DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY PLAN

The Church Begins

Fifteen short stories from Acts, from Jesus going back to heaven to a message nobody can stop — how a handful of frightened friends became the church. For kids, five days a week, three weeks.

15 Bible Studies by CoMission

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

The Church Begins

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More Bible study plans at **comission.cc**

How a Discovery Bible Study works

This page is for you, the parent or teacher — not for the child.

Every day in this plan has the same shape, and it is the same shape the adults use. Your job is not to explain the passage. Your job is to read it, ask the questions, and wait — a child who learns these four questions can walk into any Bible study for the rest of their life.

EAT, DIGEST, GROW

Eat the Word — Read the passage out loud twice — you first, then let them read it if they can. Close the Bible and have them tell it back in their own words. This is the step everybody skips, and it is the one that does the work. If it comes out thin, read it again and let them try again.

Digest — Ask the four questions, and let the silence sit. A seven-year-old needs longer to answer than you think, and the first thing they say is usually not the thing they mean.

Grow — Growth is God's part, not yours. One plants, another waters, but God gives the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7). Do the day faithfully; you do not have to make anything happen.

THE FOUR QUESTIONS

A kid-sized version of each one is printed under every day. Use those until the standard wording fits.

1. **What does this show me about God?**
2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**
3. **What will I obey this week?**
4. **Who will I tell?**

THE SHAPE OF ONE DAY

Read it twice — Out loud. You read it first; let them read it the second time if they can.

Have them tell it back — Bible closed, their own words. If it comes out thin, read it again.

Ask the four questions — Then wait. Do not fill the silence for them.

Land one "I will" — Small and real beats big and vague — put a name in it and a day on it.

Pray — At the end, not the start. Their own words are better than the printed prayer.

DON'T TEACH IT

The strongest instinct you will have is to explain. Resist it. The moment you start teaching, the child stops discovering, and you have replaced a skill they could keep with an answer they will forget. If they say something that is not in the passage, do not correct it — ask, kindly, "Where do you see that in the story?" and let them go back and look.

Fifteen or twenty minutes, not an hour. If you miss a day, pick up where you left off — whatever you start, finish.

How to use this plan

This page is for you, the parent or teacher — not for the child.

Fifteen studies, five weekdays a week, three weeks. One short passage a day. It is built to be a child's whole Bible time for the day and to take fifteen or twenty minutes, not an hour.

This plan picks up exactly where *Jesus Comes* stops. That plan ends at the empty tomb; this one starts forty days later, with Jesus going back to heaven and a small group of his friends left standing on a hill. If your child has done the storyline plans, say so on day one: everything from Abraham to the empty tomb was God keeping a promise, and this is what his people did next.

The shape of one day

1. **Read the passage out loud. Twice.** You read it the first time. Let the child read it the second time if they can.
2. **Close the Bible and have them tell it back** in their own words. This is the step everybody skips, and it is the one that does the work. If it comes out thin, read it again and let them try again. Don't correct the retelling into a lecture — just ask, "what happened next?"
3. **Ask the four questions.** Let the silence sit. A seven-year-old needs longer to answer than you think, and the first thing they say is usually not the thing they mean.
4. **Help them land one "I will."** Small and real beats big and vague.
5. **Pray.** The prayer under each day is there if they want it; their own words are better. Pray at the end, not the start — it's a response to what they found, not a hint about what they were supposed to find.

The four questions

Every day, the same four:

1. What does this show me about **God**?

2. What does it show me about **people — and about me**?
3. What will I **obey** this week?
4. **Who** will I tell?

Under each day you'll find a kid-sized version of each one. Use those if the standard wording goes over their head; use the standard four once they can carry them. They are the same questions the adults' plans use, on purpose — a child who learns these four can walk into any Bible study for the rest of their life.

Don't teach it

The strongest instinct you will have is to explain. Resist it. The moment you start teaching, the child stops discovering, and you have replaced a skill they could keep with an answer they will forget.

If they say something that isn't in the passage, don't correct it — ask, kindly: *"Where do you see that in the story?"* Let them go back and look. If they get something wrong and nobody catches it today, they will meet it again — the Bible is long and God is patient.

This plan is full of question 4

Almost every story in Acts is somebody telling somebody. Peter tells a crowd, Philip tells one man on a road, Ananias goes to the one person he was most afraid of, and a jailer's whole family hears in one night. Your child will notice that the question at the bottom of the page is the same thing the people in the story keep doing. Let them notice it themselves — you don't need to point it out.

It also means question 4 will be harder to dodge than usual. That's fine. A child who says "I don't know who I'd tell" is being honest; help them think of one real name, and leave it there.

The hard days

Two days need care rather than avoidance:

- **Day 7 (Stephen).** Stephen is killed for talking about Jesus. Tell it honestly and simply; you don't need to describe the stones. Stay where Luke stays: Stephen sees Jesus standing, and he forgives the people doing it — just as Jesus did on the cross. If your child did *Jesus Comes*, they may make that connection on their own. Notice, too, the young man called Saul watching the coats. He comes back on day 9.
- **Day 14 (the jailer).** After the earthquake, the jailer thinks the prisoners have escaped and is about to harm himself, and Paul shouts to stop him. Read it as written, without dwelling on it. If your child asks about it, answer plainly: he was terrified he would be punished, and Paul cared about him even though he was the one who had locked him up.

