



St Helen's
Bishopsgate

Bible time booklet | 3-5's

Acts

The king is growing his
kingdom

St Helen's Children's Ministry



Acts

Did you know that even though we can't see King Jesus with our eyes, he is still alive in heaven? The book of Acts tells us that King Jesus is busy doing a very important job. It started in the book of Acts and he's still doing it today! King Jesus is growing his kingdom. He is growing his kingdom as people speak the good news that he died and came back to life. When people believe that good news they are brought into his kingdom and it grows a bit bigger. Jesus' kingdom started in Jerusalem, but it spreads to the ends of the earth. It's still spreading today!

Action rhyme

All action rhymes will be to the tune, 'If you're happy and you know it'.



Using the material – a guide for parents

We hope these Bible times will help you:

- To know what we've been teaching in Sunday school - so you can talk to your child about it and pray for them as they hear from the book of Acts about Jesus growing his kingdom.
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify, reinforce, or build their understanding.
- To give you an opportunity to help your child think through further how they are responding to what they're hearing in God's word.

We hope that this will enable us to better partner with you as you continue to bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Why not get into the habit of praying with your child, asking for God's help, before you start the study. Then cover as much of the study as you feel able to with the age and attention span of your child. You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime.

King Jesus has a plan to grow his kingdom

When Jesus came back to life from the dead he spent 40 days proving that he really was alive to his disciples. The time was getting to near for Jesus to go back up to heaven, but first he had one more very important thing to tell his 12 closest friends. Jesus had a special plan. A plan that the disciples were going to be an important part of.

Jesus wanted his disciples to tell everyone what they had heard Jesus say and seen Jesus do. They would start by telling people in Jerusalem, but this good news would spread to the whole area of Judea and Samaria. After that, Jesus wanted the good news to spread even as far as the ends of the earth! Jesus wants the whole world to be full of the good news. As people hear and believe the good news they are part of Jesus' kingdom.

The disciples wouldn't be on their own though. Jesus promised he would send his Holy Spirit to help them do their special mission. This is still Jesus; plan today. He wants his kingdom to grow in every country, as people speak about him with the help of his Holy Spirit.



Read

Pray and read Acts 1:6, 8



Look

Look ...How big does Jesus want his kingdom to be?



