

# Atomic Friday

## (4-year youth program)

Mission Statement for the leaders of Atomic Friday:

***"To aid in the growth of the IBTeen department, both spiritually and numerically; through godly fellowship, proper leadership, and the faithful preaching and teaching of the Bible"***

### 1. The Purpose of Atomic Friday:

#### 1.1 To Strengthen Our Youth

##### 1.1.1 Through Fellowship

Fellowship is important to teen growth. The people that a teen will fellowship with will contribute largely to what kind of people they will become. In any setting, most teens will likely seek out other teens that are most like them. However, in a Christian setting with realistic rules and restrictions, even teens who do not desire to grow spiritually will be influenced by Christian teens and teen leaders.

##### 1.1.2 Through Leadership

There are two types of leaders in youth ministries: the adult leaders who are in charge of the activity, and the teens who are leaders among their peers. I feel that the latter has the most influence although both are vital to the effectiveness of this ministry. We should do everything we can to raise teen "leaders" within our group.

##### 1.1.3 Through Preaching/Teaching

It is my belief, based on what I understand from scripture, that preaching is the most important means of pressing people to make Spirit-led decisions about their life. It is important to include preaching at every opportunity, but there are some considerations:

1.1.3.1 Length should be considered. There is a point where teens tune out the speaker and begin thinking about what is next on the agenda. Whether it is right or wrong for them to be concerned with the time, we must understand how to use a shorter span of time most effectively.

1.1.3.2 Messages should be relative to teens. It is the preacher's job to make appropriate application of God's message to the listener. We have got to know how the message applies to our teens and what they can do to put the truths of God's Word into practice in their own lives.

1.1.3.3 Messages should be both exciting and easy for the audience to comprehend. Whenever possible, we encourage skits,

object lessons, and illustrations that will help the teens to better understand and retain what they learn.

## 1.2 To Evangelize Our Community

### 1.2.1 By Visiting Prospects

1.2.1.1 One of the purposes of Atomic Friday is to bring in the lost so we can introduce them to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ

1.2.1.2 It is important to document visitor information so we don't lose contact.

1.2.1.3 Sunday School teachers should be given the information so that they can begin visiting the teens and encouraging them to visit their Sunday School class

1.2.1.4 Extra effort should be made to contact parents of visitors

### 1.2.2 Building Relationships with Workers

1.2.2.1 The more familiar the teen becomes with the workers, the more they will trust them to talk about spiritual matters.

1.2.2.2 It is important to capitalize on this relationship.

### 1.2.3 Invitation Time

1.2.3.1 Teens are not likely to come to Christ if they are not confronted with their need and given an opportunity to respond

1.2.3.2 At some point they must be asked to confess their spiritual need

1.2.3.3 At some point they must be given a chance to call on the Lord as their Savior if they haven't already done so.

1.2.3.4 However, we should be careful not to make the invitational part of the service habitual or ritualistic.

1.2.3.5 We should be careful not to force a response that is unreal.

1.2.3.5.1 We don't want to force something that the Spirit is not leading.

1.2.3.5.2 A high-pressured, "salesman-like" approach can be counterproductive.

1.2.3.5.3 Be sensitive to the Spirit's leading

## 2. The Plan of Atomic Friday:

### 2.1 Why the "Atomic" Theme?

2.1.1 We use the idea of nuclear fission to illustrate the principle of evangelism. The atom bomb is used as a theme in the advertisement and decoration.

2.1.2 One Christian (a "free neutron") has the potential power to affect another person (a "neutron") and free them to reach another, etc, until a chain reaction starts the process of "nuclear fission".

### 2.2 Why on "Friday?"

2.2.1 We usually have our Atomic Fridays on the last Friday of every month, but occasionally we have to move it to another Friday with plenty of notice.

2.2.2 The negative about having an activity on a Friday night, is that it

may conflict with other activities in the community. Here are two thoughts to take note of:

2.2.2.1 We don't cancel or move our activities for events in the community.

2.2.2.1.1 Often, we discourage our teens from community activities. They usually offer no spiritual benefit, and often offer a temptation to behave in a way that is unpleasing to God.

