

### Chapter 28 – New Beginnings

#### Day One – Power

**Today's reading:** Page 389 through top of page 394

**This reading covers:** Acts 1-2

**Summary:** God sends his power to his people through the Holy Spirit.

**Do together:** Draw a picture of Jesus going back up to heaven.

**Think about:** Before Jesus went back to heaven he promised his disciples the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit arrived on Pentecost, a festival when many Jews had come together to celebrate. What did the Holy Spirit sound like? What did he look like? What did the Holy Spirit enable the believers to do that they couldn't do before? How did Peter use the special abilities supplied by the Holy Spirit, right there and then? All believers – you too! – have received the gift of the Holy Spirit to help them lead a life that pleases God.

**Also read:** John 14:26; Acts 2:38-39; Galatians 5:22-23

**Prayer:** God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside me, to give me comfort and encouragement and to make me feel connected to you at all times. With the Holy Spirit's help, I want to always speak boldly about you just as Peter did. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

### Chapter 28 – New Beginnings Day Two – The First Church

**Today's reading:** Break on page 390 through top of page 394

**This reading covers:** Acts 2

**Summary:** Jesus' followers lived out their faith together.

**Do together:** Form a line and then pass a small ball from person-to-person using chins or between knees (no hands). Make note of the fact that everyone has to work together.

**Think about:** Name some people with whom you share common interests or who you enjoy being with. The first believers wanted to do life together because they all shared a love of Jesus and the belief that he was their Savior. Name some things they did together. Were these things Jesus had taught them? How did their examples of loving, sharing and caring make others want to know more about Jesus too? Think of someone you know who you could tell about Jesus – not only with words but by setting a good example. What kind of good example could you set?

**Also read:** 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 13:115-16

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank you for helping the first church grow and grow. Please be with the leaders of my church family to help them do your will. Give us the joy and commitment those first believers had in sharing what we have with others, including the good news about you. I pray in your name. Amen.

### Chapter 28 – New Beginnings Day Three – A Big Change

**Today's reading:** Bottom of page 399 middle of page 401

**This reading covers:** Acts 8-9

**Summary:** Saul went from hurting God's people to helping them.

**Do together:** Take turns being blindfolded. See if the "blind" person can guess objects placed in his or her hands. Some suggestions: in-the-shell peanut; paperclip; uncooked pasta; checkers, domino or chess piece; carrot; tennis ball, golf ball or baseball; a Gummi Bear candy.

**Think about:** Why do you think Jesus blinded Saul: to punish him or to make him realize he was for real? After his personal encounter with Jesus, talking to Ananias and receiving the Holy Spirit, Saul changed his ways. What new name did he go by? Instead of wanting to punish people for being believers, what did he spend the rest of his life doing? The moment Saul realized he was a sinner and that Jesus was his Savior, he was a new person in God's eyes. Have you become a brand new person? You can by trusting in Jesus.

**Also Read:** John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, thank you for being my Savior, for taking away my sins and for making me a brand new creature. I pray in your name, Amen.