# 1 The Holy Spirit comes

After Jesus came back to life, he stayed with his disciples for 40 days. Then he told them the Holy Spirit would come soon. The Holy Spirit would help them tell everyone the good news about Jesus.

Then Jesus went up into the sky. He went to be with Father God. His disciples could not see him any more. Two angels appeared beside them. The angels said that Jesus would come back one day.

The disciples praised God. Then they went back to Jerusalem.

Read: Acts chapter 2 verses 1-13

The disciples were praying together.

There was a noise like wind. Flames came over their heads!

They started speaking in other languages! The Holy Spirit made all this happen!

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples about the Holy Spirit?

2. What were the signs that the Holy Spirit had come?

3. Read verses 12-13 again. What did the people in Jerusalem think about this?

[Jesus said] “The Holy Spirit will come on you and give you power. You will be my witnesses. You will tell people everywhere about me… in every part of the world.”

(Acts chapter 1 verse 8 ERV)

# Peter's speech (Acts chapter 2)

Lots of people had come to Jerusalem for a special festival. The Holy Spirit made Peter brave. He stood up and spoke to the crowd.

Peter said that something amazing had happened. God's Holy Spirit had come! God had told a man called Joel about this, long ago. God had told Joel that the Holy Spirit would give people dreams and visions and messages from God. Then everyone would have a chance to trust God and be forgiven.

Peter told the people that Jesus had died and come back to life. Now he had gone to be with God. Peter told the people to trust Jesus as their saviour king. Then God would forgive the bad things they had done. He would send his Holy Spirit to live inside them and help them.

3000 people believed what Peter said. They started following Jesus that day. The followers of Jesus were called Christians.

Peter was one of Jesus's closest disciples. He became an important Christian leader. He probably started the church in Rome. He also wrote two letters to churches in Turkey, to give them hope in hard times.

1. How did the Holy Spirit help Peter? If you know more about Peter, think about how he changed after the Holy Spirit came.

2. God had promised to send his Holy Spirit. Can you think of any more of God's promises?

3. When is it hard for you to be brave?

Thank God that he sent the Holy Spirit to help you.

Ask God to help you trust Jesus as your saviour king.

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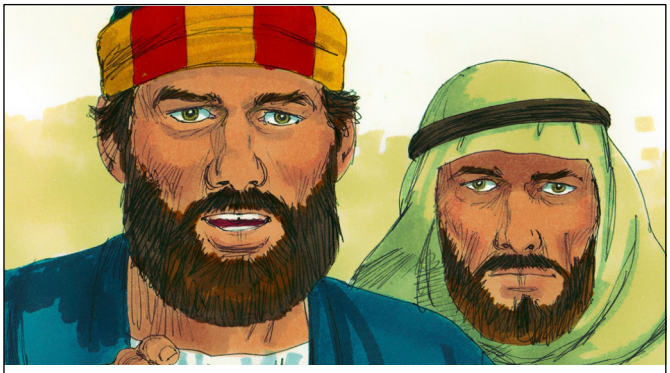
# 2 Peter and John are arrested

Peter and John were going to the Temple. A disabled man stopped them and asked them for money. Peter said, “I cannot give you money. But I will give you something else. In the name of Jesus, walk!” Peter helped the man up, and the man’s legs became strong. He jumped around, praising God!

All the people were amazed. So Peter told them all about Jesus. He said it was Jesus who had made the man walk!

Read: Acts chapter 4 verses 3-13 and 21-22

The Jewish leaders arrested Peter and John!



They told the high priest that Jesus was the saviour king.

The leaders told Peter and John to stop talking about Jesus. Then they let them go.

1. Why did the leaders arrest Peter and John?

2. How do you think the Holy Spirit helped Peter and John?

3. Read chapter 4 verse 21 again. Why did the leaders let Peter and John go?

Peter and John answered them, “What do you think is right? … Should we obey you or God? We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard.”

(Acts chapter 4 verses 19-20, ERV)

# The Christians pray together (Acts chapter 4)

After this, Peter and John went to see the other Christians, and told them what had happened.

The Jewish leaders had told them not to talk about Jesus any more. But they knew they had to do what God wanted, not what the leaders wanted. And they knew this would put them in danger.

The Christians prayed together. They said, “Powerful God, you made everything. You knew that lots of people would hate Jesus, who you sent to be the saviour king. The leaders killed him. But this was part of your plan to save everyone.

Now these same leaders want to stop us talking about Jesus. Please make us brave and strong. Help us to keep telling people about Jesus. And help us do more amazing things with his power.”

Then the room shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit!

John was one of Jesus’s disciples, and became a Christian leader. He wrote the book of John, and 3 letters which are in the Bible. He might have written the book of Revelation too. He called himself ‘the disciple Jesus loved’. (John chapter 21 verse 20)

1. Why did the Christians pray this prayer? How do you think they were they feeling?

2. Why do you think the Christians started by praising God?

3. How could you use this prayer when you need God’s help?

Praise God for the good things he has done in the past.

Ask God to help you with something this week.

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# 3 Stephen is killed

Lots of people had become Christians. They shared everything they had, and looked after those who were poor. But one group of Christians was upset. They said some of the poor people were still not getting enough to eat.

So the Christian leaders chose 7 men who were good and wise. These men were given a special job. They were put in charge of sharing the food fairly, so everyone got what they needed. One of these men was called Stephen.

Read: Acts chapter 6 verses 8-15

God gave Stephen power to do amazing things!

A group of Jews wanted to make trouble for Stephen.

They told the Jewish leaders that Stephen was saying bad things. Stehen was arrested.

1. What problem did the Christians need to fix?

2. Read verses 3, 5, 8 and 10 again. What do they tell you about Stephen?

3. What did the group of Jews say about Stephen? Were these things true?

Everyone there in the council meeting was staring at Stephen. They saw that his face looked like the face of an angel.