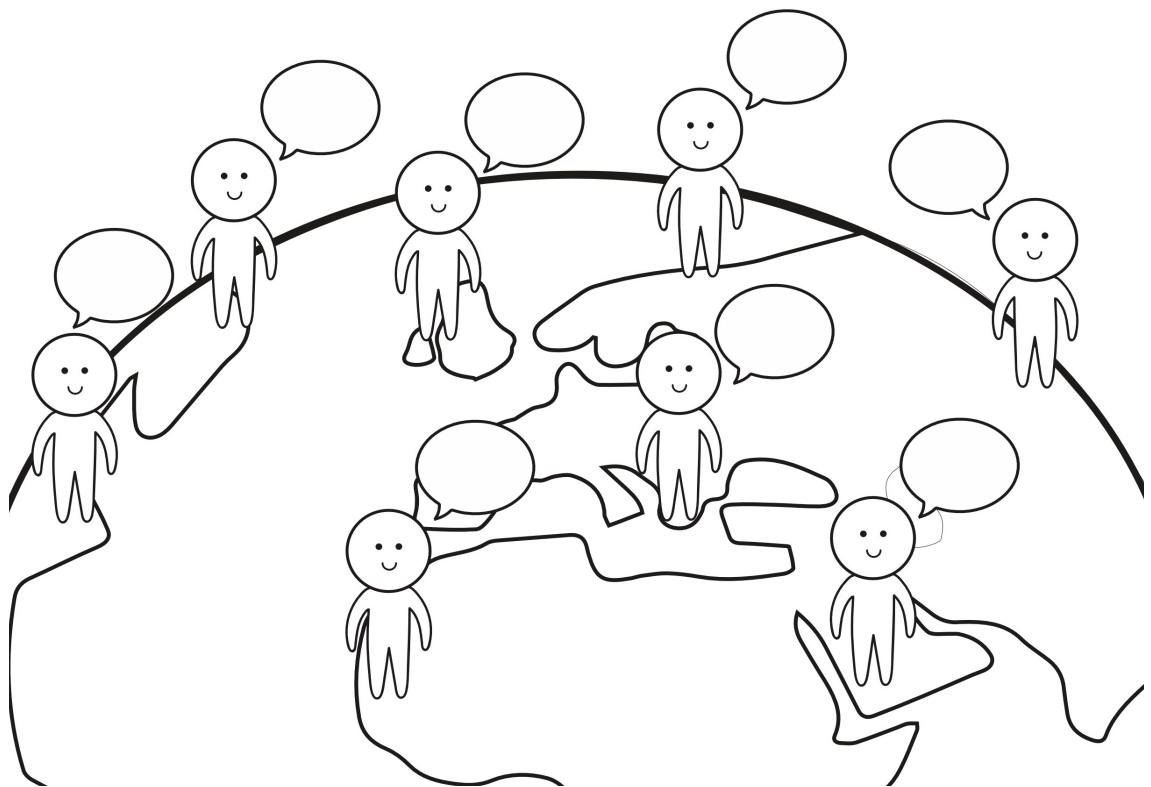
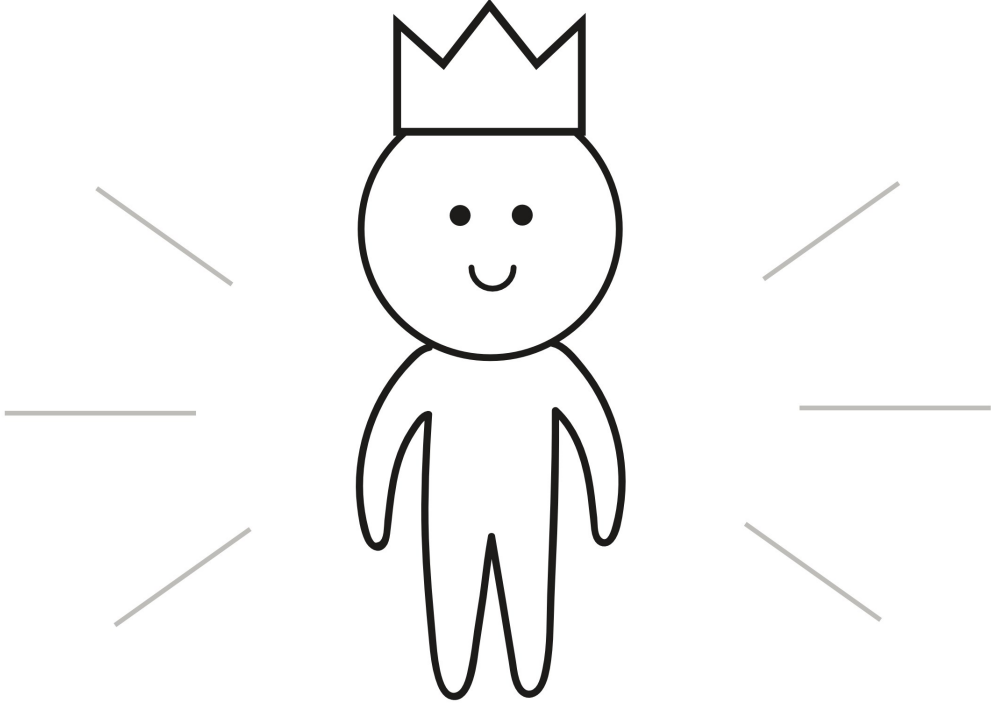
Pray

We **praise** you that Jesus has a plan to grow his kingdom



Sing

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 gives the Holy Spirit

What's the best gift you've ever been given? After King Jesus went up to heaven, he gave the world an even better gift!

