

PREPARATION

- Read Acts 2 twice.
- Set up your room like a party, as you did last week. Use all the same props from last week and arrange them in similar fashion. Also have a marker board or large paper that you can write on during your lesson.
- Pre-print each letter of the word *SALT* on separate pieces of poster board. On the reverse side of each piece, write the letter's corresponding word as defined in the lesson. (For example, "S" on one side; "Search" on the other side.) Colored poster board is more visually interesting than white, but be sure that your letters and words are large and dark enough to be read by all the kids in the room.
- Have table salt and pictures of uncooked meat as props.
- Arrange ahead of time for clubbers to hold each of the letter cards and turn them over at the appropriate time to reveal the word.
- Print several items from the Great ShakeUP Web page ([www.awana.org/shakeup](http://www.awana.org/shakeup)), photocopy them and be ready to hand them out at the end of your Large Group Time, at your closing ceremony, or at whatever time works best for your club:
  - Tracking charts (for kids' use in tracking progress through the SALT steps)
  - Invitations (Great ShakeUP-theme invitations available free or link to pre-printed invitations available for purchase)
  - Parent/guardian letters (explains Great ShakeUP event and asks them to come on Week 3 of the Great ShakeUP. It also asks for the parent's assistance, especially in the area of transportation.)

LESSON

Hey kids! Remember last week we talked about Jesus' life, death and resurrection and how that gives us a reason to celebrate every day?

Tonight we are going to talk more about how the early church celebrated.

Who can tell me what we discovered about the early church last week and how they celebrated? (*They met together, prayed for each other, listened to God's people teach God's Word, and ate together.*)

Good! I am going to read to you an additional three verses that will help us understand more about the early church and the followers of Jesus. Last week we read Acts 2:42–47 and learned about verse 42. This week I will read you last week's verse and the next five verses. This is Acts 2:42–47. (*Read the verses once.*) I will read you the verses again, and I want you to listen for how the people responded to what Jesus' followers were doing and celebrating. (*Read the verses again.*)

How did the people (those not in the church) respond? (*Write the correct answer on the marker board.*)



- People were in awe (wowed) of how well the church loved each other and their neighbors.
- How did the church people respond to the community? (*Write the correct answer on the marker board.*)
- The church people gave away land and possessions to the poor.

When you want to share the Lord Jesus with a friend, a good way to start is showing your friend you care about him or her and other people too. For example, Jesus' followers showed their concern for the poor in their area by selling their own stuff and giving the money away to those in need.

*(Leaders, please tell your clubbers not to go home and sell off their parents' valuables and possessions. If they feel led to help the poor, they should talk to their parents about giving away unneeded clothes or games to a shelter or mission.)*

You may be wondering, "Well, I do want to help people know Jesus, but where do I start after I show them that I care about them? Are there right and wrong words?"

*(If you have done the Great ShakeUP in past years, mention that you will use the same SALT method as last year. This may help older clubbers remember. If you have new clubbers that didn't hear it before, assure them that they will also be able to participate because you will explain it completely to everyone. If this is your first year using the Great ShakeUP, we hope the acronym will help your clubbers remember an easy way to invite friends to club.)*

Jesus told His followers that they were the salt of the earth in Matthew 5:13. In Bible times there were no refrigerators to keep food from spoiling or going bad. (*Show your salt and pictures of uncooked meat at this time.*) Back then salt was used as a preservative to keep food fresh. When Jesus called His disciples the salt of the earth, He was basically calling them a preservative (something that keeps food tasting good). Why do you think Jesus would call Christians "salt"? Because salt changes things. When Christians spread the good news about Jesus, it can change people's lives and make their lives better.

Keeping with the salt theme, tonight we want to look at four things that you can do to spread the good news and be like salt. (These aren't the only things you can do, but they will help you invite friends to the Great ShakeUP – and might help you think of other ways to be like salt.) Basically, SALT is about bringing your friends to the Great ShakeUP so they can have as great a time as you do, and so they can hear and maybe trust in the Lord Jesus Christ too.

To help us remember the four things you all can do, we will use the word SALT. Each letter will help us remember one of the four things.

The first letter in the word SALT is S, and S stands for (*motion to first "poster child" to turn poster board over*) Search. The first thing you need to do is



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search for someone to invite to the Great ShakeUP in two weeks. Do you know someone who needs to come to the Great ShakeUP to hear about Jesus? At your school? In your neighborhood? On a sports team or other activity you go to? (*Take suggestions; let this be interactive, and praise kids for great ideas.*) Ask God to help you think of people who could come to the Great ShakeUP. Then write those names down on the special Great ShakeUP chart we will give you before you leave tonight. It's important to write them down so you won't forget them. OK, so let's say it together. S stands for \_\_\_\_\_ (Search).