(Acts chapter 6 verse 15 ERV)

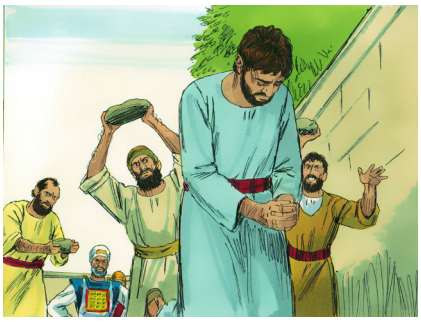
# Stephen's last speech (Acts chapter 7)

The high priest asked Stephen, "Is it true that you said these bad things about Moses and God's Temple?"

Stephen said, "Long ago, God chose Abraham, who became the father of our people. Later, our people were slaves in Egypt, and God saved us. He sent Moses to lead us to this land we live in.

Our people complained to Moses. They did not listen to him, and they did not do what God said. Later, King Solomon built the Temple. But God does not live in buildings made by people. He is the one who made everything!

You do not listen to God or do what he says. Our people killed God's messengers in the past. And you killed Jesus, our saviour king!"



Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit. He looked up and said, "Look! I see Jesus standing next to Father God in heaven!"

The Jewish leaders were very angry. They ran at Stephen and threw rocks at him until he died. The last thing Stephen said was, "Jesus, forgive them for this."

Stephen is remembered as the first Christian who was killed for following Jesus. Stephen gave up his life because Jesus was so important to him. He knew that after he died he would be with God forever.

1. Why do you think the leaders got so angry with Stephen?
2. What words would you use to describe Stephen's actions?
3. Have you ever forgiven someone? Or have you heard any stories about forgiveness?

Thank God for someone whose strong faith inspires you.

Ask God to help you listen to him and do what he says.

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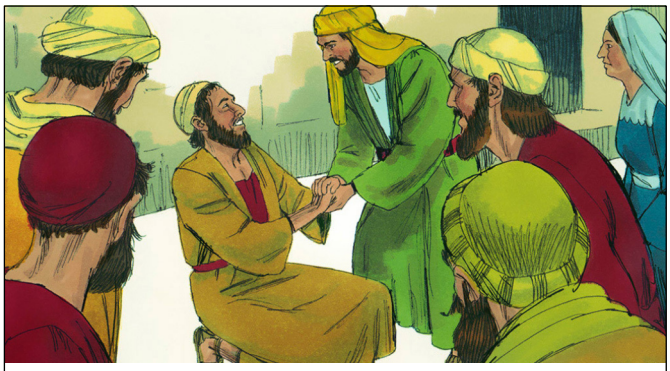
# 4 Philip goes to Samaria

After Stephen was killed, it was not safe for Christians in Jerusalem. The Jewish leaders arrested Christians and beat them up. They tried very hard to stop anyone talking about Jesus. So most of the Christians left Jerusalem. But they did not give up. Wherever they went, they kept telling everyone about Jesus.

A Christian called Philip went to Samaria, and told the people there about Jesus. God gave him power to make sick people better and do other amazing things. All the people were very happy and listened to what Philip told them.

Read: Acts chapter 8 verses 9-13 and 18-24

A man there called Simon did magic. He became a Christian.



He saw the Holy Spirit come when Peter and John prayed.

Simon wanted to buy this power for himself. But Peter told him to say sorry to God!

1. What did Peter and John do for the new Christians?

2. What power did Simon want to buy?

3. Read verses 20-23 again. Why was Peter so angry with Simon?

The people there heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he was doing… What a happy day this was for that city!

(Acts chapter 8, verses 6 and 8, ERV)

# The man from Africa (Acts chapter 8)

An angel told Philip to start walking down a desert road. On the way, he saw a man from Africa. He was an important servant who worked for an African queen. He was sitting in a chariot, reading the book of Isaiah from the Bible.

God told Philip to talk to the man. So Philip said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man said, “I need help. Please tell me what it means.”

So Philip sat with the man in his chariot. The part of Isaiah he was reading was about the saviour king. Philip started there, and told the man all about Jesus.

The man from Africa believed everything Philip said. So Philip baptised him by dipping him in some water. This was a sign that the man had started a new life following Jesus.

Philip was one of the 7 men chosen with Stephen to take care of the poor Christians. Later, he was known as Philip the Evangelist. Paul once stayed with him and met his 4 daughters. (Acts chapter 21 verses 8-9)

1. Why do you think God wanted Philip to talk to the man from Africa?

2. Why do you think the man asked Philip for help?

3. Who are some of the people who help you understand the Bible?

Thank God for people who help you.

Ask God to look after Christians in parts of the world where it is not safe to follow Jesus.

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# 5 Saul becomes a Christian

One of the Jews who hated Christians was a young man called Saul. Saul thought the Christians were lying about Jesus and about God. Saul was there when Stephen died. He thought the people who killed Stephen had done a good thing.

Saul started to arrest Christians. He dragged them from their homes and put them in prison. He thought he was doing what God wanted.

One day, Saul was on his way to a city called Damascus. He wanted to find Christians there and arrest them.

Read: Acts chapter 9 verses 3-9

Saul saw a light. A voice said, “Why are you fighting me?”

The voice was Jesus. He told Saul to go to the city and wait.

After this, Saul could not see! The other men led him to the city. He was blind for 3 days.

1. Why was Saul going to Damascus?

2. What 3 strange things happened to him on the way?

3. Read verses 4-5 again. How was Saul fighting against Jesus?

Saul asked, “Lord, who are you?” He said, “I am Jesus. And you are fighting against me.”

(Acts chapter 9 verse 5, EASY)

# Saul joins the Christians (Acts chapter 9)

A Christian called Ananias lived in Damascus. God gave him a vision. In the vision, Jesus said, “Go and see Saul. I have given him a vision too. He knows that you will make him see again.”

Ananias was afraid. He knew all about how Saul had been hurting Christians. But Ananias did what God said. He went to see Saul. He put his hands on Saul and said, “Jesus will make you see again. And God’s Holy Spirit will come to live inside you.”