The disciples were in Jerusalem huddled together in a room. Then suddenly the sound of a very strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. Flames of fire appeared above their heads. It might sound scary, but they were signs that God was coming to live in each of them. King Jesus was giving God the Holy Spirit, just like he promised.

The Holy Spirit gave them power to speak in other languages about Jesus, The disciples went into the street and told many people about Jesus, just like Jesus promised.

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 thank Jesus for the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Read

Pray and read Acts 2:1-4



Look

Look ...What happens to the disciples when they get the Holy Spirit?



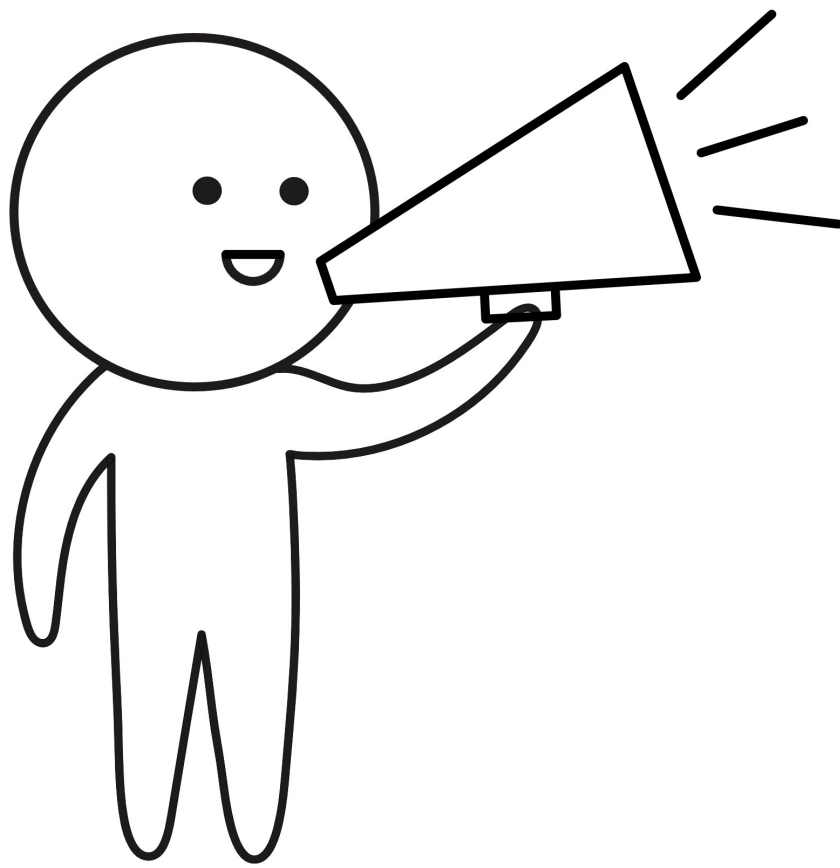
Pray

Thank you Jesus for the gift of your Holy Spirit.



Sing

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



King Jesus' kingdom grows

King Jesus wants his kingdom to grow like a plant or a balloon that gets bigger and bigger and bigger. In Acts chapter 2 Jesus' kingdom starts with only a few disciples in a small room. That's not very big. How will Jesus' kingdom grow?

Last time, the disciples received the Holy Spirit. Some people think the disciples have been drinking too much wine! Peter stands up and gives a long speech to explain. King Jesus is alive and has given his Holy Spirit. The people put him to death on a cross, but he's now King over everyone in heaven.

The people realise they're in trouble with God and ask what they should do. Peter tells them to turn from their sin and believe in Jesus. 3000 people believe and are baptised! Isn't that amazing? Jesus' kingdom is much much bigger! King Jesus grows his kingdom as the disciples speak about him. King Jesus is still growing his kingdom today as people speak the good news .



