



## Week 5: Pentecost

### Overview of the Lesson

**Video:** Be sure to check out the video above for a brief introduction to the study and some brief reflections on the passage.

**Scripture:** *Primary text:* Acts 2:1-47

### Age Specific Breakdown:

- Preschool – Page 2
- Children – Page 3
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- Youth – Page 5
- College – Pages 6-7
- Activity Pages – 8-9

**Family Activity/Prayer:** Today we invite your family to recite out loud Dr. Barnette's weekly benediction. As you know, the end is always tailored to the message from the sermon. So, we've added a little piece at the end related to Jesus's triumphal entry.

Depart now in the fellowship of God the Father.

And as you go remember:

That by the goodness of God you were born into this world,  
And by the grace of God you have been kept all the day long,  
Even until this very hour.

And by the love of God fully revealed in the face of Jesus Christ,  
You have been redeemed and you are being redeemed

And so go,

In the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

# Preschool

## Preschool: The Spirit Moves

**Lesson:** Please read the scripture from the Bible or a Bible Storybook, Acts 2. **To use the attachments please scroll down to the very end of all of the Weekly Word.** (see attachment #1 lesson with picture), (see attachment #2 lesson with picture)

### Follow Up Questions:

1. Going up into heaven, what did Jesus promise to send to His friends? The Holy Spirit
2. What is the name of the Jewish festival that the disciples were celebrating? Pentecost
3. What type of sound did the disciples hear? a mighty wind
4. What did the disciples see above one another's heads? little flames of fire
5. Why did the Holy Spirit help the disciples be able to speak languages that they had never studied? So that they could teach people from many nations about Jesus.
6. When we ask the Holy Spirit for help, do we hear wind and see flames? No, because the Holy Spirit is already with us, and although we can't see Him, we know He helps us and gives us the courage and words to tell other people about Jesus.

### Reinforcing Activities:

Gather materials that are lightweight and can be easily blown. For example, packing foam peanuts, bits of rolled paper, dandelions etc. Ask your preschooler to blow one of these lightweight objects. Ask the following questions: What made the object fly around? Air of course-- Can you see the air? No-- But can you see what the air does? Yes— When Jesus ascended into heaven, He left us a Helper, His Holy Spirit, to live in our hearts and to be with us wherever we go. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can know what He does.

### Family Activities:

Share the verse, Matthew 28:20, "Jesus said, I am with you always". Ask each family member to name a place that they go that the Holy Spirit can give to them the words and the courage to tell people about Jesus--- i.e. home, school, work, soccer, dance, guitar lessons...EVERYWHERE!

### Prayer:

Ask Your preschooler to lead in prayer, thanking Jesus for always being with us.

# Children

## The Spirit Moves (Acts 2)

Before reading the scripture together, explain that before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to help the believers. The Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity—the Father (God), the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. Encourage your child to listen to the Bible story and imagine they were part of the crowd when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. Break the scripture up as follows and discuss as you read:

The apostles were obeying Jesus' instructions and were gathered in Jerusalem. It had been 10 days since Jesus had ascended (went back up) to heaven. On this day Jews that had travelled from many different countries were gathered in Jerusalem. The Jewish people were gathered to celebrate a feast called Pentecost. This special feast is a time where God's people brought gifts as offerings to God.

### **Read Acts 2:1-4.**

What did it sound like in the room that the believers were gathered in? (Verse 2)

What unusual sight happened in that room? (Verse 3)

Who filled the believers? (The Holy Spirit)

What did He help them to do? (Speak in other languages) (Verse 4) God kept His promise and He sent the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

### **Read Acts 2:6-11**

The Jewish people that lived in different countries and spoke different languages were confused. Each one of them could hear the believers from Galilee speaking their very own language. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and he stood up along with the other eleven apostles. He began to explain to the crowd that God's promise to send the Holy Spirit had happened that very day on the Day of Pentecost.

### **Read Acts 2:17-21**

On that very day the people witnessed God's promise that He made so many years ago come true. God kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit. Since that time so many years ago every person who has believed in the Lord Jesus has received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. We don't see flames of fire resting on our heads or hear loud wind noises but we do receive the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live lives that please God.

