

# ACTS 1:8 | Session 3: “1 GR8 Party”

## Getting Started

**Learning Goal:** Students will look at how Acts 1:8 shows God’s New Testament purpose, namely, to save those who are lost.

**What You Need to Know:** What God began in the Old Testament, He carried on into the New Testament and all the way to the present. God desires to reconcile people to Himself, and all of us—Jew and Gentile—are His people if we answer His call.

**Key/Memory Verse:** Matthew 24:14

### Supporting Verses:

- Acts 1:8
- Luke 15
- 1 Timothy 2:1-6

### INTERNET RESOURCES

- Acts 1:8 Challenge – [www.ActsOne8.com](http://www.ActsOne8.com)
- International Mission Board – [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)
- North American Mission Board – [www.namb.net](http://www.namb.net)
- Southern Baptist Convention – [www.sbc.net](http://www.sbc.net)

## Supply List

- Music video: MercyMe, *Go*
- Bibles (one per student)
- Balloons
- Streamers
- Plain cupcakes
- Sprinkles, frosting, and other edible decorations
- Milk (or juice, if some of the students or staff are lactose-intolerant)
- Napkins
- Plastic or paper cups
- Pens, pencils, or markers
- Small toy sheep (made out of cotton balls if necessary)
- Coin (a quarter will do)
- G.I. Joe or Ken doll
- For alternate challenge activity: A small notebook for each student to be used as a journal



## Prepare Ahead

- ▶ **Decorate** the room with balloons and streamers before your students arrive.
- ▶ **Hide** the sheep, the G.I. Joe/Ken doll, and the coin around the room.
- ▶ **Download** music video, *Go*, (3:26) from the contemporary gospel music group, MercyMe, at [www.ActsOne8.com](http://www.ActsOne8.com).

# Leader Background Study

Jesus enjoyed parties. His first miracle (that we know of) was turning water into wine when a wedding party ran dry. He attended multiple feasts and festivals with His disciples, with the most memorable being the Last Supper (known to the rest of God's people at the time as Passover). For Him, these "parties" were times of joy and celebration, and there was something in them that He found to be good. But what can we learn about God's plan for creation from this?

Simple. God wants to recover that which is lost, and then celebrate! Christ's call for us to go out to all nations is not only a call to work, but to joy.

For this session, students will look at the things that, in God's eyes, warrant a party: when something (or someone) that is lost becomes found. We were once lost ourselves, but no longer. Sounds like something worthy of a party.

Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit as you prepare for the lesson. This week's focus is on how Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 reflect God's purpose in the New Testament, which is to recover the lost. It will also emphasize the joy He takes in this recovery, and how even we feel good when something we've lost is found.

Look over Learner Worksheets 3-A and 3-B, and take a look back at 2-A and 2-B. Review Acts 1:8, and read through Luke 15, 1 Timothy 2:1-6, and Matthew 24:14 (this week's memory verse).

## **C**onnect: "Where in the Room Is ...?" (10 minutes)

**Welcome** all of your students. **Have** them break up into small groups (three to five students) and review the previous week's memory verse (Learner Worksheet 2-A) and share reminders of God's love that they encountered during the week. When they've finished, have them discuss what they learned from last week's project (Learner Worksheet 2-B). **Find out** what kinds of things people lost (or had hidden), and how long it took for them to be found. **Ask** students to recall whom they indicated they wanted to be "found." **Invite** volunteers to share what they did to help "find" the people, being sensitive to the fact that some of them could be in the room.

**Tell** your students that you are missing three things, and that they are hidden around the room. **Ask** for volunteers to make suggestions on where to look (alternatively, if you have a very small group, you may let them search for the missing items). Options for hiding spots (and thus, suggestions) might include in a drawer, behind the desk, on top of a cabinet, on a bookcase, and so forth. When you find one of the objects, **hold** it up so that everyone can see, and **set** it someplace visible. Once you've found all three, **congratulate** your students, and let them know that later there will be time for celebration.



## Coach: “God and Man in the New Testament” (35 minutes)

**Ask** for two volunteers to read aloud from Luke 15. **Have** the first volunteer read Luke 15:3-7 (parable of the lost sheep).

**Ask** questions such as:

- Why is the man in the parable so concerned over one lost sheep? After all, he still has 99 left.  
*A shepherd has a special connection with each of his sheep. No one would say to a parent whose child is missing, “Don’t worry! You’ve still got plenty of kids at home!” A loving shepherd feels an attachment like that to his flock, just as Jesus feels a personal attachment to us, His own “sheep.”*
- Whom does the man invite to a party?  
*He invites his friends and his neighbors; in other words, he invites those who are close to him and who will understand what an important event it is to which they are being invited.*
- What is the purpose of the party?  
*The purpose is to celebrate, because what was lost has been found.*
- Why will there be rejoicing in heaven?  
*There will be rejoicing over one sinner who repents.*

**Have** the second volunteer read Luke 15:8-10 (parable of the lost coin).

**Ask** questions such as:

- Why is the woman so concerned about 10 coins? If you had a dollar and lost a dime, would you be that upset?  
*(Answers will vary, but make sure students understand that the 10 coins may have represented the woman’s entire wealth; it is possible that the coins are her dowry, and all that she owns. The women in Jesus’ audience would have been especially interested in this story. They would have related to it.)*
- Why does the woman call her “women friends and neighbors” together?  
*First of all, she wants to celebrate, just like the shepherd; it would not have been appropriate for women in her culture to have had male friends, so Jesus, who was sensitive to His audience, carefully chose each word in His parables. He truly is a God of details!*
- Why does Jesus repeat the idea that there is rejoicing in heaven over one sinner repenting?  
*(Answers will vary, but it is important for students to understand that every single person on the planet is of utmost importance to God; Jesus may have repeated the example to make sure His audience got the point: YOU matter to God!)*

**Instruct** the groups to discuss among themselves the feelings of the parables’ main characters, with one half of the room focusing on the parable of the lost sheep and the other half focusing on the parable of the lost coin. **Tell** them to keep in mind how they felt when they had lost their things, and how it felt to find them again.