2.2.2.1.2 Sticking with our schedule gives our faithful teens continuity.

2.2.2.1.3 Sticking with our schedule makes a statement that we are not willing to compromise

2.2.2.2 We only move ours Atomic Friday if it conflicts with another activity in our church.

2.2.2.2.1 We enjoy going to other church youth rallies and conferences that we think will benefit the teens that are growing in the Lord and desire to be involved.

2.2.2.2.2 If we have major activities or programs on the next Sunday after a scheduled Atomic Friday, we may move Atomic Friday up a week, making sure to give plenty of announcement before hand.

2.2.3 There are at least two good reasons for having it on Fridays:

2.2.3.1 Fridays are already exciting to teens that are looking forward to a couple days off of school. We hope that our teens will spread the word and bring friends who have a desire to do something on a Friday night (which is likely to be something that is dishonoring to the Lord).

2.2.3.2 Teens are more likely to be allowed to stay out when it is not a "school night" and Saturdays are discouraged because they are on a "church night"

2.2.3.2.1 Teens will be more likely to sleep in on Sunday morning and miss church

2.2.3.2.2 Workers may need Saturday night for preparation for Sunday

2.2.3.3 Fridays work well for prospecting purposes because we can visit any Atomic Friday visitors on Saturday and encourage them to come on Sunday

2.3 Why study the book of Acts?

2.3.1 First of all, because I feel the Lord laid it on my heart to do so!

2.3.2 I believe the apostles, following the leadership of the Spirit, set forth a type of format by which we should be continuing the work of the church even today. This format is found throughout the book of Acts.

- 2.3.3 There is a lot of confusion today regarding the organization of “the church” that I think can be cleared up with a careful study of the book of Acts.
- 2.3.4 There is a clear picture of evangelism and discipleship in the book of acts that I feel our teens need to follow.
- 2.3.5 Atomic Friday should not depart from the exposition of the book of Acts.
  - 2.3.5.1 This is part of the design and make up of Atomic Friday
  - 2.3.5.2 It takes approximately 4 years to go through Acts on a monthly basis.
  - 2.3.5.3 By the time the course is completed, there should be mostly, if not all, new faces from the original Atomic Friday group.
- 2.4 Why play games and eat food?
  - 2.4.1 The answer is obvious, but there is more to it than attracting a crowd.
  - 2.4.2 We live in a culture that is hardly attracted to anything if it doesn’t entertain them. And whereas we would like our teens to grow beyond that point, we need to reach them first. Therefore, it is important to offer something that will draw them in or “compel them to come.”
  - 2.4.3 Besides that, it is good for teens to see that Christians can have a good time, although we must be careful that our games are appropriate, innocent, and bring no dishonor to our Lord.

3. Procedures:

3.1 Month-By-Month Overview of Lessons:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Memory Verse</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Text</u>
AF-01	Acts 1:8	“The Power of God”	Acts 1:4-11; 2:38-41 (also John 1:12)
AF-02	Acts 2:41	“Church Fission”	Acts 2:41, 47,4:4, 5:14, 6:1, 6:7, 9:31
AF-03	Acts 2:46	“Don’t Be A Quitter”	Acts 2:41-47,
AF-04	Acts 3:6	“The Best Thing You Can Give”	Acts 3:1-10, 4:1-5
AF-05	Acts 4:12	“The Only Way”	Acts 4:1-22
AF-06	Acts 4:32	“Giving Like Barnabas”	Acts 4:23-37
AF-07	Acts 5:11	“Play Actors”	Acts 5:1-16