Something fell out of Saul’s eyes. He could see again! And now his life had changed forever. He had met Jesus!

Saul wanted to join the Christians in Jerusalem, but they were afraid of him. A Christian called Barnabas helped him. He told the other Christians that Saul really had changed!

1. How do you think Saul’s life changed after meeting Jesus?
2. What might have helped the other Christians trust Saul?
3. How has knowing Jesus changed your life?

Saul was later called Paul. He was clever and knew a lot about God. He went to different places, started churches and wrote letters. Being a Christian made a lot of trouble for Paul, but he said, “All things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” (Philippians chapter 3 verse 8, ERV) Knowing Jesus had changed Paul’s life, and he wanted the whole world to know Jesus too.

Praise God for the ways he has changed your life.

Ask God to help someone you love to meet Jesus.

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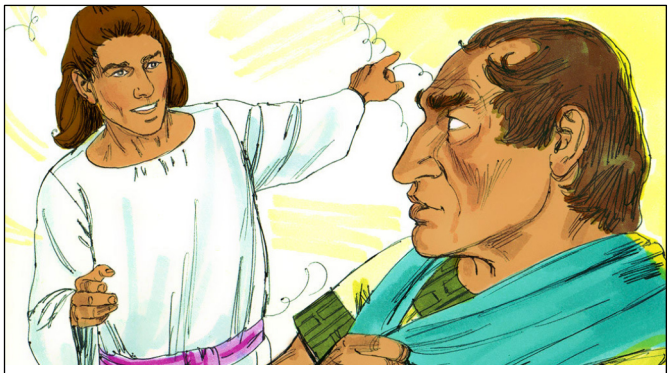
# 6 Peter and Cornelius

God showed a vision to a Roman called Cornelius. He was not a Jew, but he loved God and helped poor people. In the vision, God told Cornelius to talk to Peter. So he sent some men to find Peter.

The next day, God showed Peter a vision. God told Peter to eat some meat, but Peter said, “No, this meat is unclean!” Then God said, “Do not call something unclean if I have made it clean.”

Then Cornelius’s men came. They told Peter about Cornelius’s vision. Then Peter understood what his own vision meant. Non-Jews could now follow Jesus! He went with the men to Cornelius’s house.

Read: Acts chapter 10 verses 28-36 and 44-48



Cornelius told Peter about his vision.

Peter told Cornelius and his family all about Jesus.

Then the Holy Spirit came on Cornelius and his family. They all became Christians!

1. Read verses 28-29. Why did Peter agree to go to Cornelius’s house?

2. What happened after Peter talked to Cornelius and his family?

3. What new thing did Peter understand?

“God accepts all people in the same way… It is not important to God which nation a person belongs to.”

(Acts chapter 10 verses 34-35, EASY)

# Jesus is for everyone! (Acts chapter 11)

The Christians in Jerusalem heard about Cornelius. Some were worried and confused. They thought only Jews could follow Jesus. But Cornelius and his family were not Jews, and Peter had baptised them anyway. He had not told them to become Jews first.

So Peter told them everything that had happened. He said, “The Holy Spirit came on these people, just like he came on us. God gave them the same gift he gave to us. So God has accepted non-Jews as well as Jews. He has shown us that anyone can follow Jesus!”

They all agreed that Peter was right. Jesus was for everyone!

Saul was in Jerusalem too, telling people about Jesus. He was now called Paul. The Holy Spirit spoke to some of the Christians. He said, “I have chosen Paul and Barnabas to do a special job for me.”

So the Christians prayed for Paul and Barnabas. They sent Paul and Barnabas on a long journey to tell Jews and non-Jews all about Jesus.

Barnabas is a nickname that means ‘Son of Encouragement’. He may have been one of Jesus’s 72 followers (Luke chapter 10 verse 1). He started the church in Cyprus and worked closely with Paul.

1. Why did the Christians end up agreeing with Peter?

2. Can you think of a time when you were confused about why someone did something? What happened?

2. What does Barnabas’s name tell you about what sort of person he was?

Praise God for accepting everyone who comes to Jesus.

Thank God for the people you know about who do special jobs for him.

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# 7 Paul's first journey

Paul and Barnabas went to places that are now in Turkey and Cyprus.

When they got to a new place, they spoke to the Jews who lived there. They said Jesus was the saviour king they had been waiting for. Some Jews became Christians. But some were angry with Paul and Barnabas. They did not want to hear about Jesus.

After this, Paul and Barnabas spoke to the rest of the people and told them about Jesus. Lots of those people became Christians too.

Read: Acts chapter 14 verses 8-18

Paul and Barnabas saw a man who could not walk.

Paul told the man to get up. And he did!

The people worshipped Paul and Barnabas. But they told the people to worship God!

1. Why did the people think Paul and Barnabas were gods?

2. What did Paul and Barnabas say about this?

3. Read verse 17 again. Can you think of more good reasons to worship God?

"Turn to the true living God, the one who made the sky, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them."

(Acts chapter 14 verse 14, ERV)

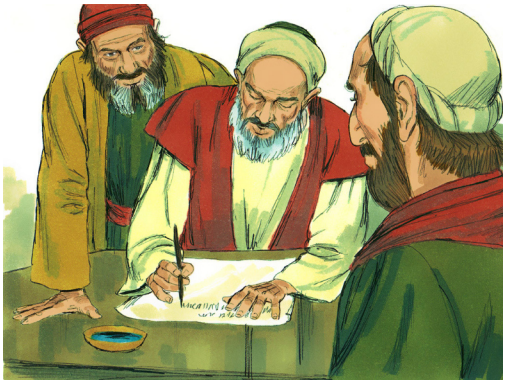
# The meeting in Jerusalem (Acts chapter 15)

Some Jewish Christians still said that all Christians must become Jews. Paul and Barnabas said this was wrong. They went to Jerusalem to see the other Christian leaders and talk about this.