Then day 12 is the opposite: the church is praying for Peter to get out of prison, and when he turns up at the door nobody believes it. Let it be funny.

Making the "I will" real

Put a name in it and a day on it.

✗ "I'll tell people about Jesus." ✓ "On Saturday I'm going to tell my cousin the story about the man in the chariot."

Then ask about it the next day, before you read. *Did you do it? Who did you tell?* Asking is what turns this from a reading plan into a habit of obeying.

Ages, and mixed ages

Written for roughly ages 6–12. A six-year-old will need you to read it and will answer in one sentence; an eleven-year-old can read it themselves and write their answers down. If you have both at the table, read once for everybody and let them answer at their own depth. Don't split them up — the younger ones learn how to answer by hearing the older ones do it.

What comes next

The book of Acts doesn’t really end — it stops, with Paul still talking about Jesus and nobody able to stop him. Day 15 is only two verses for that reason. The point of the last day is that the story came all the way down to your family, because somebody told somebody who told somebody. Your child is next.

If you miss a day

Pick up where you left off. Fifteen studies is fifteen studies whether it takes three weeks or five. Whatever you start, finish.

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Jesus goes back to heaven

Acts 1:6-11

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Jesus tells his friends they will get power when the Holy Spirit comes. What does that tell you about how God helps people?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The friends stand staring up at the sky until somebody asks them why. Why do you think they just stood there?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Jesus says to start telling people right where you are. Where is "right where you are" for you this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is one person, near you, who hasn't heard about Jesus yet?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, Jesus did not leave his friends on their own — he promised them your Holy Spirit. Thank you that I am not on my own either. Help me tell people about Jesus wherever I am.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY The Holy Spirit comes

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The Holy Spirit comes

Acts 2:1-13

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   People from lots of countries all hear about God in their own language. What does that show you about who God wants to reach?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Some people are amazed, and some people make fun. Why do you think the same thing makes people react so differently?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   What is one thing you would be too scared to do on your own that you will ask God to help you do this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who do you know who speaks a different language, or comes from a different place? How could they hear about Jesus?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, you came to your friends with wind and fire, and suddenly everybody could hear about you in their own language. Thank you that you want every kind of person to understand. Fill me with your Spirit too.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY What shall we do? comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/03/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

What shall we do?

Acts 2:36-41

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Peter says the promise is for them, for their children, and for people far away. What does that tell you about God's promise?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The people feel terrible and ask, "What shall we do?" What is good about asking that question?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Is there something you know is wrong that you will turn around from this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell that God's promise is for kids too?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, when the people understood what they had done to Jesus, you did not turn them away — you offered to forgive them. Thank you that your promise is for kids too. Help me turn around when I am going the wrong way.*

This study online

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

The first church shares everything

Acts 2:42-47

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Every day God adds more people to the church. What does that show you about what God is doing?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Nobody tells these people to share — they just do. What makes people want to give things away?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   What is one thing you have that you will share with somebody this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you eat with, or pray with, this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, the first Christians ate together, prayed together and gave away what they had to anybody who needed it. Thank you for the people you have put around me. Help me be glad and generous like they were.*

This study online

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Walking and leaping and praising God

Acts 3:1-10

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Peter heals the man "in the name of Jesus." Who does the healing, really?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The man had been sitting at that gate every day of his life, asking for coins. What did he ask for, and what did he get?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Peter says, "What I do have, I give you." What do you have that you could give somebody this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is somebody everybody walks past? What could you say to them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, Peter had no money to give, but he gave what he had — Jesus. Thank you that you can make people well. Help me give people what I have, even when it isn't much.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY We can't stop talking about it

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

We can't stop talking about it

Acts 4:13-20

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   The leaders can tell Peter and John have been with Jesus. What does being with Jesus do to a person?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Peter and John are ordinary men, not experts. Why were the leaders so surprised by them?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   What is something you have seen God do that you will tell somebody about this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who would you feel nervous telling about Jesus? Could you ask God to help you tell them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, the leaders told Peter and John to stop talking about Jesus, and they said they couldn't. Thank you that ordinary people can be brave for you. Help me tell what I have seen and heard.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Stephen forgives comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/07/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Stephen forgives

Acts 7:54-60

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Stephen sees Jesus standing next to God. What does that tell you about where Jesus is when his people are hurting?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Stephen prays for the people who are hurting him. Who else in the Bible did that?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Who is somebody you need to forgive this week? What will you pray for them?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who do you know who is going through something hard, and needs to know Jesus has not left them?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, when people hurt Stephen, he asked you not to hold it against them — just like Jesus did. Thank you that Jesus is with the people who belong to him, even on the worst day. Help me forgive people who hurt me.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Philip and the man in the chariot comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/08/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Philip and the man in the chariot