Read

Pray and read Acts 2:36



Look

Look ...What does Peter want everyone to know?



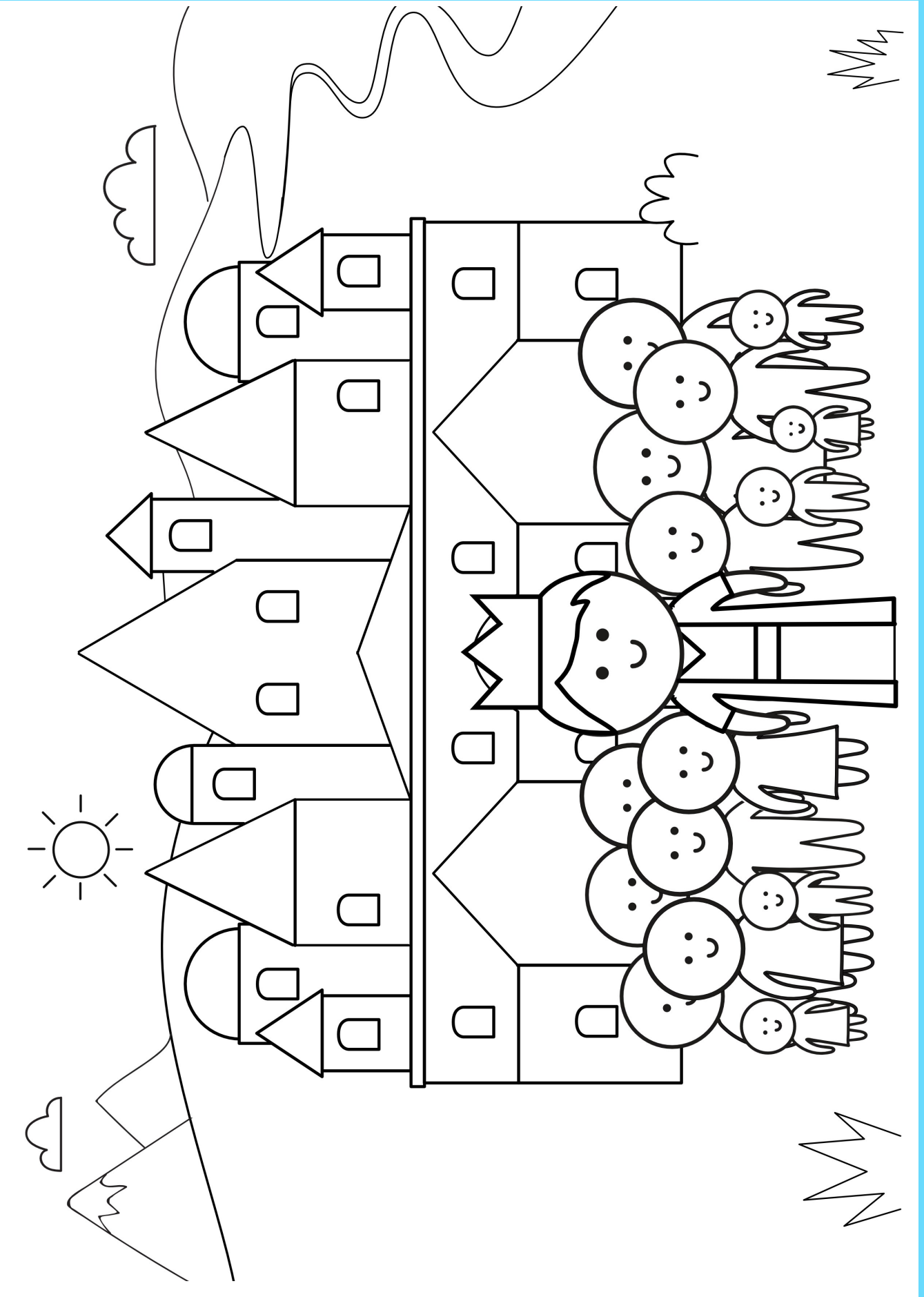
Pray

Thank you Jesus that your kingdom is growing bigger every day.