Peter said, “God has treated Jews and non-Jews the same. He has given his Holy Spirit to all the Christians. This shows he does not want all Christians to become Jews. He accepts them as they are.”

Then Paul and Barnabas told everyone about their journey. They said God had showed his love to the non-Jews as well as the Jews.

James was leading the meeting. He said, “We should not make it hard for people to follow Jesus. We will write to the non-Jewish Christians. We will only ask them to follow a few important rules. They do not have to become Jews.”



Paul and Barnabas took the letter to the non-Jewish Christians. The letter made the non-Jewish Christians very happy.

James was Jesus’s brother. At first, he did not believe in Jesus. Then after Jesus came back to life, he appeared to James. James started to follow Jesus, and became the leader of the Christians in Jerusalem.

1. Why was this meeting important for non-Jewish Christians?

2. How did the Christian leaders decide what to do?

3. If you have an important choice to make, how do you decide what to do?

Praise God for the good things he has done for everyone.

Ask God to help you make good choices.

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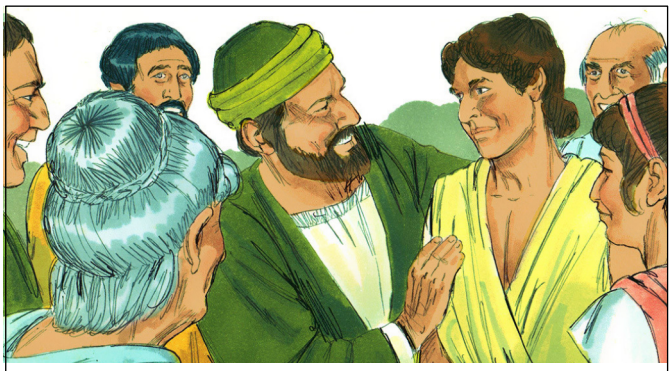
# 8 Paul's second journey begins

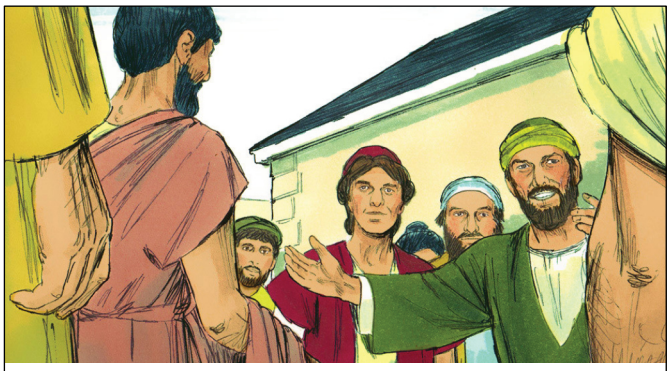
Paul and Barnabas wanted to go on another journey to tell people about Jesus. But they had a big disagreement. Barnabas's cousin John Mark had gone with them on their first journey. But he left them before their journey finished. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them again. But Paul did not think this was a good idea.

So Barnabas and Paul split up. Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus. And a man called Silas went with Paul to Syria and Turkey.

Read: Acts chapter 16 verses 1-10



Paul and Silas met Timothy. He joined them on their journey.



They took the letter from the leaders to all the churches.

Paul saw a vision of a man from Greece asking for help.

1. Why did Paul and Barnabas split up?

2. Why do you think Paul wanted Timothy to come with them?

3. Read verses 9-10 again. What did Paul's vision mean?

Timothy later became a church leader in Ephesus. Paul wrote letters to him and gave him advice. Paul loved Timothy very much and called him 'my true son in the faith'. (1 Timothy chapter 1 verse 2)

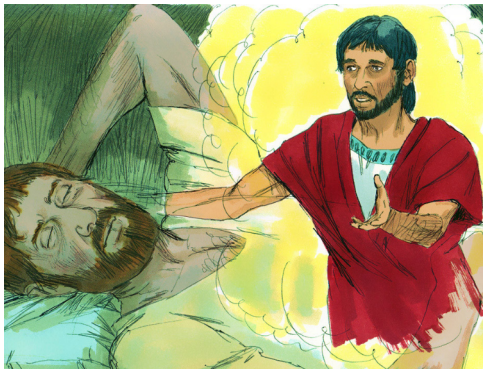
# Lydia becomes a Christian (Acts chapter 16)

After Paul's vision, he packed him things and sailed on a ship to Greece. Silas, Timothy and a man called Luke went with Paul.

Paul and his friends sailed to different towns and told people about Jesus. Then they stopped in the city of Philippi for a few days.

While they were there, it was the Sabbath day, when Jews rest and worship God together. There was no Jewish meeting place in Philippi, so Paul and his friends went to the river to pray.

Some women were at the river too. So Paul and his friends talked to the women about Jesus. One of the women was called Lydia. She made money selling expensive purple cloth.



Lydia was not a Jew, but she loved God. She listened to Paul and believed the good news about Jesus. She was baptised, along with all the people who lived with her. Then Lydia invited Paul and his friends to stay at her house.

[Lydia] was a worshipper of the true God… and the Lord opened her heart to accept what Paul was saying.

(Acts chapter 16 verse 14, ERV)

1. Why did Paul and his friends go to the river?

2. What do you think helped Lydia believe the good news about Jesus?

3. What does this story tell you about what it means to become a Christian?

Thank God that he helps people learn about Jesus.

Ask God to help you tell someone about Jesus.

