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*“Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.”*

### Story

### Suffering

It's lovely when life is happy. When everything is going well. Sometimes sad things happen though. Sometime life is hard and it hurts. It can feel like everything is going wrong. [\[Could play a game with pictures of happy/sad things that might happen in life appropriate to 3-4 years olds – get them to say whether it's a happy thing or a sad thing.\]](#)

In today's story from Acts something very sad happens. It reminds us that sometimes King Jesus' plan will be hard. But we don't need to be worried that everything is going wrong when life is hard for following Jesus. We can still trust King Jesus. King Jesus is still growing his kingdom.

Meet Stephen. Stephen loves Jesus. Stephen loves talking about Jesus. But look who's back. Those Jewish leaders from last time. They are still trying to stop King Jesus' plan. Silly Jewish leaders! Now they want to stop Stephen talking about Jesus. So they arrest him and make up lies about him and send him to the court before the judge, the High Priest. Do you think this is a happy day for Stephen? It must have been very hard. But his face was shining like an angel. God was with him.

Stephen stands up to speak. He gives a long speech explaining that people always hurt God's messengers and that now they have hurt and killed King Jesus. He told them the truth about Jesus, but they were so angry they ground their teeth and snarled like wild animals. Do you think this is a happy day for Stephen? It must have been hard and scary. But he looked up to the sky and saw King Jesus on the throne. Isn't that amazing? God was with him.


This made the Jewish leaders so angry they picked up stones and threw them at him until he died. It was a very very sad day. From that day on everyone who followed Jesus was attacked. People tried to hurt Christians to make them stop talking about him. This still happens today. King Jesus' plan will sometimes be hard. People might be mean to us at school for following Jesus, they might tell us to be quiet when we want to talk about him. It might not always feel happy.


But, even though it's hard we don't need to worry. Stephen went straight to be with Jesus in heaven and now he has only happy days. So does everyone who dies following Jesus.


On earth, King Jesus' plan kept on going. It still can't be stopped. The people spread out to Judea and Samaria [\[show on globe/map\]](#). Do you remember Judea and Samaria? That's the next part of Jesus' plan! I wonder what's going to happen there...


## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.  
Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.  
Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.  
Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.  
Please God... \_\_\_\_\_

### 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God,  
And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# Judea and Samaria



Concept | King Jesus' good news will spread.

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

## Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

## Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus' good news will spread

### Concept explanation

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## Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

## Visuals and props:

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 8:4-6

**Bible verse explanation**

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## Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
The good news it will spread  
Like butter on hot bread (!)  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

## Game

## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*“Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.”*

### Story

### Judea and Samaria

Have you ever heard such good news you've just had to tell someone else? Maybe you're having a birthday party. Maybe you've got a new baby brother or sister. You just want everyone to know. Good news is often like that. It spreads, so that more and more people are talking about it.

Up until now in the book of Acts the good news about Jesus has been in one city. Jerusalem. [Mark Jerusalem on a map.] Today the good news about Jesus spreads outside of Jerusalem, just like Jesus said it would. Can you remember where Jesus said it would go next? Judea and Samaria. [You could illustrate this by having a bowl of water and drop a rock into it so they can see the ripples spreading. Or you could have a saucer of milk and drop food colouring in to watch it spread. With a big group you could have a couple of leaders primed to show the children in small groups. The rock/food colouring is the good news starting in Jerusalem, the ripples are the good news spreading out further and further away. This could also be used in the 'concept' time instead.]

After Stephen died all the followers of Jesus had to run away from Jerusalem, because it was so dangerous. They spread out through Judea and Samaria [show on map] and they told people about Jesus wherever they went. [You could retell the story in different locations by starting in 'Jerusalem' and moving to one area for 'Samaria' and to another area for 'Judea'.]

In Samaria, a man called Phillip went to the capital city and told them about Jesus. In that city they loved magic. There was a magician called Simon who was like a God to them. What do you think happened when they heard about Jesus? They all stopped listening to Simon and started listening to Philip talk about Jesus. They stopped following Simon and joined Jesus' kingdom. The whole city was full of happiness. King Jesus' good news spread to Samaria [colour in Samaria on the map].

Then Philip was told by an angel to go to Judea. He saw a man from Ethiopia riding a chariot. The Holy Spirit told him to go over and when he came near he heard that he was reading the Bible.

'Do you understand what you're reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I without someone to explain it to me?' the Ethiopian said. So Philip used that part of the Bible to tell the man all about Jesus. Straight away the Ethiopian man believed and was baptized. He had joined Jesus' Kingdom too! He too went on his way full of happiness! King Jesus' good news spread in Judea. [Colour in Judea.]

King Jesus was making his good news spread just like he promised. King Jesus is still making his good news spread today. Wherever people hear the good news and believe

there is great happiness. If we know Jesus' good news we should want to spread it too! More than the news of our birthday party or our baby brother. It's too good to keep to ourselves!

## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

💕 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.

Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

💔 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.

Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

😊 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.

Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

🙏 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.

Please God... \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 🎵 Closing song

*We've gathered together to hear from God.*

*We've gathered together to hear from God,*

*And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# The Ends of the Earth



Concept | King Jesus' good news is for everyone.