The next letter in SALT is A, and A stands for (*motion to second "poster child" to turn poster board over*) Ask God. One of the things you can talk about with Him is the people that you wrote down on your chart. Ask God to give them the desire to come to the Great ShakeUP and hear about Him. Ask for the courage to invite them. Ask that they would trust Jesus as their Savior. Talk to God about this every day. He loves to hear from us!

Here's something important to know about asking God for things. He doesn't always say yes! But He has promised to give us the things we need. Here are two things we can know for sure when we talk to God in prayer:

1. He hears our prayers. Who would like to read 1 John 5:14?  
(*Either have a Bible open and ready to read for the clubber, or use this as an opportunity to review the order of the last few books of the Bible as they search for 1 John.*)
2. We can trust Him. Who would like to read Philippians 4:6-7?  
(*Either have a Bible open and ready to read for the clubber, or use this as an opportunity to review the order of the middle books of the New Testament as they search for Philippians.*)

Now let's review. S is for \_\_\_\_\_ (Search), A is for \_\_\_\_\_ (Ask God).

The third letter in SALT is L, and L stands for (*motion to third "poster child" to turn posterboard over*) Link. After you've searched out friends and asked God for His help, it's time to link them to Awana by inviting them to come! When you ask them to come, be sure to tell them:

What it is — the Great ShakeUP, fun Awana games and a cool Bible lesson

When it is — night and time

Where it is — location of our club

The last letter in SALT is T, and T stands for (*motion to fourth "poster child" to turn poster board over*) Transport! So, that just means make it easy for the kids you link, or invite, to the Great ShakeUP to come! Do they need a ride? Ask your mom and dad if they can call your friend's parents for you. If you ask your friends on your own, make sure it's OK with your parent or whoever brings you to Awana, and then tell your friend they can get a ride with you! But it's not only about giving someone a ride. Other things might keep them from coming to the Great ShakeUP. Can you think of anything else?



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Are they shy about meeting new people? Tell them they can stay with you during the Great ShakeUP! Are they not sure they'd like the games? Tell them they can just watch! Do whatever you can to help someone get to the Great ShakeUP. (Remember, though, that sometimes a parent won't let a kid come no matter what you do to help or answer questions — all you can do is try!)

So, let's run through S-A-L-T again — along with some ideas to help you really do it!

- S stands for what? Search — Think of friends who need to come to the Great ShakeUP and hear about Jesus.

Here are some ways you can show them:

Idea: (*Leaders, use only if you are purchasing the rubber wristbands. See the ShakeUP Web page.*) Show friends your latest wristband — the official Great ShakeUP one! And, if they come to the Great ShakeUP with you, they'll get one too!

Idea: If it's OK with a parent and your school dress code, wear your Awana uniform to school one day in the next couple of weeks.

Who can raise his hand and tell me other ways you can do the "search" step? (Allow a few clubbers to answer.)

- A is for what? Ask God — That the people on your chart would want to come to the Great ShakeUP, and that they would trust Jesus as Savior.

Idea: Use your chart as you talk to God; go down the chart and ask Him about each person!

Idea: If your parent or guardian has trusted Jesus Christ as Savior, show them your chart and ask them to pray with you.

- L is for what? Link — Invite the people on your chart to come to the Great ShakeUP and make sure they know what, when and where it is.

Idea: Use one of our special invitations when you make the link with the people on your chart. (*Leaders, information on several invitation options is available on the ShakeUP Web page.*)

Idea: Make sure your mom, dad or guardian gets the letter we're sending home with you tonight. (*Leaders, the letter is on the ShakeUP Web page.*) It's always good to let adults know of special plans like inviting people to Awana. Plus, they may be able to help you deliver your invitations!

- And what about T? Transport — Help solve whatever problem might stop someone from coming to the Great ShakeUP!

Idea: I just said this, but I'll say it again because it's important. Make sure your mom, dad or guardian gets the letter we're sending home with you tonight. We want them to know about the Great ShakeUP so that they can help too.



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So, one more time! S is for \_\_\_\_, A is for \_\_\_\_, L is for \_\_\_\_, T is for \_\_\_\_.  
Great!! Now that you know the four things to do, are you ready to Pass the  
SALT? Let's do it and see how many kids we can get here in two weeks for the  
Great ShakeUP!

*(Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help each child remember how to be SALT  
and to do the things the letters represent.)*



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