



**elev8**

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 2**

**The Acts of  
the Apostles**

**From little things,  
big things grow**

**Bible Readings**

Acts 1-7



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the stories of the early church in the Bible.
- Express the meaning of the stories.
- Apply your learning from the stories to your own life.

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

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**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

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**Key Question** What do stories of the early church tell us?

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### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

Describe an experience when you've seen something small make a large difference. It may be a small choice that made a big difference to someone else, a small word that changed someone's life, a small gift that made someone's day.

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** Acts 4:1-22 (you may continue reading to the end of the chapter)

Acts is a unique book in the Bible because it is the only book that seeks to tell the story of what happened to the disciples after Jesus left them.

Whilst the book has been named The Acts of the Apostles, it more closely follows the stories of people other than Jesus' twelve disciples involved in the growth of the early church. New characters such as Stephen and Saul / Paul are introduced and the book would be more accurately understood as Acts of Apostolic People.

Acts is written as a follow up, or part two of The Gospel of Luke: where Luke tells of the life of Jesus, Acts tells of the Church that carries on the life of Christ. It is the whole lesson of Acts that the life of Jesus goes on in his Church. In the Luke-Acts books, the story moves from the acts of Jesus to the acts of the church witnessing to Jesus. To the people reading it, it acts as an encouragement for people to be witnesses.

(Did you know: The Greek word for witness is the same word for martyr? Why might this be? What does this tell you? A martyr is someone who endures hardship and sometimes suffering or death, due his or her beliefs – who continues to speak their truth in spite of danger to themselves.)

Acts also tells of how the early church was empowered to carry on the life of Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Christians hold that the Spirit has always been with the people of God, but the events told of in Acts, specifically during the festival of Pentecost, form the basis for our understanding of who the Spirit is and how the Spirit works.

It is important to understand that the story of Pentecost does not explain 'the coming', or 'the beginning' of the Holy Spirit – Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is eternal and has always been present with God and people. The events of Pentecost revealed a clearer understanding of the Spirit. In the same way as mankind did not invent atomic power; it has always existed, but only recently has the power been tapped, so did the Holy Spirit always exist, untapped previous to Pentecost.

(continued...)

### Explore – Locate (*...continued*)

In the first chapter we read that there were approximately 120 believers at an early meeting. Historians believe there were about 4,000,000 Jews in Palestine at that time – meaning that fewer than 1 in 30,000 people were Christians!

It is interesting to note that by the end of Acts, the story had moved to Rome, the centre of the empire, the centre of the known world. This means that in little over thirty years, a religion that began in a little corner of Palestine had reached the beating heart of the world at the time – Rome.

*You may wish to continue exploring the background and meaning of Acts with your coach.*

### Explore – Express

Each person choose one of the characters we have read about at the beginning of Acts: Maybe Peter, maybe Stephen, maybe one of the crowd confused at Pentecost etc...

By asking only 'yes', or 'no' questions the group has to work out who each character is.

*What similarities do you see about the church in Acts and the church today?*

*What differences do you see?*

*What does this story tell us about our relationship to the Holy Spirit?*

*What does this story tell us about the Church's relationship to God?*

### Explore – Integrate

- What does it mean to be a witness to Jesus?
- How can the church 'carry on the life of Christ'?
- Does it matter if we are the only Christian in our school, at our sports club, in our home?
- What is one thing that you can do this week as a result of what you have learned?

## Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

### Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

## Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Finish with the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father in Heaven,  
Hallowed be your name,  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin  
against us,  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil,  
Amen*