AF-08	Acts 5:29	“A Time To Disobey”	Acts 5:17-32 5:40-42
AF-09	Acts 6:3	“Look Ye Out Among You”	Acts 6:1-7
AF-10	Acts 8:4	“Critical Mass”	Acts 6:8-10,7:54-8:4
AF-11	Acts 8:37	“3 Conversion Experiences”	Acts 8:3, 9-
AF-12	Acts 9:31	“What Is Your Story”	
AF-13	Acts 9:42	“The God of The Living	
AF-14	Acts 10:34	“How To Be Accepted By God”	
AF-15	Acts 11:26	“Team Building”	
AF-16	Acts 12:23,24	“Freed By an Angel Or Eaten by Worms?”	
AF-17	Acts 13:2	“Called Out”	
AF-18	Acts 13:48,49	“On To The Gentiles!”	
AF-19	Acts 13:51,52	“Shake It Off”	
AF-20	Acts 15:39	“When We Can’t Get Along”	
AF-21	Acts 16:4,5	“Taking The Higher Ground	
AF-22	Acts 16:31,32	“What You Would Have Missed”	Acts 16
AF-23	Acts 17:11	“Noblemen or Lewd Fellows?”	Acts 17:1-11
AF-24	Acts 17:16	“Working Through Break”	Acts 17:16-17
AF-25	Acts 17: 26,27	“Your Life Preserver Is Right There!”	Acts 17:18-34
AF-26	Acts 18:3,4	“Let God Orchestrate Your Relationships”	Acts 18:1-4

AF-27	Acts 18:26	“A Right Way And A Wrong Way” Acts 18:5-19:7
AF-28	Acts 19:11,12	“Special Or Extraordinary” Acts 19:8-17
AF-29	Acts 19:19:20	“Curious Arts...And Meddlesome Behavior” Acts 19:18-20
AF-30	Acts 19:	“Why People Hold On To False Beliefs”
AF-31	Acts 20:	“A Reason To Live”
AF-32	Acts 20:	“Bound In The Spirit”
AF-33		
AF-34		
AF-35		
AF-36		
AF-37		
AF-38		
AF-39		
AF-40		
AF-41		
AF-42		
AF-43		
AF-44		
AF-45		
AF-46		
AF-47		
AF-48		

### 3.2 Themes and Ideas

#### 3.2.1 Be creative and flexible

- 3.2.1.1 Keep it “low budget.” Simple is usually better.
- 3.2.1.2 Recycle decorations and material that have already been used in other activities (youth rallies, vacation Bible schools, etc.)
- 3.2.1.3 Stay fresh. It is okay to reuse themes that the teens really liked, but don’t over do it. Try to come up with new ideas. The teens are usually full of ideas for you.
- 3.2.1.4 Favorite themes, games, and popular concession items will vary from one group to another. Observe and learn what your teens like.
- 3.2.2 Themes can, but don’t necessarily have to match the lesson
- 3.2.3 Games and Concessions should, but don’t necessarily have to match the theme.
- 3.2.4 Following are some themes that we have used (We used the brand names to promote our activities, but we have made this list generic):

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Game Ideas (See 3.3)</u>	<u>Special Concession Ideas (See 3.4)</u>
Autumn (Harvest)	-“Bobbing For Apples, AF Style” -“Needle In A Haystack”	-Cider, hot chocolate, -Pumpkin cookies -Caramel apples
Back to School	-“What’s In Your Locker?” -“Eating Your Sack Lunch, AF Style”	-School lunch type snacks -Juice boxes, milk, etc.
Baby	-“Sippy Cup Races” -“Baby Food Feast”	-Pudding, applesauce -Milk
Building Bricks	-“Building Bricks Car Building Contest And Race”	
Cooking Challenge	-“Snack Making Contest”	- Serve the winner's snack
Explosive	-“Vinegar and Baking Soda Rocket Car Races”	-Fizzing candies
Fire Rescue	-“Fire Fighter Challenge Obstacle Course”	-Spicy snack foods, red/orange drinks
Foam Dart Gun Wars	-“Foam Dart Gun War”	
Medieval	-“Jousting” -“Bocce Ball, AF Style”	
Robot Wars	-“Remote Controlled Car	

	Battles”
Shave And A Haircut	-“Build-A-Beard” -“Water Balloon Shave”
Superheroes	-“Kryptonite Removal” -“Whipped Cream Dive”
Team Building	-“Team Skiing” -“Blind Folded In A Mine Field”
Water games	-“Water Balloon Volleyball” -“Water Balloon Homerun Derby”
Winter In July	-“Ice Fishing (Feet Version)” -“Snowball Fight”

3.3 Games.