**Bible story review:** Review the Bible story by asking the following questions:

1. What special celebration was taking place? (Day of Pentecost)
2. How did the Jewish people celebrate Pentecost? (By bringing a gift to offer to God)
3. When the believers were gathered together what sound did they hear? (Loud wind)
4. What did they see? (Flames of fire resting on their heads)
5. Why were the people in Jerusalem confused? (They could hear the believers from Galilee speaking in the language they could understand)
6. What did they hear the believers saying in their own language? (wonders of God)
7. Who filled each of the believers on the Day of Pentecost? (The Holy Spirit)

**Closing:** Another word that was used for the Holy Spirit is counselor or teacher. God the Holy Spirit teaches believers how to live lives that please God the Father. When believers read God's Word, the Holy Spirit helps them to understand what they are reading. God speaks to believers through His Word. Pray that God would allow the Holy Spirit to give you the power to do the things we know will please Him.

## Avenue 56

The Spirit Moves (Acts 2): Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus had promised the disciples that he would send the Counselor, but Jesus had to go away before the Counselor came. The Spirit came on the next most important event for Jews after Passover when Jews from all over the land assembled in Jerusalem. **Read Acts 2.** Encourage your student to read the scripture out loud and help with words or phrases about which they might be confused.

### 2 W and an H Question:

1. Who are the main people in this story? (Peter, the disciples, the Holy Spirit – Counselor)
2. What special celebration was taking place? (The day of Pentecost)
3. What did the believers see and hear? (loud wind and flames of fire)

Finally, ask your students HOW they can rely on the Holy Spirit today? The Holy Spirit directs and guides us when we make decisions. People tell us what to do all the time, but it's usually me-focused. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we are honoring God. Once we become a follower of Jesus, we have access to the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to be with us each day of our lives.

**Pray** that God would allow the Holy Spirit to give you the power to do the things we know will please Him

# Youth

The story of Pentecost has been standing as the foundation for all of the stories we have read in this series on Acts. Pentecost is the day the Holy Spirit was unleashed to the world. It's not the first time we encounter the Spirit in scripture, but it marks a distinct moment where the Spirit is poured out on the earth. There are so many fascinating details about this story. I am always drawn to this one: Acts tells us that people from all over have come to Jerusalem, just at the moment the Spirit has been poured out. The last words that Jesus gives his disciples is that they will be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts will take us to all of these places. Already, though, in Acts 2 people from "the ends of the earth" are gathered in Jerusalem. The promise Jesus made is already being fulfilled! I hope you remember that we serve a God who keeps promises. Our God goes with us even now in the power of his Spirit. My prayer is that you will always come to know the Spirit who moves.

## Introductory Questions:

1. Have you ever been somewhere where you didn't speak the same language as those around you? What was that like?
2. At the end of Acts 2 Peter preaches a powerful sermon. Has there been a sermon you can remember that was meaningful to you?
3. Have you ever felt like you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life? How so?

## Digging Deep: Read Acts 2.

### Ask:

1. There are a lot of interesting details in this story. What stands out to you as you read it?
2. What do you think the Spirit is often described with the language of fire? What is it about fire that matches the Spirit?
3. Do you ever think about having the gift of the Holy Spirit? What do you think about that idea? How would our lives look different if we lived like we believed that was true?
4. Why do you think some in the crowd think the disciples are drunk? What is it about the power of the Spirit that they don't understand?
5. What are some "deeds of power" God has performed in your life? Your family's life? Life around you?
6. When you look at Peter's sermon, what stands out? Why do you think he includes the things he includes in his sermon?

**Reflect:** Take a moment and reflect on the gift of the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to you that the gift of the Spirit is still given to us today? Take time and note the places where you think the Spirit is currently moving around you. What would it look like for you to join in? Close with a time praying that God might open up your eyes to the Spirit around you.

# College

This is the fifth and final week of our study in Acts titled, “The Spirit Moves.” We’ve looked at what it means to live into our calling as *witnesses* to the good news of Jesus Christ. We’ve seen Peter heal a lame man (Acts 3) and bring the gospel to Cornelius, a Gentile (Acts 10). We’ve seen Paul completely turn his life around (Acts 9) and go out to spread the faith in unfamiliar places with unfamiliar people (Acts 13/14). These accounts, as well as the rest of the book of Acts, is amazing. I mentioned that one of the main themes found in Acts is the idea of a *witness*- one who shares what he or she has seen and heard. While the book of Acts is full of amazing accounts of the work of the Holy Spirit, our role is simply one of a witness. While the miraculous can, and will, happen, our role as witnesses is often more ordinary. As witnesses, we should see ourselves as “brokers” of God’s manifold grace. And when we view our role in such a way and when we seek God’s kingdom, we will fulfill our role as witnesses, just like the men and women of Acts.

