



## INTRODUCTION

Hello. We're Harry and Jess, the Bible Detectives Squad. We're about to begin a special mission to investigate the book of Acts. Click, our computer mouse is here to help us on our journey. He's just downloaded some data to get us started. How about joining us? Just sharpen your pencil and off we go. Look at this! Click has downloaded some background information.



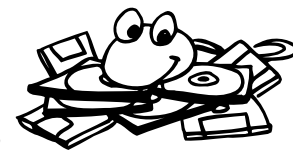
### ACTS FACT FILE

The Book of Acts is in the New Testament. This is the second section of the Bible, the first one being the Old Testament. Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament and can be found after the gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Author: Dr Luke.

When it was written: Between AD 63 and 70. After Jesus' death and resurrection.

Why it was written: To show what came after the Gospel of Luke and to record the birth of the Christian church and its growth.



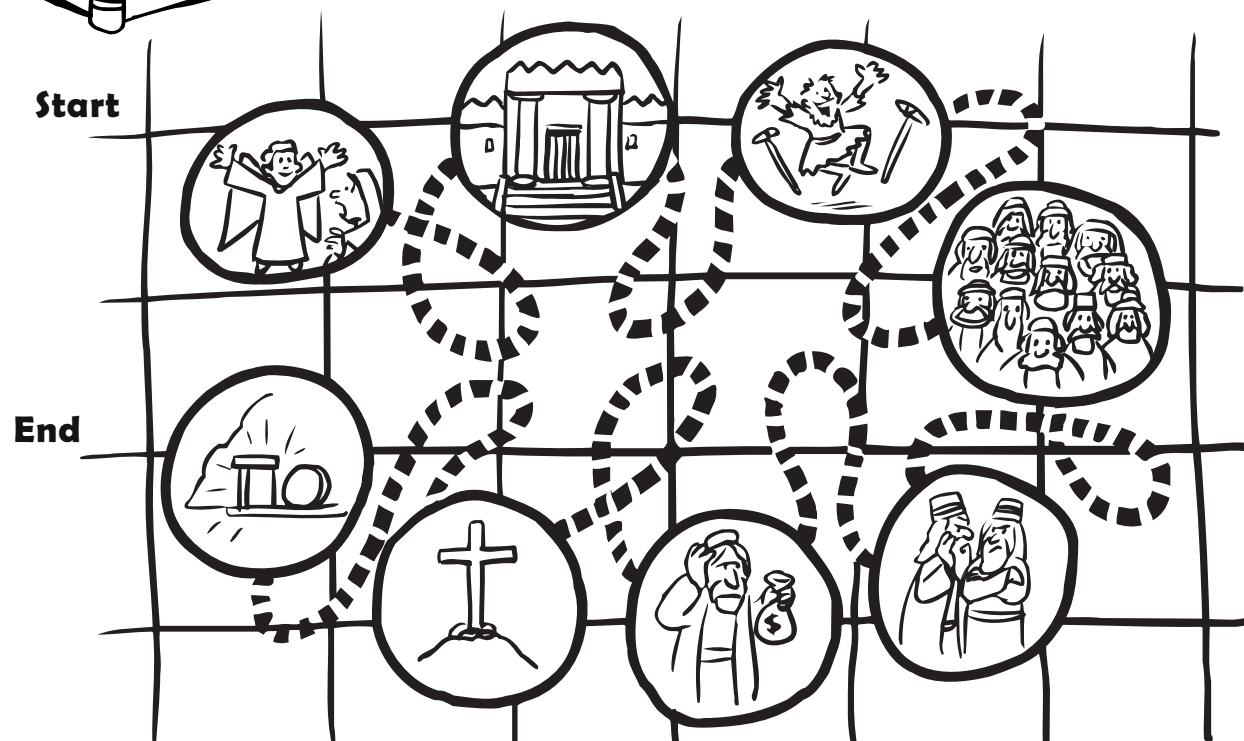
### BIBLE FACT FILE

The Bible is God's book, but he used people to do the physical writing. Some were prophets or men of God and some were disciples. They either wrote down or told others what God had said to them. The Old Testament can be found at the beginning of the Bible and it writes about what happened before Jesus was born. It has 39 separate books. The New Testament is in the second section of the Bible and has 27 different books. It tells us about Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and what his followers did after he went back to heaven. Each Bible book is divided into smaller sections called chapters, and these are then divided into verses.

Now we need to take a look at what happened just before the book of Acts begins. We think that the gospel of Luke would be a good place to start.