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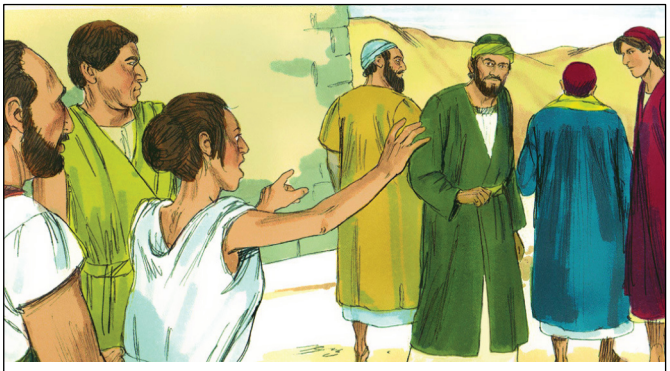
# 9 Paul and Silas are put in prison

Paul and his friends were still in Philippi. This was an important Roman city. Most of the people who lived there were Romans and Greeks.

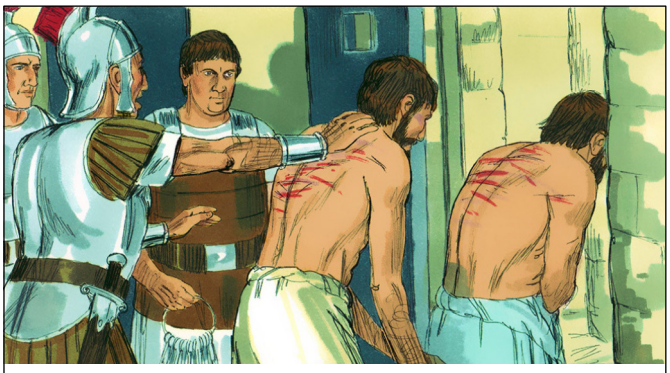
Paul and his friends decided to go to a place where people prayed. But something strange happened on the way.

Read: Acts chapter 16 verses 16-24



A slave girl with a bad spirit shouted about Paul and Silas.

Paul  told the bad spirit to come out of her. And it did!



Paul and Silas were arrested for making trouble. They were put in prison.

1. What was the slave girl doing, and why did this upset Paul?

2. How did Paul help the girl?

3. Read verses 16 and 19 again. Why were the slave girl's owners so angry?

Silas was also known as Silvanus. He helped Paul and Peter write letters to the churches, and may have been led the church in Corinth. Peter called him 'a faithful brother'. (1 Peter chapter 5 verse 12)

# Saved by an earthquake (Acts chapter 16)

At midnight, Paul and Silas were singing songs to praise God. The other prisoners were listening to them. All the doors were locked, and there were chains on the prisoners.

Then suddenly the ground began to shake! It was an earthquake! All the doors flew open and the chains broke! Now there was nothing to stop the prisoners from escaping!

The jailer in charge of the prison woke up. He thought the prisoners had escaped. He thought he would be killed for letting them go. So he got out his sword. He was about to kill himself!

Paul shouted, “Do not hurt yourself! We are all still here!” The jailer was shaking with fear. He asked Paul and Silas how he could be saved. So they told him about Jesus.

The jailer believed what Paul and Silas said. He was baptised, and so were all the people who lived with him. The next morning, the Romans set Paul and Silas free.

The jailer… ran inside and, shaking with fear, fell down in front of Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Men, what must I do to be saved?”

(Acts chapter 16 verse 14, ERV)

1. Do you think this was a normal earthquake? Why?

2. Why do you think the jailer asked how he could be saved?

3. How did God bring good out of Paul and Silas’s hard time? Has he ever brought good out of a hard time in your life?

Thank God that he looks after us, even in hard times.

Sing a song to God to praise him.

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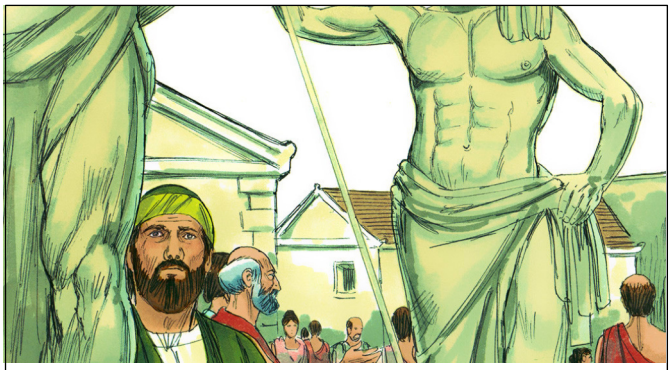
# 10 Paul goes to Athens and Corinth

Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica. Some Jews became Christians. But other Jews were angry and made trouble for Paul.

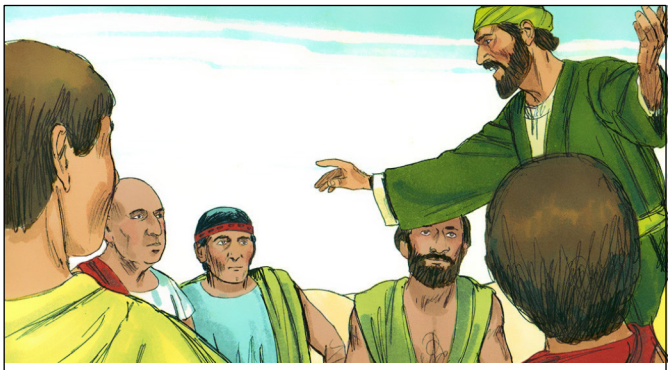
Next, Paul and Silas went to Berea. The Jews there wanted to learn about Jesus. But the angry group from Thessalonica came and upset the people. So Paul went on to Athens by himself.

Athens was full of places to worship different gods. The Greeks there liked to talk about new ideas, so Paul told everyone about Jesus. The council in charge did not understand what Paul was saying. So they asked him to come to a meeting and tell them more.