Sing

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



King Jesus' plan can't be stopped

Jesus' kingdom is growing just like he said, but some people don't like Jesus' plan. The Jewish leaders hate the good news about Jesus and want to stop it from spreading.

They are so angry at the apostles for talking about Jesus they put them in prison. Oh no! Surely this is going to stop Jesus' plan. They can't talk about Jesus to people when they're locked up in a room. But in the middle of night, Jesus sent an angel, who opened the doors to the prison and let them out! The angel told them to go to the temple to talk about Jesus. So they did! The Jewish leaders couldn't stop Jesus' plan.

King Jesus' plan still can't be stopped now. Even though many people today don't want Christians to talk about Jesus, no one can stop his plan. The good news will keep spreading. That means if we're on King Jesus' side, we're on the winning side! Hooray!



Read

Pray and read Acts 5:40b-42



Look

Look at v40b...What did the Jewish leaders want the disciples to do?

Look at v42...What did the disciples do?



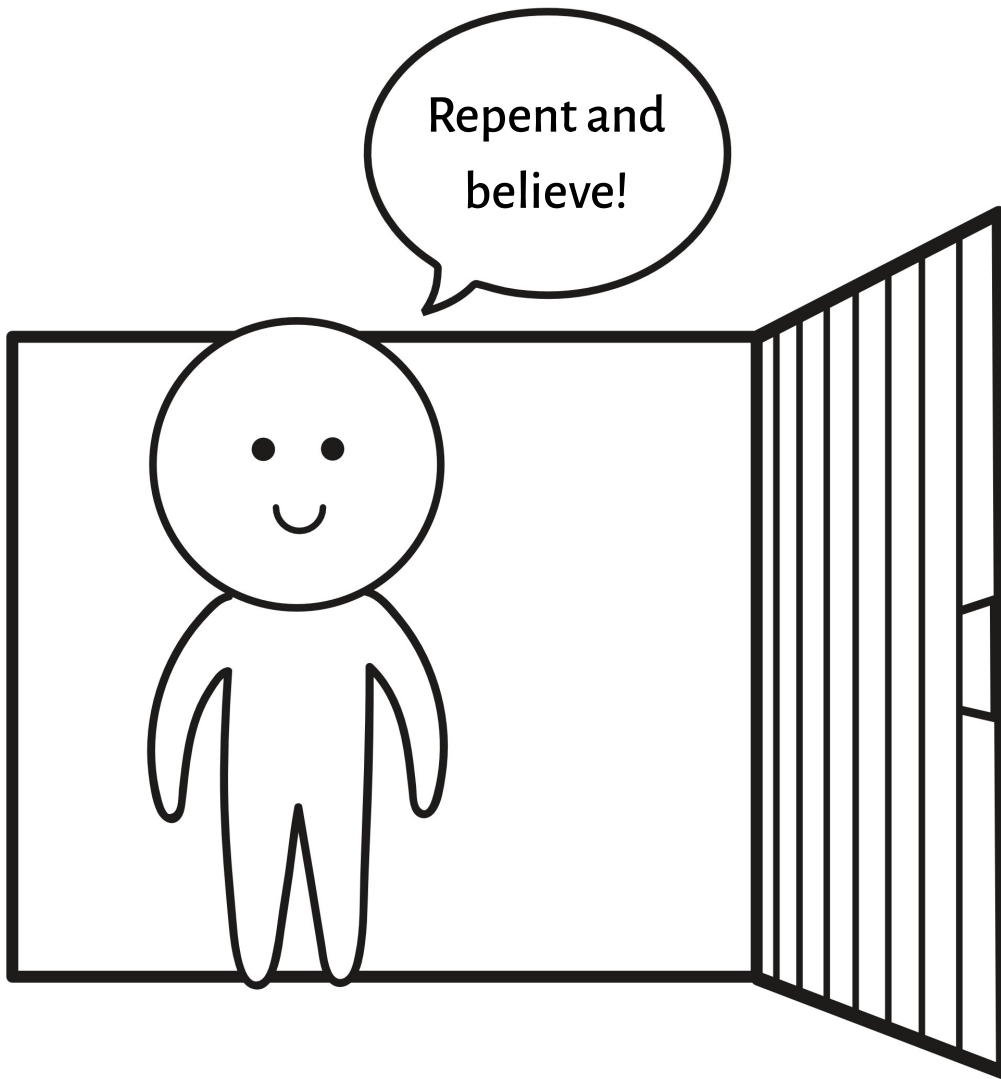
Pray

Thank you Jesus that nothing can stop your good news spreading.



Sing

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



Repent and
believe!

King Jesus' plan will be hard

Can you think of a time when everything felt like it was going wrong? In the next bit of Acts something very sad happens. It seems like everything is going wrong.

The Jewish leaders still want to stop Jesus' plan. A kind, wise follower of Jesus named Stephen was speaking about Jesus so well that the Jews got really angry. They arrested him and brought him before a judge. Stephen gave a long speech to explain about who Jesus really is.

The Jewish leaders were so angry they threw stones at him until he died. It was a very sad day. From that day on people tried to hurt Christians to make them stop talking about him. This still happens today. King Jesus' plan will sometimes be hard. Even though it's hard we don't need to worry. Jesus was with Stephen and he's with us. King Jesus' plan still keeps on going even when it's hard.



Read

Pray and read Acts 8:1-2



Look

Look ...What happened to Christians in Jerusalem after Stephen was killed?