Luke collected information from eyewitnesses and checked their stories carefully. He wrote these stories to a friend named, Theophilus. Look at the map below and the paragraphs beneath. Put the paragraphs in order by looking at the visual clues in the map. The first one is done for you.



- (1) The Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would have a son by the Holy Spirit. She was to call him Jesus. Mary and her fiancé Joseph travelled to Bethlehem for a census. Jesus was born there in a stable.
- ( ) Jesus was arrested. Pilate, the Roman governor found that Jesus had done nothing wrong. But even then Jesus was flogged and crucified on a cross.
- ( ) Jesus went to Jerusalem. The chief priests plotted to have him killed.
- ( ) Jesus died and was buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. Three days later he rose from the dead. For forty days he appeared to the disciples at different times.
- ( ) Jesus chose twelve disciples to go with him through Galilee.
- ( ) Judas Iscariot was one of Jesus' disciples. Judas betrayed Jesus.
- ( ) Baby Jesus was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. The prophets Simeon and Anna both recognised that Jesus was the king God had promised to send.
- ( ) When he was about thirty years old, Jesus began his ministry. He healed the sick, cast out demons and preached the good news of the kingdom of God.

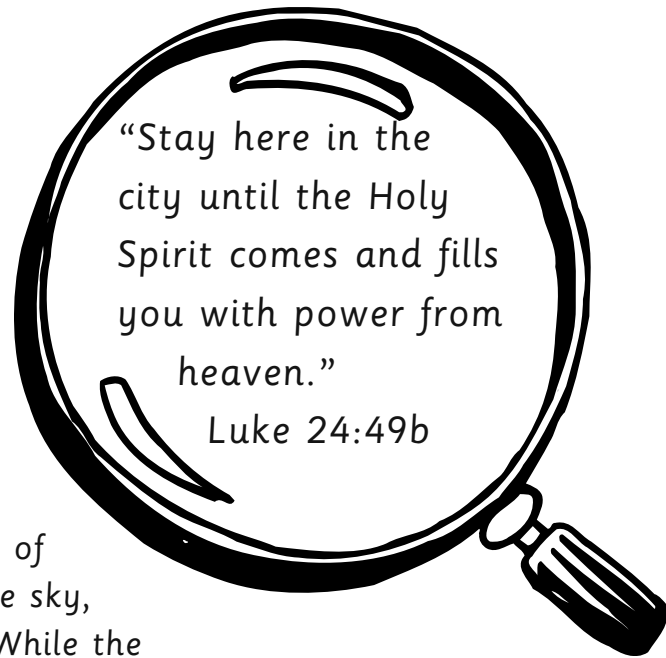
Why do you think that Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem? Harry has the answer on the next page!



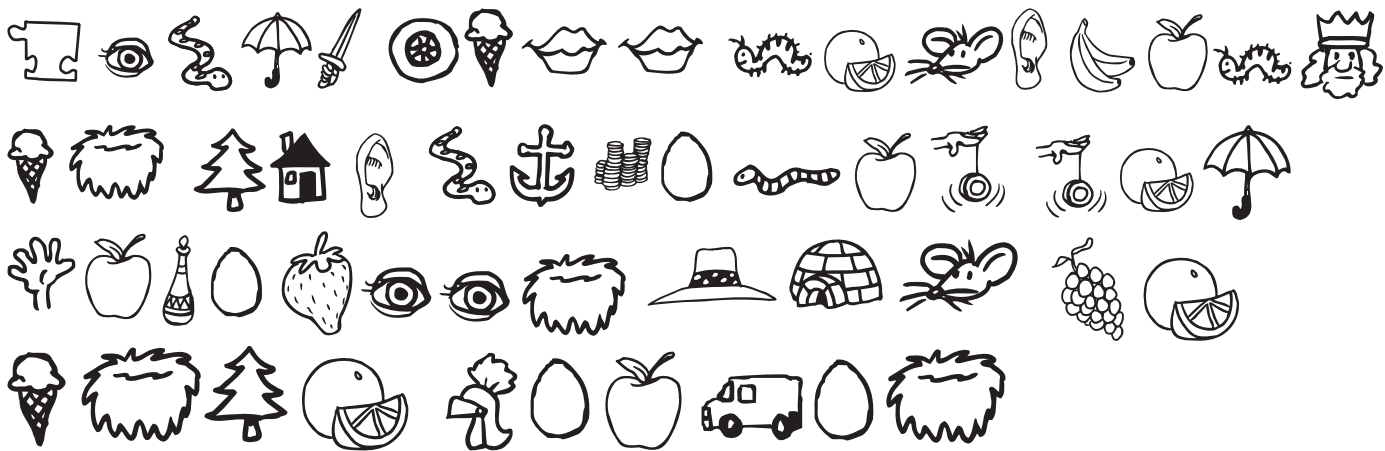
It's because God had a mission for them. Jesus had told them that they were to go to the nations and tell them about him. They were to let people know that anyone who turned to him would have their sins forgiven. But before they could do this, they needed to wait for someone whom God had promised would come. Look! I've uncovered an important verse.