Acts 8:26-39

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   God sends Philip a long way to meet one person. What does that tell you about how much one person matters to God?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The man is reading the Bible but says he needs somebody to help him. What does Philip do first — talk, or ask?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Philip runs when God tells him to go. What is one thing you think God wants you to do this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is somebody you could read a Bible story with this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, you sent Philip down a desert road to meet just one man who wanted to understand the Bible. Thank you that you know exactly who is looking for you. Help me listen when you tell me to go and talk to somebody.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Saul meets Jesus on the road comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/09/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Saul meets Jesus on the road

Acts 9:1-9

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Jesus says Saul is hurting him, when Saul was hurting Jesus' followers. What does that show you about how Jesus feels about his people?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Saul was sure he was right, and he was completely wrong. How can somebody be that sure and that wrong?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Who is somebody you think could never follow Jesus? Will you pray for them every day this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who could you tell that Jesus can change anybody?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, Saul was the last person anybody expected to follow Jesus, and you stopped him on the road anyway. Thank you that nobody is too far away for you. Help me never give up praying for somebody.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Ananias goes anyway comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/10/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

CoMission

Ananias goes anyway

Acts 9:10-19

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   God already has a plan for Saul that Ananias knows nothing about. What does that tell you about God?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The first thing Ananias calls Saul is "brother." Why do you think that mattered so much?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   What is something God wants you to do that you have been scared to do? When will you do it this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is somebody who needs you to be kind to them first?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, Ananias was scared of Saul, and he told you so — and then he went. Thank you that I can tell you when I am afraid. Help me obey you even when I'm scared.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Peter visits Cornelius

comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/11/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Peter visits Cornelius

Acts 10:24-35

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Peter says God does not have favourites. What does that show you about God?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Peter had been taught never to go into a house like Cornelius's. What changed his mind?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Who is somebody different from you that you will be friendly to this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Cornelius calls all his family and friends to come and listen. Who would you invite to hear about Jesus?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, you showed Peter that you do not have favourites, and that everybody can come to you. Thank you that the good news is for every kind of person. Help me not to leave anybody out.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY A church prays and a door opens comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/12/

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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A church prays and a door opens

Acts 12:5-17

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Chains fall off and a gate opens all by itself. What does that tell you about God?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   They are praying for Peter, and when he turns up at the door nobody believes it. Why do you think that is?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Who is somebody in trouble that you will pray for every day this week?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Peter says, "Go and tell the others." Who could you tell about something God has done?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, the church prayed for Peter in the middle of the night, and you answered while they were still praying. Thank you that you hear us. Help me pray and expect you to answer.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Sent out comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/13/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Sent out

Acts 13:1-3

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   The Holy Spirit chooses who goes. What does that tell you about who is in charge of the church?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The church is sad to say goodbye but sends them anyway. Why would a church give away its best people?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   Where could you "go" this week — a new kid, a neighbour, a family member — to talk about Jesus?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who are the people who told you about Jesus? Could you thank one of them this week?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, the church in Antioch gave you two of their best friends and sent them off to tell others about Jesus. Thank you for the people who first told me. Help me be ready to go wherever you send me.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY Singing in jail at midnight comission.cc/en/study/kids-the-church-begins/14/

— DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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Singing in jail at midnight

Acts 16:25-34

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   The jailer asks, "What must I do to be saved?" What is the answer, and what does it show you about God?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   The other prisoners are listening to Paul and Silas sing. Who is watching how you act when things go wrong?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   When something goes wrong this week, what will you do instead of grumbling?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   The jailer's whole family hears about Jesus that same night. Who in your family could you tell?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, Paul and Silas were hurt and locked up, and they sang to you anyway. Thank you that you are with me in the dark. Help me trust you when things go wrong.*

This study online

NEXT STUDY The story keeps going

DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

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The story keeps going

Acts 28:30-31

1 Eat

Read the passage slowly, read it again, then retell it in your own words. If you can't retell it, read it once more.

☐ Read ☐ Reread ☐ Retell

2 Digest

Answer from what the passage actually says — stay in the text.

1. **What does this show me about God?**

   Paul is under guard, but the message is not. What does that show you about God's good news?

2. **What does it show me about people — and about me?**

   Paul welcomes everybody who comes to see him. What kind of person is he now, compared with the day he met Jesus?

3. **What will I obey this week?**

   The story didn't end in Acts — it came all the way to you. What is one thing you will do this week to keep it going?

4. **Who will I tell?**

   Who is the next person you will tell?

3 Grow

Growth is God's part, not yours. Do the cycle faithfully and trust Him to give the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

✦ Pray

> *God, the book of Acts ends with Paul still telling people about Jesus, and nobody able to stop him. Thank you that the story of your church is still going. Help me be part of it.*

This study online

LAST STUDY IN THIS PLAN Choose your next plan

CoMission
Keep making disciples.
This is one of many. Find more Bible study plans and discipleship resources at
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