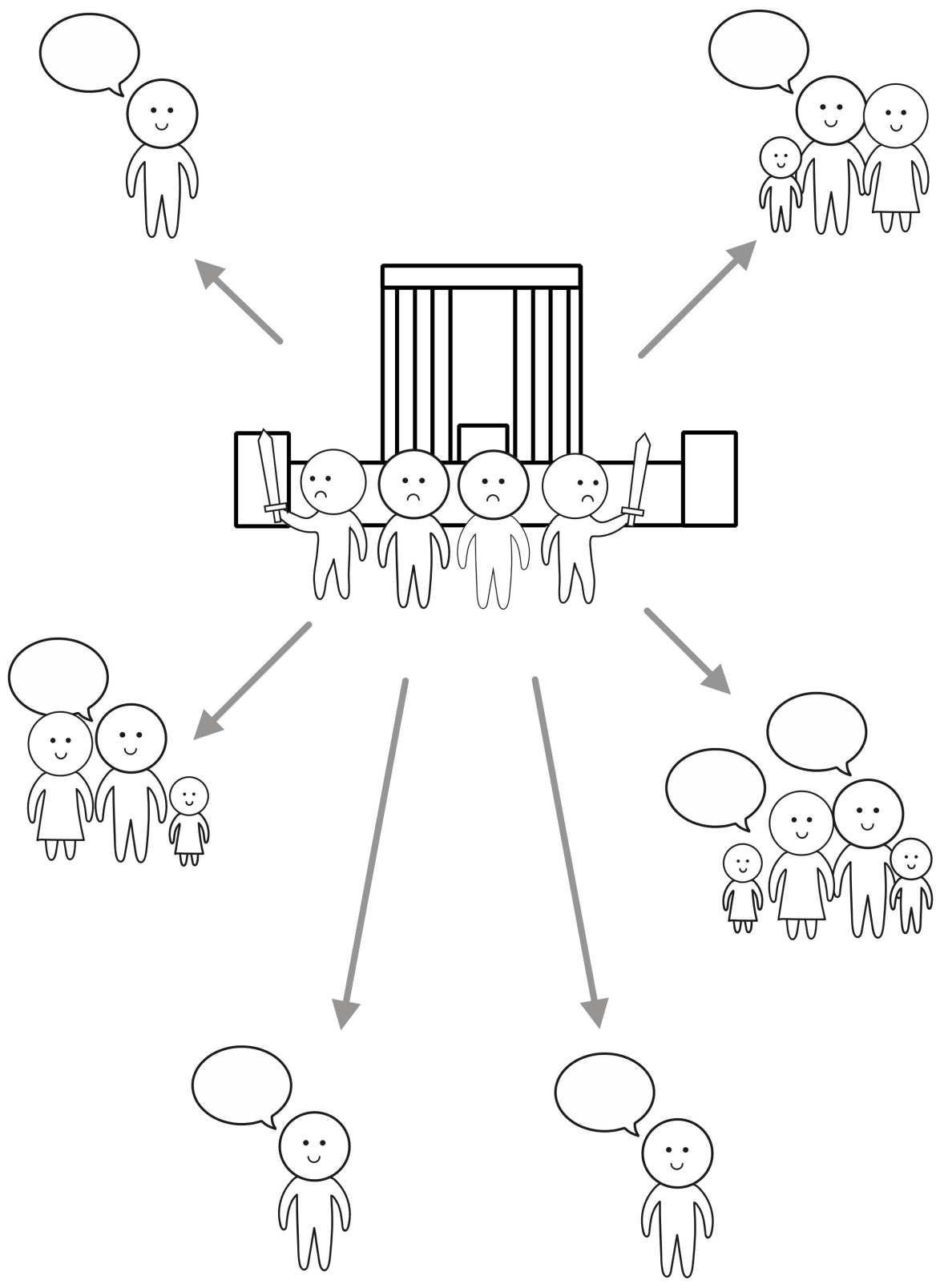
Pray

Pray for Christians around the world who are suffering for speaking about Jesus.



Sing

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



King Jesus' good news will spread

Have you had any good news lately? Did you want to tell someone else? That's exactly what the Christians did as they ran away from Jerusalem. After the Jews killed Stephen, Christians ran away to other towns and villages in Judea and Samaria. As they spread out, they spread the good news about Jesus!

A man called Philip goes to Samaria. The people there worship a magician called Simon. When they hear about Jesus, they stop believing in magic and believe in Jesus instead. Then he goes to Judea and meets a man from Ethiopia riding his chariot. He wants to understand the Bible, so Philip explains that is all about Jesus. The man believes in Jesus straight away and is baptized.