In this final study, we want to think about *how* the Holy Spirit can equip us to serve as Christ’s witnesses (Acts 1:8). As we go through this text, we need to ask ourselves, “how did Pentecost prepare faithful followers of Jesus and the church to do its work?” We’re coming back to talk about Pentecost in Acts 2 so that we can see how this moment shaped the rest of Acts as well as how we live today!

## Read Acts 2:1-41

### -Questions:

1. Recall a time where you and/or a group were “filled with the Holy Spirit” (v. 4). What was that like? How does one become “filled with the Holy Spirit?”
2. The God-fearing Jews who stayed in Jerusalem were “bewildered” (v. 5). Why is it sometimes hard to understand the work the Holy Spirit is doing?
3. All the Jews who were together in Jerusalem each heard their native languages spoken. Why would this be the way God delivered on his promise to send the Holy Spirit?
4. Peter preaches the first sermon in the life of the church in verses 14-41. What are the elements of a strong sermon when you hear one? Which of those elements are in Peter’s sermon?
5. How does Peter’s sermon help clarify what happened in verses 1-13? (i.e. hearing one’s own language among foreigners)
6. Verse 37 says the people “were cut to the heart.” How would you describe what being “cut to the heart” means?
7. Has there been a time when you were “cut to the heart?” What did that look and feel like?
8. What steps does Peter tell the crowd to take after they hear his sermon?
9. Why is baptism important? Why is it important to remember your baptism?
10. What do you think Peter means when he says to the crowd: “save yourself from this corrupt generation?” (v. 40)

-Reflection:

If you've never seen the movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* do yourself a favor and watch it as soon as you have time. It is an absolute classic; truly one of the funniest movies of all time in my humble opinion. Ferris and his friends decide to skip a day of their senior year of high school, where they go all over Chicago and take in all of the city's sights and sounds. There is one quote that I'll always remember when I think about the movie: Ferris says, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Oddly enough, there is some great wisdom in Ferris' quote- just not for the reason he probably thinks! God's work of redeeming the whole world is happening all around us at this very moment, even amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Our invitation as Christians is to enter into this work of redemption. Ultimately, the book of Acts reveals what it might look like for us to enter fully into God's glorious promise of redemption. Miracles happen. The unexpected happens. The ordinary becomes extraordinary. The poor become rich. The outcast becomes included. Acts shows that all of this happens and it is *still happening*. Our challenge is this: will we see it?

And if we've seen, will we believe? And if we've believed will we go and do likewise? God's work is happening. Slow down, look, and believe that it is happening and go and play your part- as a witness. Start in your home, dorm, or apartment. Love your family. Walk through your neighborhood. Go to a different neighborhood. Work diligently in your job, internship, or in school. Dare to cross perceived boundaries you make for yourself. Slow down and look because the Lord makes it clear through his Word, through all of history, and in your very own life you will not want to miss what is going on!

By God coming to us in his son, Jesus, can we do this. And by Jesus coming, the Holy Spirit, our advocate, comes and equips, fills, and empowers us to play a part in God's great redemptive mission. This is the significance of Pentecost: not just that the story of church and the faith began but that it is continuing through you and through me.



# The Holy Spirit

Acts 2



Many people were in Jerusalem. They were visiting from other countries. Jesus' disciples were there too.

Suddenly, a powerful wind whooshed and whirled through the room where the disciples were praying. The men looked at each other with wonder. A little flame of fire rested on each of their heads!



The disciples were filled with God's spirit of love and peace. When they opened their mouths to speak, their words came out in different languages. They could speak in languages they had never even learned! It was the Holy Spirit who helped them do this.





A crowd of people heard the noise and rushed over to see what was happening. Each one heard their own language being spoken.  
 The disciples told everyone about Jesus.  
 "Jesus came to help all people. Follow him and you will be filled with God's spirit!"  
 Three thousand people were baptized that day!



**God gives his followers the Holy Spirit.  
 The Holy Spirit can live inside you too.**