Once students have had a few minutes to discuss, **form** new groups. Each group needs to have at least one person who read the parable of the lost sheep and at least one person who read the parable of the lost coin. **Tell** the groups to talk about the parables and to come up with similarities and differences between the two. **Give** them three to five minutes for this, unless you think they need longer. **Draw** two columns on the board, one for similarities and one for differences, and after the time is up **call** on the different groups to give you some of their answers. **Write** the answers on the board, seeking clarification as needed. **Encourage** students to be creative, and encourage discussion. **Emphasize** the fact that both characters in the parables told other people about their discoveries and invited them to celebrate together.

**Invite** volunteers to alternate reading verses from Luke 15:11-24.

**Ask** questions such as:

- What is shocking about the younger son’s demand?  
*He demands his inheritance from his father; ask students if they can imagine themselves doing that!*
- Describe what happens to the younger son’s inheritance.  
*He takes off for another country and blows all his money on bad behavior.*
- What job does he take?  
*He takes a job that would have been offensive to Jews; he feeds pigs. Furthermore, he’s actually jealous of the pigs, because they’re better fed than he is.*
- What does the younger son decide?  
*He will return to his father, confess that he has sinned against his father, and ask to be treated as one of the employees.*
- How does his father respond?  
*He rushes out to greet the son, filled with compassion; he throws his arms around his son and kisses him. Note that he allows the son to make his confession; he doesn’t say, “Oh, son, that’s OK. No hard feelings.” He does something much more significant; he forgives the son.*
- What does the father do after his son confesses his sin and says he is no longer worthy to be called a son?  
*The father calls for new clothing and a ring for his son, and food for a feast. That’s quite a reward for a son who behaved so badly!*

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## **C**oach: “God and Man in the New Testament” (Continued)

**Tell** the students that, while we may have an easier time relating to the people in the first two parables, we ourselves are most like the prodigal son in the third parable. **Point out** that—even though the son had wasted everything the father had given him—the father, filled with compassion, ran out to greet him while he was still a long way away. Perhaps the father was even waiting for him. And what did the father do once his lost son had been found? He threw a party.

**Find one more volunteer to read 1 Timothy 2:1-6.**

**Tell** your students that God desires for everyone to be saved, but when even just one person is saved, there is rejoicing in heaven. **Remind** them that they have all lost things and found things, and that they have been lost and found, and so now it's time to party.

## **C**hallenge: “Lost and Found” (15 minutes)

Before you call the groups up to the table to make their cupcakes, **hand out** Learner Worksheet 3-A so that while people wait, they can begin the word search. **Encourage** the group members to help each other out. **Call** up the groups one at a time and have them decorate cupcakes for themselves and get a cup of milk or juice and a napkin, then return to their seats.

**Allow** students to continue working on the word search for several minutes, giving everyone time to make their cupcakes as desired and to eat them.

**Say:** It's easy sometimes to get so caught up in trying to “save” the lost that we forget that God does the saving!

**Challenge** students to remember that it is God who saves, and that we are to tell others about Him because we love Him, and because we want them to join us for the party!



## **Show:** MercyMe, Go music video

While students work on their worksheets and enjoy their cupcakes, play the music video.

## *Journaling Option*



**Ask** students to write down this week's memory verse, Matthew 24:14. **Direct** students to think of at least one person they know that is not saved and **ask** them to write down that person's name and commit to pray for that person. **Encourage** students to write down at least one thing that they learned from today's session.

**Ask** for volunteers to help clean up, and pray with your students. Thank God for His love and mercy, and His joy when we come back to Him. **Hand out** Learner Worksheet 3-B and **review** the instructions before dismissing the students.

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## Lost and Found Word Search

Memory Verse: “This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).

All of the words from the memory verse for this week are lost somewhere in this word search. See how many you can find!

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

If you're having trouble, you may want to get help from your friends.

Now, think about someone you know who is “lost” (like the person you identified last week whom you would like to be “found.”) When dealing with lost people, rather than things, it's important to keep in mind that you're not on your own, you have the Holy Spirit with you. And it's not your responsibility to save the lost; you are just supposed to tell them the way.

Don't forget, it's still OK to get help from your friends! Pray for them and for their lost people (as well as your own) this week when you review your memory verse. Make it a point to back up your prayers with actions this week, but remember that praying is the beginning point for seeing the lost come to Jesus—let the party begin!

## Be Prepared

Feel free to write, doodle, or draw your responses below. Be creative!

Anyone familiar with the Boy Scouts might recognize “be prepared” as their motto, but it is also an important idea for anybody who’s going to be away from home for a length of time to take all of their “essentials” with them.

What are some things you would absolutely *have* to have if you were ...

Going to school?

Going to camp?

Going to a grandparent’s (or another relative’s) home?

Going to spend the night at a friend’s home?

Going to visit someone in a nursing home or the hospital?

What things might you need in most or all of the above situations? Why?