The good news spread to Judea and Samaria, just like Jesus said. King Jesus is still making his good news spread today. We should want to spread it too. It's too good to keep to ourselves!



Read

Pray and read Acts 8:4-6



Look

Look...What do the believers do as they run away from Jerusalem?



Pray

Pray that we would want to tell other people about Jesus wherever we go.

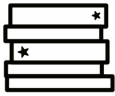
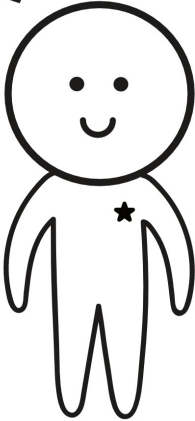


Sing

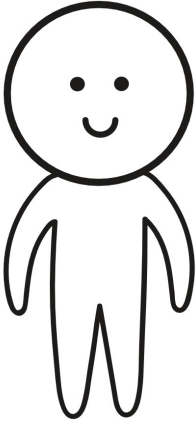
King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom
 King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom
 The good news it will spread
 Like butter on hot bread (!)
 King Jesus has a plan to grow his Kingdom

Samaria

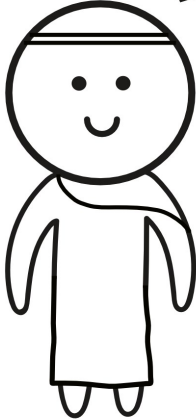
I believe!