### Acts 1: 1-11 - The Ascension

Those forty days after Jesus had risen from the dead must have been amazing. They must have been so happy to know that he was alive. And now they were about to receive a promised gift from God. I can't wait to find out what happened next...



After 40 days, while Jesus was with the disciples on the Mount of Olives, he was taken up into the sky, and disappeared into a cloud. While the disciples watched, two men dressed in white suddenly appeared in front of them and spoke. They asked the disciples why they were standing there, staring at the sky, and told them that Jesus had been taken into heaven. We need to find out what else they said by working through this puzzle! Take the first letter of each picture and write it into the spaces below.



-----

-----

----- (ACTS 1:11)

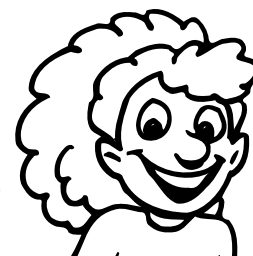
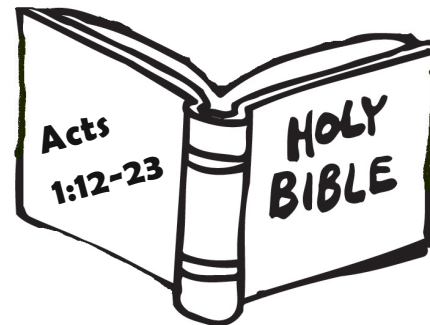
### Matthias chosen to replace Judas



I don't suppose the disciples ever forgot that day. So, what did they do when they got back to Jerusalem?

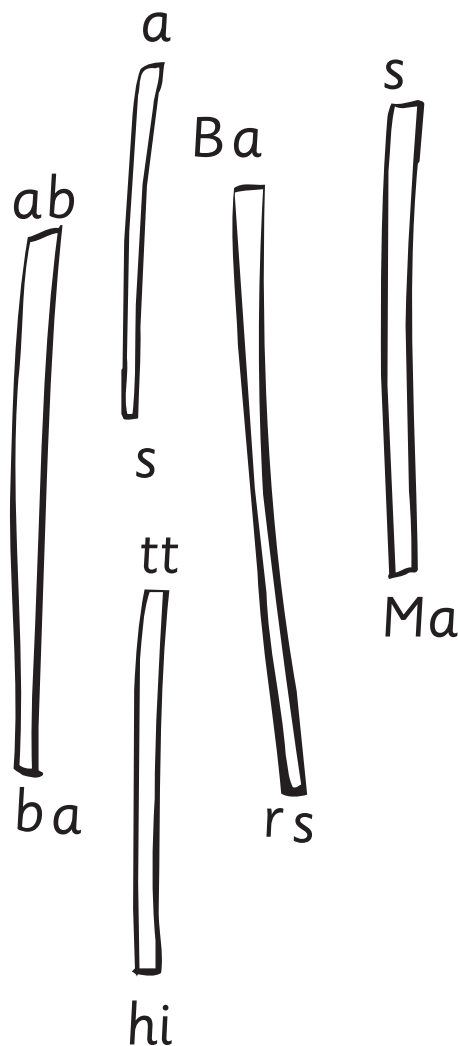


Well, the disciples, together with Jesus' mother Mary, his brothers and other women kept on meeting to pray. In fact, it was while about 120 believers were meeting together that something important happened. Click's been keeping busy searching for further information. Let's take a look.



They had to find another disciple to replace Judas Iscariot who was now dead. Peter was about to speak to them about a prophecy from long ago.

In the book of Psalms King David wrote about Judas' betrayal of Jesus. "May another take his place of leadership," David had prophesied. Peter wanted to make sure that this happened. Here's the sort of person they were looking for.



**He was to have been with the disciples all the time that Jesus was with them – from the time of his baptism to the time when he rose up to heaven. He would become a witness with the other disciples of Jesus' resurrection.**

Two men seemed to be the right fit, but only one could replace Judas. So the disciples asked God to show them which of the two he had chosen. Then they used a system called "casting lots" to find out. You can see in our puzzle that there are two bunches of straws with letters on the end. Take the letter from the longest straw first and continue in the order of their height. This will reveal the names of the two men.

