



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 6



What Should We Do?

Acts 2:37-47

Supplemental Scripture

Philippians 2:1-11
John 17:20-23

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Memory Verse

All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:38 (NirV)

What would you do if you thought you were running in a race but you were really running the wrong way? You would turn around and go the other way, right?

Well, on the day of Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, who heard them when they began to speak in other languages? Do you remember? The Bible tells us that they were Jews who feared God and who were from “every country under heaven.” (Acts 2:5 AMP) All that was happening with the disciples drew a crowd. The people were amazed to hear these Galileans speak in languages they could understand. They didn’t understand what it meant.

Lesson Goals

Understand the difference between knowing who God is and having a relationship with God

Who explained it to them? Peter did. Peter explained that what was happening was from God; He was keeping His promise. God had sent the Holy Spirit, just as He said He would. Peter also shared the Good News about Jesus. Peter told the crowd that Jesus, whom they had crucified, was no longer dead. Jesus had risen from the dead and was now seated at the right hand of God.

Understand that a relationship with God begins with turning from your sins

When they heard this, the crowd realized something. The Jews in this crowd were believers in God. They were good men. They thought they were running the same race as the disciples. But when Peter spoke, they realized they had been running the wrong way. They had done many good things, but that wasn’t enough. They believed in God, but we read in James 2:19, “You surely believe there is only one God. That’s fine. Even demons believe this, and it makes them shake with fear.” So they asked, “What do we do?”

Understand that the Holy Spirit comes to believers today

Peter told them, “All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38 NirV) Can you imagine? These men, who had been “running the wrong way” realized that if they turned away from their sins and put their

Application

How about your church?
Are new believers being
added daily?

Maybe you are one of
those who has been
running the wrong
direction. You believe
there is a God and you
have been trying to do
good things for Him,
but you haven't yet
turned away from your
sin and put your trust in
Jesus yet. What are
you waiting for?
"Today is the day of
salvation!" (2 Corin-
thians 6:2) Be one of
those added today.

And if you are already a
believer, what are you
doing so that other be-
lievers will be added to
your church? Will you
be His witness today,
not just in words, but
also in the way you live?
How well do you get
along with others at
church? Do you know
that how well you get
along with other believ-
ers affects whether
someone will want to
believe in Jesus? Are
you ready to run the
race well? Let's go!

trust in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, they, too, could be filled with the Holy Spirit! Those who accepted the message and believed were baptized. There were about 3,000 people who stopped running the wrong direction and who began running toward Jesus that day!

The disciples didn't leave the believers to themselves. They began to teach these new believers what Jesus had taught them. They were witnesses of what they had seen and heard. All of these believers shared things with each other; they even sold their possessions and shared with everyone. They ate meals together, and they prayed together. They met together in their homes and in the temple courtyard. "Their hearts were glad and honest and true. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved." (Acts 2:46b-47 NIV)

Review

1. When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, who came to see what was happening? (God-fearing men from every country under heaven)
2. Did they understand what was happening? (No.)
3. Who explained it to them? (Peter.)
4. What did he tell them? (You crucified Jesus. Turn from your sins and be baptized.)
5. What happened? (About 3,000 people believed that day.)

Next Week
A Lame Man is Healed
Acts 3:1-10

Preschool Lesson

What would you do if you thought you were running in a race but you were really running the wrong way? You would turn around and go the other way, right?

Well, on the day of Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, the Bible says that there were Jews who feared God and who were from “every country under heaven,” who gathered together in a crowd. The people were amazed to hear the disciples speak in languages they could understand. They didn’t understand what it meant, so Peter explained it to them. Peter explained that what was happening was from God. God was keeping His promise. God had sent the Holy Spirit, just as He said He would. Peter also shared the Good News about Jesus, that He died for our sins, was buried, and then rose from the grave.

When they heard this, the crowd realized something. The Jews in this crowd believed in God. They were good men. They thought they were running the same race as the disciples. But when Peter spoke, they realized they had been running the wrong way. They had done many good things, but that wasn’t enough. They believed in God, but “even demons believe this.” So they asked, “What do we do?”