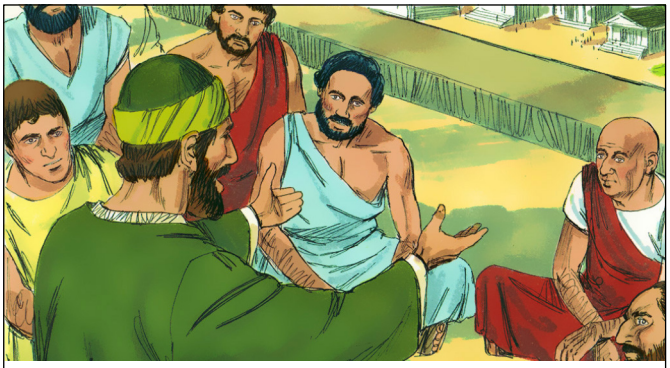
Read: Acts chapter 17 verses 22-32



Paul saw a place where people worshipped an unknown god.



He told the council this was the real God who made them.



Paul said God had given them life. Now he wanted them to know him and be his children.

1. Why do you think the Greeks in Athens worshipped an unknown god?

2. Read verses 24-25 again. How is the real God different from the gods of Athens?

3. What else did Paul say about what God is like?

"[God] is not far from any of us. It is through him that we are able to live, to do what we do, and to be who we are."

(Acts chapter 17 verse 28, ERV)

# A long stay in Corinth (Acts chapter 18)

Paul moved on to Corinth. He met a married couple called Priscilla and Aquila. They were Jewish Christians from Rome. A new law had told all Jews to leave Rome. So Priscilla and Aquila had come to Corinth.

Priscilla and Aquila were tent makers. Paul was a tent maker too. This was how he made money. So they all worked together making tents. They worked together telling people about Jesus too.

A Jew called Apollos came to Corinth. He had heard about Jesus, and started telling people about him. But there were some things Apollos did not know about. So Priscilla and Aquila invited him to their home. They helped him understand more about Jesus.

One night, Jesus spoke to Paul in a vision. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. Keep on telling people about me. I am with you, and no one will hurt you.” So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half. He carried on telling everyone about Jesus.

Priscilla and Aquila were important Christian leaders. Paul said, “All the churches… are grateful for them.” (Romans chapter 16 verse 4) In the Bible, Priscilla is sometimes named before Aquila. This was unusual. It might mean she was the main teacher and leader.

1. Why do you think Paul liked to work with other people?

2. Can you think of a time when someone helped you understand more about Jesus? What did you learn?

3. How do you think the vision of Jesus helped Paul?

Thank God for the good teachers and leaders you know.

Ask God to guide you in your life.

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# 11 Paul's third journey

Later, Paul went to Ephesus. He told everyone there about Jesus.

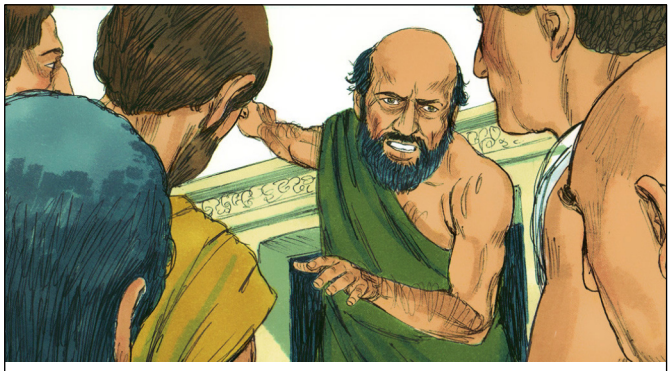
God showed his amazing power through Paul. Some people carried cloths that Paul had used. When they put these cloths on sick people, God made them well!

A man was under the power of a bad spirit. A group of Jews tried to use Jesus's name to send the bad spirit away. But the bad spirit said "I know Jesus, but who are you?" The man with the bad spirit jumped on the Jews and they ran away.

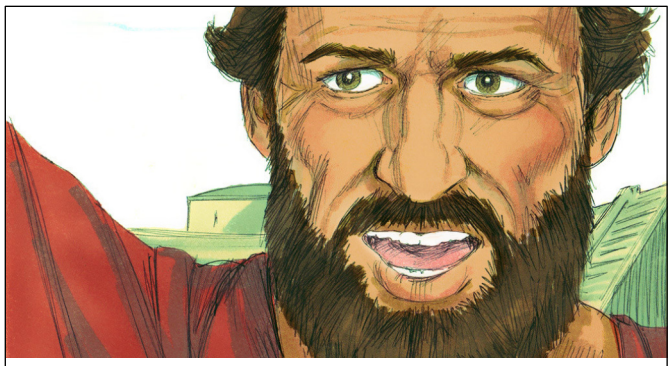
All the people were afraid when they saw how great Jesus was. Some new Christians still had books of magic spells. They burned these books in front of everyone and said sorry to God.

Read: Acts chapter 19 verses 24-28, 32, 35-37 and 40-41

Some men who made idols for worship were angry with Paul.



They started a big riot in Ephesus to get rid of Paul.



But the leader of the city told everyone to calm down. Paul had not done anything wrong.

1. Why was Demetrius angry with Paul?

2. Read verse 32 again. How do you think these people got so angry if they did not know what they were angry about?

3. How did the leader of the city stop the riot?

# Paul says goodbye (Acts chapter 20)

Paul believed God wanted him to go back to Jerusalem. He knew this was not safe. The Jewish leaders wanted to kill him. But Paul set off. On the way, he spent visited the Christians in Greece. He was with Timothy, Luke and some others.

Before Paul got on the ship to go back home to Israel, he asked the leaders of the church in Ephesus to meet him. He told them to keep following Jesus and looking after the Christians. He said he would not see them again. Then they all cried as they said goodbye.

Back in Israel, a man gave Paul a message from God. He said Paul would be arrested in Jerusalem. But this did not change Paul's plan.

We all begged Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. He asked, "Why are you crying? Why are you breaking my heart? I'm ready to be put in prison. In fact, I'm ready to die in Jerusalem for the Lord Jesus."

(Acts chapter 21 verses 12-13, NIrV)

Luke was a doctor and a Christian. He looked into the facts about Jesus's life, and also travelled with Paul. He wrote the books of Luke and Acts as a clear report of everything that had happened.