## Bible time 1

### 🎵 Gathering song

*'Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.'*

### Welcome

**Order of the morning:** Bible time, game, Bible time, craft

**Sunday School rules:** Who can tell me one of our rules which helps us to listen to the bible and to each other?

**Pray:** Let's ask for God's help as we hear him speak in the Bible.

### Concept

### 🎵 Bible Box song

*'What are we going to learn today? What are we going to learn today?  
Let's find out from the Bible box. Let's find out from the Bible box.'*

**Concept:** King Jesus' good news is for everyone

### Concept explanation

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### Bible verse

### 🎵 The Bible song

But how do we know that ...? Did I hear it on the ...? Did I read it in a ...? Did I see it on a ...? No? Where do I get it all from then?

*'The Bible, the Bible, how we love the Bible. It's God's word. Yay!'*

Use the 'How to lead a pre-school session' section in the leader's handbook to help you prepare.

## Visuals and props:

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Ask a child to get the Bible from the Bible box.

**Read bible verse:** Acts 10:34-35

**Bible verse explanation**

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## Action rhyme

Let's sing a song with some actions to help us remember what we're learning today.

(To the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it')

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
He has work to do  
That includes me and you  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

*King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom  
The good news is for all  
From Peru to Nepal  
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom*

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God.  
And now it's time for a game.'*

## Game

## Bible time 2

### 🎵 Gathering song

*“Let's gather together to hear from God.  
Let's gather together to hear from God,  
Come gather here with me.”*

### Story

### The Ends of the Earth

[Have a globe or world map ready to find the places the children say.] Hands up if you were born in another country [take some answers and find on map]. Hands up if you've visited another country or know people from another country [take some more answers]. The world is a very big place with many many different countries and people groups. [Could be used in 'Concept Time']

In Acts so far the good news about Jesus has only been told to people from one country, or people who want to join that country. That country is Israel and the people are called Jews. That's because up until now Israel, the Jews, were meant to be God's kingdom on earth. But now Jesus has people from all over the world in his kingdom. People like \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_. [Use examples from earlier or leaders in the group from different countries.] How did that happen? Let's find out.

Here is Peter. Remember him? He was the chief disciple. He's a Jew telling Jews about Jesus. Here is Cornelius. He's an important Roman soldier. He's from Italy. [Show on map]. Peter is not supposed to go into Cornelius' house or anywhere near Cornelius because he's a Jew. How will Cornelius hear about Jesus?

Peter and Cornelius both had dreams from God. [Could act out or put pictures in dream bubbles above their heads.] Cornelius had a dream where an angel told him to send people to fetch Peter to his house. So he did. Peter had a much stranger dream! A sheet came down from heaven with animals he wasn't allowed to eat because he was a Jew. [Re-enact with toys on a bedsheet?] He was told he could eat them now. Jews didn't need to eat only special foods.

Peter was confused, but suddenly there was a knock on the door! Cornelius' messengers had arrived to ask him to come to Cornelius' house. Peter went, and when he got there he heard all about Cornelius' dream. He finally understood what Jesus was trying to tell him. God didn't want just the Jews in his kingdom anymore. He wants people from every country to hear the good news and be part of Jesus' kingdom.


So Peter told Cornelius the good news about Jesus right there and then. Cornelius and all his family believed straight away. Jesus showed they really were part of his kingdom by giving them his Holy Spirit. It was proof that now people from every country can believe and join Jesus' Kingdom.


Ever since that day, the good news about Jesus has been spreading in every country in the whole world. There are Christians in every country. [Use examples from the beginning.] Even we have heard about Jesus in England. King Jesus' good news is for everyone.


That means Jesus wants us in his kingdom whether we're from England or Peru or China. He wants **you** to join his kingdom by believing in him. It also means Jesus wants us to tell people about him wherever they're from. Even if they have different skin to us or wear different clothes or speak a different language, all people need to hear the good news about Jesus. Jesus is the King of the whole wide world and he is growing his kingdom everywhere.


## Prayer

Let's now pray to God. Can you get your praying fingers out.

 **Adoration.** Let's point our fingers up to God and tell him how great he is.  
Wow God/ We praise you God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **Confession.** Let's point our fingers at ourselves and say sorry for our sin.  
Sorry God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **Thanksgiving.** Let's hold our hands out and thank God for what he does.  
Thank you God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

 **Supplication.** Let's put our hands together and ask him to do great things.  
Please God... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 🎵 Closing song

*'We've gathered together to hear from God.  
We've gathered together to hear from God,  
And now it's time for craft.'*

## Craft

### Craft ideas...

Week 1:

Week 2:

# **Concept sheets**

**King Jesus has a  
plan...**

**...to grow his  
kingdom.**

# King Jesus gives...

**...the Holy Spirit.**

# King Jesus' kingdom...

...grows.

**King Jesus' plan  
can't be...**

**...stopped.**

**King Jesus' plan  
will be...**

**...hard.**

**King Jesus' good  
news will...**

**...spread.**

**King Jesus' good  
news is...**

**...for everyone.**



St Helen's  
Bishopsgate



St Helen's Children's Ministry

