

Unveiling the Plan

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:1-5

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say."

16 "No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him."

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:1-6, 12-14, 16, 17, 22-24, 36-39

Which Came First?

Circle the item in each pair that came into existence first.

Model A Ford or Model T Ford

Coca-Cola or Pepsi soft drinks

Statehood for Missouri or Kentucky

Korean War or Vietnam War

First electric toothbrush or modern toothpaste

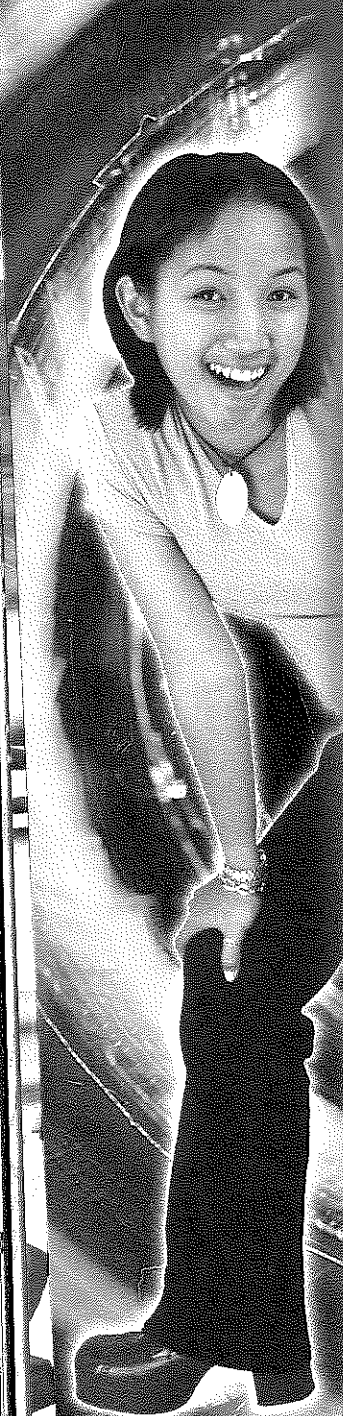
Microsoft computer software or Sony Walkman tape player

US President Benjamin Harrison or President Franklin Pierce

Slinky spring toys or Hula-Hoop plastic hoops

Silly Putty modeling clay or LEGO plastic construction toys

Movie projector or X-ray machine



The Early Days of the Church

Your teacher will give your group pens and paper and one of the following writing assignments. Read the Scripture passages mentioned and complete the assignment.

Instruction—After His resurrection, Jesus continued to teach His disciples about founding His church (Acts 1:1-5).

Create an advertisement for the very special “school” described here. On your ad, be sure to identify the faculty, the course content, the length of the term, and details about the graduation ceremony.

Initiation—God poured out His power on the disciples in a miraculous way (Acts 2:1-13).

Write a script for two sportscasters viewing the event in this passage. Be sure to include a report on weather conditions, a play-by-play description of the events, and comments from the players and the crowd.

Invitation—Peter introduced thousands to the church with a sermon (Acts 2:12-14, 16, 17, 22-24, 36-39).

Write a diary entry of a Jerusalem teenager who was present when this sermon was given. Have the teen summarize the content of the sermon, how the crowds reacted, and how he or she felt at the time.



One Foot Forward

God is still very active in the life of His church today. What can you do to show your love and commitment to God and His church?

Step 1: Instruction

I will actively take part in helping others follow Jesus' instructions by . . .

Step 2: Initiation

I will help others use their talents for God by . . .

Step 3: Invitation

I will share the good news of Jesus with others by . . .