1. Why were Paul and the church leaders from Ephesus so sad to say goodbye?

2. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem, knowing it was not safe?

3. Have you ever done something hard to please God?

Ask God to help Christians in places that are not safe.

Say sorry to God for any bad things you have done.

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# 12 Paul is arrested in Jerusalem

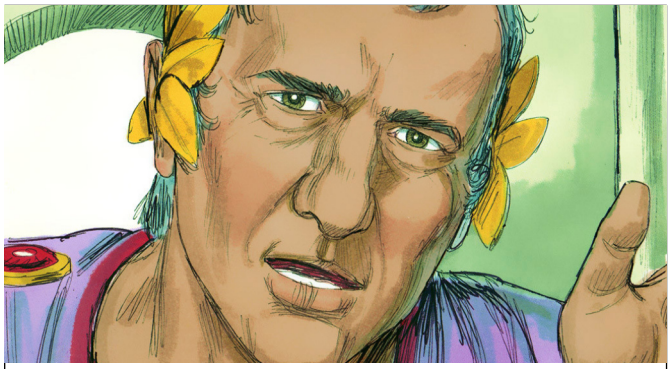
When Paul and his friends got to Jerusalem, the Christians there were very happy to see them. Paul told them everything that God had done in the places he had been.

The Jews who hated Paul found out where he was. They tried to kill him. But the Roman commander stopped them. He knew Paul was not safe in Jerusalem. So he arrested Paul and sent him away to see Felix, the Roman governor.

Felix did not know what to do with Paul. He kept Paul in prison for 2 years. Then Festus became the new governor. Paul told Festus he wanted to talk the Roman ruler (Caesar). Then Agrippa, the Jewish king, came to see Festus. They asked Paul to tell them his story.

Read: Acts chapter 26 verses 1-3, 9-19 and 24-32

Paul told Festus and Agrippa how he had met Jesus.



He told them the truth, but Festus said he was crazy.

Paul wanted to go to Rome to talk to the Roman ruler. Festus and Agrippa agreed.

1. What did Paul say to Festus and Agrippa?

2. What did Festus and Agrippa think about what Paul said?

3. Read verse 11 again. Why did Paul want to talk to the Roman ruler?

# Paul is taken to Rome (Acts chapters 27-28)

Governor Festus sent Paul on a ship to Rome. On the way, there was a big storm and the ship crashed on an island. But God told Paul no one on the ship would die. They would all get to Rome.

When they got to Rome, Paul lived in a house while he waited to see the Roman ruler. But he was not allowed to go out. Jews and other people came to see him. He told them all about Jesus.

We do not know what happened when Paul talked to the Roman ruler. In the end Paul was probably killed for following Jesus. But Paul was not afraid of death. He knew that after he died, he would live with God forever.

While Paul was in Rome he wrote letters to the churches. He said Jesus was more important than anything else. He told them not to give up.

Christ is everything that I live for. If I die, that will be even better for me.

(Philippians chapter 1 verses 20-21, ERV)

In the book of Acts we learn about where Paul went and what he did. But lots of other Christians went to other places, and started other churches. The good news about Jesus soon spread all over the world.

1. What do you think helped Paul not to be afraid of death?

2. What have you have learned from these stories about Paul's life?

3. If you had to tell someone why you follow Jesus, what would you say?

Ask God to help you when you are afraid.

Thank God for Christians who spread the news about Jesus.

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# Leaders' notes

Each session includes two sheets which either cover two stories or two parts of the same story. On the first sheet, you can first read the Bible passage, then retell it through the picture story. The questions also test understanding. On the second sheet, the story is paraphrased and discussion questions encourage the group to respond and apply it.

Each session also includes a key Bible verse, a short character study, and prayer prompts. You can get creative with these: perhaps write some prayers together, or choose a memory verse to focus on. You could make a collage together featuring some of these people who helped to spread the Gospel, perhaps adding other Christians from history or people you know.

You might like to show the images on a larger screen and point out the characters and details, or ask what the group can see happening in the pictures. All the images are from the Acts collection by Sweet Publishing here: freebibleimages.org/contributors/sweet. The image sets for each session are listed below.

There are some great maps of Israel and Paul's missionary journeys online at actsmaps.com and viz.bible/journeys. After the session notes I've included a modern map of the area to compare to.

# Session notes

1 The Holy Spirit Comes - images from 'Jesus ascends to heaven' and 'The day of Pentecost'

Notes: See Joel 2:28-29 for the prophecy mentioned.
When discussing how the Holy Spirit helped Peter, talk about his fearful denial of Jesus only a few weeks earlier.

2 Peter and John are arrested - images from 'A lame beggar is healed' and 'Peter & John arrested'

Note: Christian tradition says Jesus's disciple John also wrote Revelation, but many scholars believe the writer of Revelation was a different Christian leader called John.

3 Stephen is killed - images from 'Stephen is martyred'

4 Philip goes to Samaria - images from 'Philip and Simon the sorceror' / 'Philip and the Ethiopian official'

5 Saul becomes a Christian - images from 'The conversion of Saul'

6 Peter and Cornelius - images from 'Peter tells Cornelius about Jesus' / 'Paul and Barnabas visit Cyprus'

Notes: If you want to further explain the clean/unclean symbolism, see Leviticus 11:1-6. Also explain that Jews at this time didn't go into the houses of non-Jews or eat with them in case they accidentally touched or ate something unclean - but this was not a law from the Bible.

7 Paul's first journey - images from 'Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe' / 'The Council of Jerusalem'

8 Paul's second journey begins - images from 'Paul and Silas travel to Philippi'

Note: John Mark was a relative of Barnabas, as Paul mentioned in Colossians 4:10. By then Paul had clearly changed his mind about John Mark. He spoke of him warmly in this verse and 2 Timothy 4:11.