Peter told them, “All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38 NIV) Can you imagine? These men, who had been “running the wrong way” realized they if they turned away from their sins and put their trust in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, they, too, could be filled with the Holy Spirit! Those who accepted the message and believed were baptized. There were about 3,000 people who stopped running the wrong direction and who began running toward Jesus that day!

The disciples didn’t leave the believers to themselves. They began to teach these new believers what Jesus had taught them. They were witnesses of what they had seen and heard. All of these believers shared things with each other, they even sold their possessions and shared with everyone. They ate meals together, and they prayed together. They met together in their homes and in the temple courtyard. They were glad and honest and true. They praised God. People respected them. And every day more and more people were believing in the Lord. (Acts 2:46b-47)

Activities

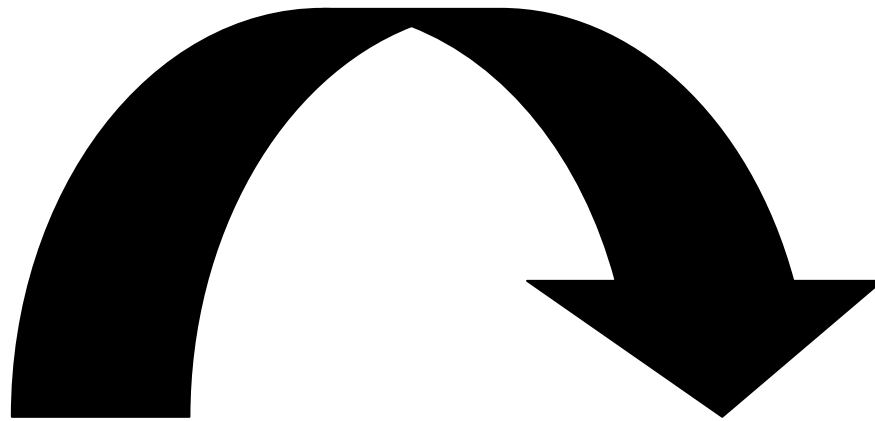
Memory Verse Activity - Encourage your students to come up with hand motions for the memory verse. Practice saying the verse while making the hand motions.

Bring flags from many nations. Discuss what kind of people were in Jerusalem at the time of Pentecost. Talk about what they had believed, how they heard the truth, and what their response was.

Sing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.”

Make a “Good News Story Book.” Talk about what the “good news” is, the truth about Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Draw pictures of each, ending with a picture of someone choosing to trust in Christ and follow Him. You might even want to include captions from “the Roman Road.”

Run relays. Talk about turning around and running the other direction. Discuss how this is like trusting Christ and following Him.



