

**EPISODE 1 “Peter & Friends in The New Adventures of The Apostles!”**

The first 12 chapters of the Book of Acts, re-told in the style of the 1960s cartoon version of "The New Adventures of Superman!"

**Episode 1: Acts 1:1 to 4:4** (5 minutes + 43 seconds)

Final instructions from Jesus; Matthias chosen to replace Judas (*in opening credits*); the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost; the believers pray together and share belongings plus the story of Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 1: 42-47 and Acts 4: 23-36 are summarised together in Episode 1, and the story of Ananias and Sapphira from chapter 5 also given here, for contrast*); Peter heals a Lame Beggar; Peter and John put in prison.

**Cast:**

1. Narrator (Luke)
2. Person in Crowd 1
3. Person in Crowd 2
4. Jesus
5. Peter
6. An Apostle
7. Lame Beggar

*(slide 1 “Cheese & Jesus” present and slide 2 is Episode number)*

Narrator: *(drum roll)* *(slide 3)* Taught by Jesus, witnesses of the resurrection, chosen by God to found the church, it’s... The Apostles! *(music starts)* *(slide 4)* Look! In Judea! In Samaria!

Person in Crowd1: Is it a fad?

Person in Crowd2: Is it a cult?

Narrator: *(slide 5)* No! It’s Super-Church!

*(slide 6 – title slide, let some music play)*

Narrator: *(slide 7)* The year is 33AD, the apostles have witnessed Jesus’ death and resurrection. *(slide 8)*

Jesus: Wait! Wait here in Jerusalem until you have been “clothed with power from on high!” *(Luke 24: 49)* The Holy Spirit you receive will give you the courage and wisdom to teach the truth about me to everyone.

So then you can Go! Go, teach all nations to follow me! *(Matthew 28: 19)* Starting here in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea, in to Samaria, and on until the ends of the earth!

Narrator: And with that, Jesus took his return trip to heaven. On the day of Pentecost the waiting was over... *(slide 9)*

Peter: What’s that? It sounds like a howling wind

- Apostle: I can see something like tongues of fire over each of us
- Narrator: And so the apostles were “clothed with power from on high!” as they received the Holy Spirit. A large crowd of Jews from every different country had gathered in Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival, and were gob-smacked as each heard the Galilean apostles speaking in their own native language. *(slide10)* Head Apostle Peter, formerly Peter the Fisherman, now, Peter the Rock, stood up and addressed the crowd...
- Peter: Don’t be so surprised! This is God’s Spirit being poured out on us, as spoken about long ago by the prophet Joel. Our scripture and history also tell us that a descendent of King David’s line would come to us and be our Messiah, sent by God to save us from our sins. Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified, is that Messiah. He proved it by the miracles he performed with such divine authority.
- Person in Crowd1: If this is true, what can we do about it now?
- Peter: Save yourselves from the punishment our corrupt nature deserves! Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God’s gift, the Holy Spirit.
- Narrator: *(slide 11)* And so three thousand people were added to the group of believers that day. *(slide 12)* The believers met together every day in the Temple; they prayed for boldness to speak out; they prayed to be used in healings and miracles. They ate together at one-another’s homes, and shared all their belongings, so that none was in need. This included money from the sale of houses and land *(slide 13)* But then...
- Peter: Ananias and Sapphira! Why are you lying to me and God about how much money you got for the land you sold? The Spirit of God is moving mightily among us, this is a holy place, and God will not tolerate the evil and selfishness in your hearts that has led you to lie for your own gain. Today you will both die.
- Narrator: And so they fell down and died. Meanwhile, in happier news, the apostles performed many signs and wonders...
- Lame Beggar: *(slide 14)* Please, can you give me some money? I’ve been lame from birth, I can’t walk. I can’t work. Please help me.
- Peter: Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!
- Lame Beggar: *(slide 15)* I can stand! I can walk! I can jump! Thank you God!
- Person in crowd2: *(slide 16)* Isn’t that the man who’s always begging at the Beautiful Gate? What’s happened to him?

Peter: It is the power of the name of Jesus that has completely healed this man! Jesus is the Messiah the prophets promised us! The one sent by God to save us from our sins!

Narrator: The number of men who believed grew to 5000. *(slide 17)* Jealous and afraid, the Jewish religious leaders, put Peter the Rock and John, "Son of Thunder" *(Mark 3: 17)*, in prison for the night.

What will happen to Peter and John? Will the religious leaders ever acknowledge Jesus is Lord? Tune in next time for another exciting episode of *(slide 18)* Peter and Friends in "The New Adventures of the Apostles!"