

Fourth Family Huddle / Acts #1

Introduction to the Book of Acts

When you want to remember something that's very important, or when you want to tell someone something that's very important, the best thing to do is to write it down. Maybe you can't write anything but your name now, but one day you'll be able to write much more than that. You'll write all kinds of things.

God's Word Written for Us

There is something very, very important that was written a long time ago. That important information was written by a man name Luke. What makes Luke's words so important is that we can read them in the Bible. We can do that because Luke's words weren't just Luke's words. The words he wrote were God's words. God's Holy Spirit used Luke to write his words, almost the same way the wind causes a sail boat to glide across the water. And that's what makes the Bible different from any other book. In it we can hear God speak, even though we don't hear his voice. Yes, God speaks to us through this written word. As we read or listen, God guides us when we don't know what to do. He encourages us when we need help. He teaches us about ourselves and most of all, he teaches us about himself. If it weren't for the Bible we wouldn't know much about God. In the Bible God doesn't tell us everything about life or himself, but it tells us everything he wants us to know!

Many people who don't believe in God might say the Bible really isn't God's word and there's nothing special about it. Some who don't believe in God have tried to destroy the Bible, but God has protected his word for many, many years and it is a great blessing that some of us have one, two, maybe even more Bibles in our house. The Bible is a gift God has given to us, but it's not a book that we read just once, then put away on a bookshelf. God wants us to read the Bible over and over again. It's as though he always has something new to say to us.

For a time, we're going to look at stories in the book of Acts, the part of the Bible that God used Luke to write. It's in the New Testament part of the Bible.

Luke

So what do we know about this man God used to write the book of Acts? We don't know much, but we do know some things. Luke was a doctor who traveled with the apostle Paul. He wasn't Jewish like Jesus or many others who followed him, but Luke loved Jesus very much.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8

And there was something very important to Luke that we learn in the very first part of Acts - it was very, very important to Luke that the things that happened soon after Jesus returned to Heaven be written out clearly and correctly. Luke probably talked with people who knew Jesus, maybe some of Jesus' closest friends, the disciples, maybe even Mary, Jesus' mother. Then Luke wrote down the information. He wrote it for his friend Theophilus. Luke wanted Theophilus to know what happened to Jesus. He wrote "it is good for me to write an account for you, Theophilus, so that you may know the truth."

God used Luke to write another book in the Bible too - The Gospel of Luke. Gospel means good news and that book tells us about the very best news in the whole world - the news that God sent his son Jesus to live on earth and die so that sinners, people like you and me, could live forever with God. That's the very best news a person could ever hear! God used Luke to write two books in our Bible - The Gospel of Luke that tells us about Jesus' life on earth, and the book of Acts that tells us what happened right after Jesus returned to his Father.

Highlights of Acts

Acts tells us about the first church. It tells us lots of stories about men and women who loved Jesus. Two of them are very famous - Peter and Paul. But there are many others. We'll learn about Dorcas and Lydia and Barnabas. And we will talk about places, lots of places like Corinth and Philippi and even a place called Thessalonica!! But most of all, we will be talking about the Lord Jesus and how he loved and cared for those first men and women who served him and how they took his message and traveled from the city of Jerusalem, to the whole world! We will see how the first church grew from a small amount of believers to many, many thousands of people.

We can be certain, we can know for sure, that the stories we'll talk about are true. They really happened and we can be sure of it because Acts is found in the Bible, God's true word written for us.

Questions

A Prayer

Dear Father, Thank you for giving us your word. Help us never to take it for granted, but to love it more and more. Thank you for the book of Acts where we can learn so much about Jesus and the beginning of his church. Amen.

Younger Children

- What is God's Word called?
- Who is the doctor who wrote two books in the Bible?
- What are the books called?
- There are lots of people we can learn about in Acts, but who is the most important?

Older Children

- Why did Luke write Acts?
- Why is it important for us to know what the Bible says?
- What does it mean that the Bible is called God's Word?