Repent and believe!



I believe!



Judea

King Jesus' good news is for everyone

Have you ever visited another country? Have you met people from another country? So far in Acts, only people who are Jews (or want to be Jews) have heard the good news and joined Jesus' kingdom. But all that is about to change!

A Roman soldier called Cornelius was given a dream from God, telling him to ask Peter to come to his house. Peter is a Jew. Cornelius is not a Jew. Peter should not go to his house. God gave Peter a dream and sent messengers to get Peter to go to Cornelius' house.

God showed Peter that even a Roman soldier like Cornelius needs to hear about Jesus. In the end Peter told Cornelius all about Jesus and Cornelius believed! That day Peter learnt something very important. Anyone who believes in Jesus is saved by God no matter where they come from. Jesus wants people from China, Uganda, Mexico and every other country in the world in his kingdom. He really is building his kingdom to the ends of the earth.



Read

Pray and read Acts 10:34-35



Look

Look...Who does God accept?

Look closer...What does that show us about God?



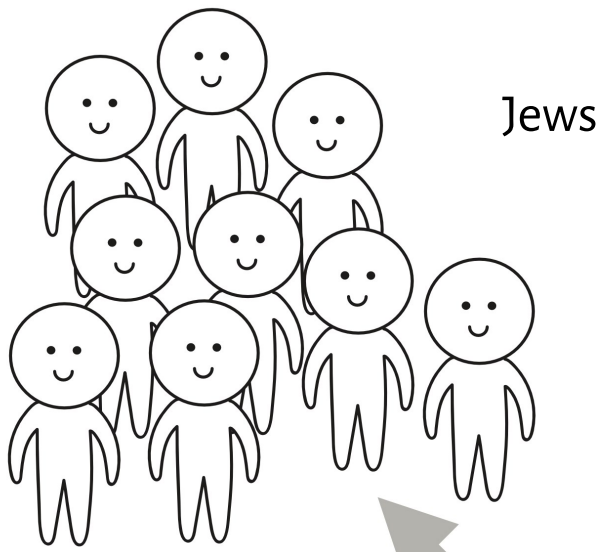
Pray

Pray that people from every country would hear about Jesus and believe in him.

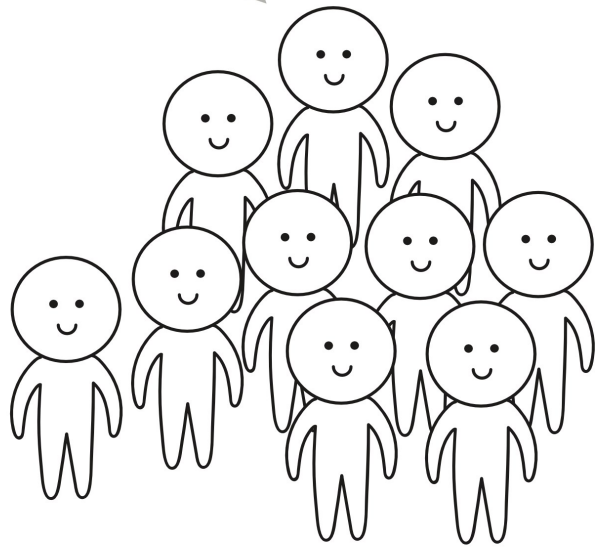
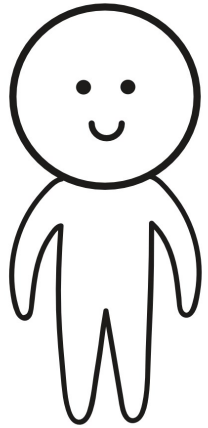


Sing

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



Repent and believe!



All Bible references are from the
Holy Bible, New International Version® Anglicized, NIV®
Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®
Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