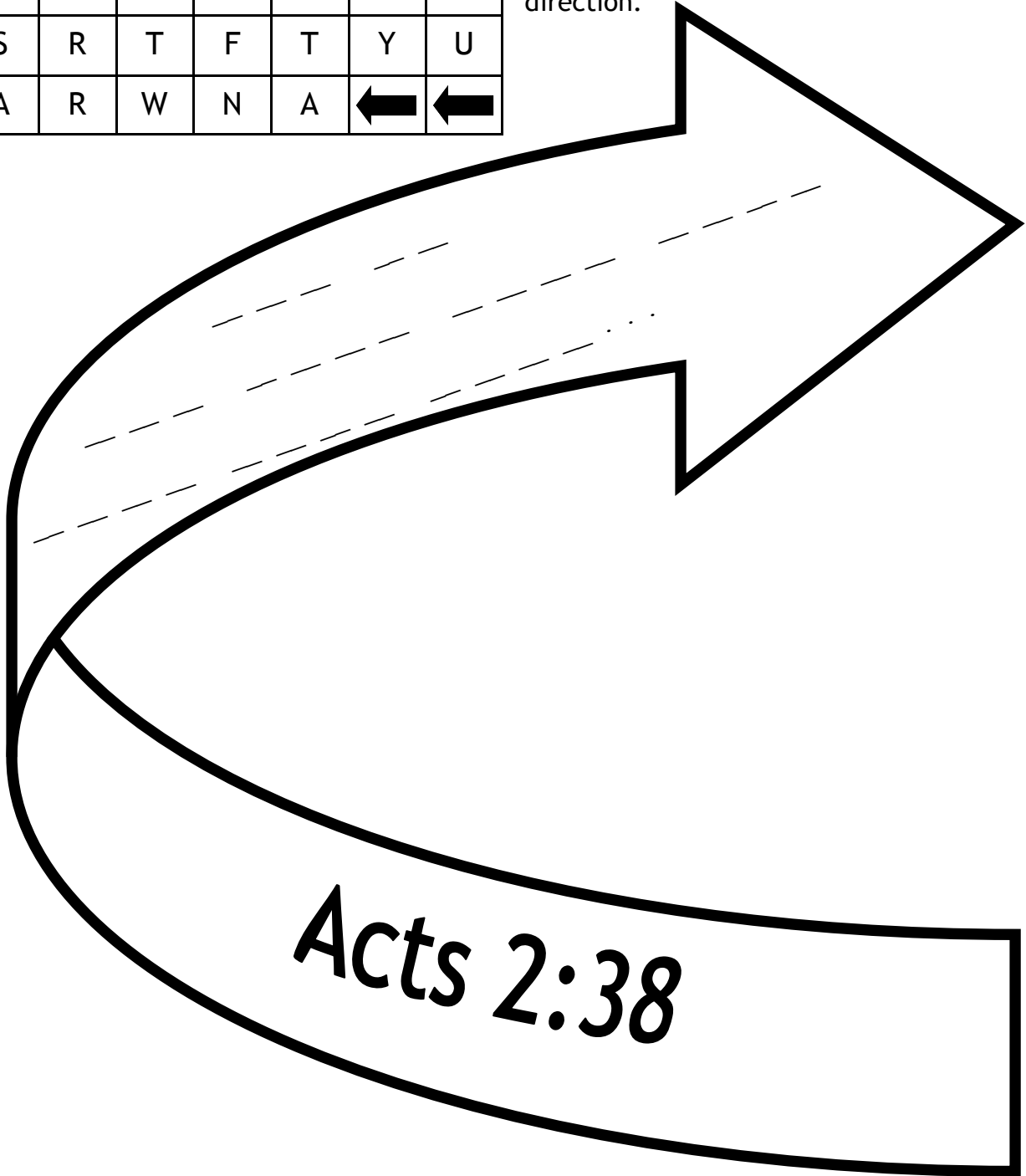
All of you
must turn away from your sins
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in the name of Jesus Christ.
Then your sins
will be forgiven.
You will receive
the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

Racing Riddles

→	A	S	L	N	L	I
O	S	F	R	Y	U	O
O	U	Y	M	M	U	O
S	R	T	F	T	Y	U
A	R	W	N	A	←	←

Begin with the first letter in the table and write every other letter, in order, on the spaces below. When you reach the end of the table, turn around and go the other direction.



Racing Riddles

➔	A	S	L	N	L	I
O	S	F	R	Y	U	O
O	U	Y	M	M	U	O
S	R	T	F	T	Y	U
A	R	W	N	A	➔	➔

Begin with the first letter in the table and write every other letter, in order, on the spaces below. When you reach the end of the table, turn around and go the other direction.

YOU ALL OF
FROM YOUR SINS . . .

Acts 2:38

Word Search

s h a r e u s r i p s y o l
r h a d e i t w a f a s h h
e u s u l p e l s i d e o t
v p e n e v e e e f k e l g
e t h r e e t h o u s a n d
i t o i e j t h o p e r n d
l i l e b s t h r l r p p r
e e y r e u y a i e y p i t
b e s u r t l p r u e s r s
w r p e t e r t o a e t i i
e k i e e a i m o r p n h m
n o r o y c e t t i r e g o
n b i b l h s t u d y v r r
s t t s u r t t d y c t e p

share

three thousand

believe

Holy Spirit

Peter

trust

teach

pray

new believers

Word Search

s h a r e u s r i p s y o l
r h a d e i t w a f a s h h
e u s u l p e l s i d e o t
v p e n e v e e e f k e l g
e t h r e e t h o u s a n d
i t o i e j t h o p e r n d
l i l e b s t h r l r p p r
e e y r e u y a i e y p i t
b e s u r t l p r u e s r s
w r p e t e r t o a e t i i
e k i e e a i m o r p n h m
n o r o y c e t t i r e g o
n b i b l h s t u d y v r r
s t t s u r t t d y c t e p

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