9 Paul and Silas are put in prison - images from 'Paul and Silas in prison'

10 Paul goes to Athens and Corinth - images from 'Paul in Athens' / 'Paul in Corinth'

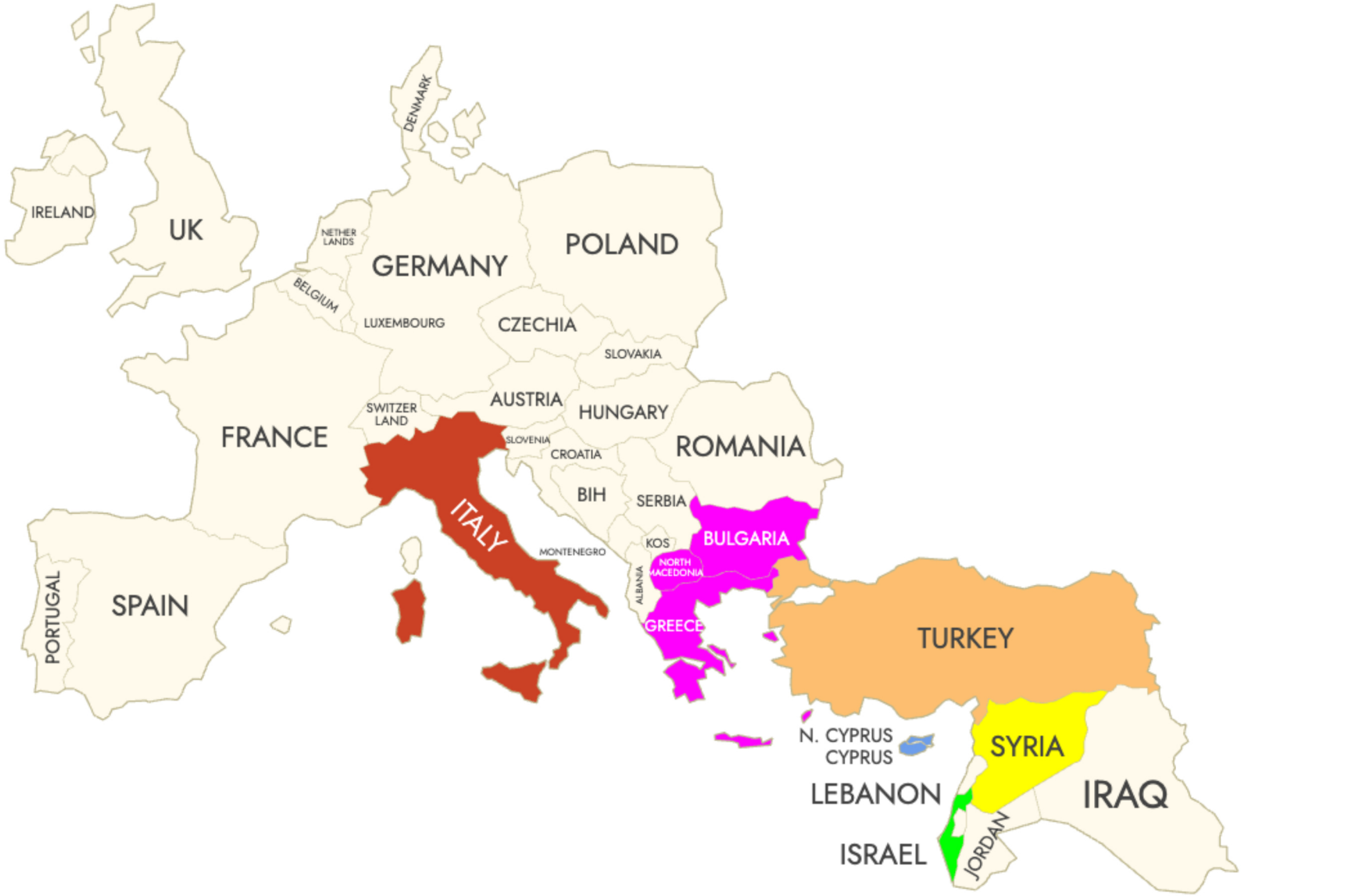
Note: The Greeks worshipped lots of gods. They were worried they might accidentally miss one out and make him angry. So they built an altar to an unknown god to cover their bases in case there was another god they didn't know about. Paul took this as an opportunity to introduce them to the real God.

11 Paul's third journey - images from 'Silversmiths in Ephesus riot against The Way' / 'Paul warned not to go to Jerusalem'

12 Paul arrested in Jerusalem - images from 'Paul's trial before Festus and Agrippa' / 'Paul arrives in Rome'

Notes: Christian tradition says many of Jesus's disciples also travelled to spread the gospel, and were involved in starting churches across the known world. Thomas went to India. Philip went to France. Bartholemew and Thaddeus went to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran. Simon the Zealot went to Africa and preached in Egypt and Libya; some traditions also say he went to Spain and Britain.

# Modern map of the places Paul visited

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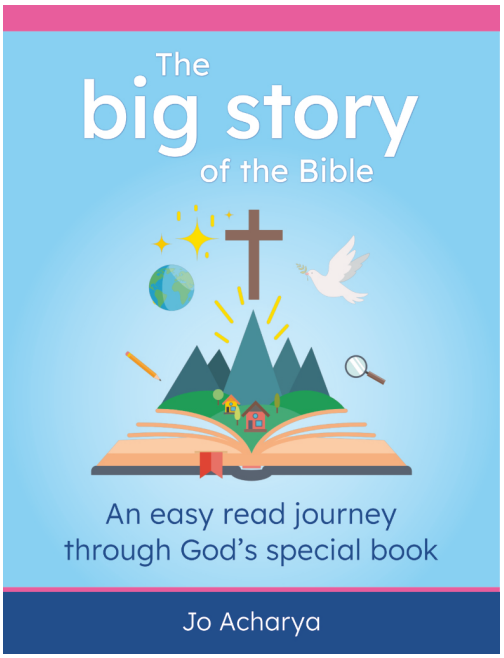


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