

God Sends the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)

Teacher Pep Talk: It had been 10 days since Jesus ascended into Heaven. He had promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with His disciples forever. On Pentecost, when they were all together, suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven, and what seemed to be tongues of fire separated and came to rest on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter preached the best sermon ever, and 3,000 people believed. The Church was born!

You will need: Various items depending on the Activities chosen

Major Points: Jesus Promised the Holy Spirit would Come
God Sent the Holy Spirit
The Holy Spirit Empowered the Believers
The Believers Talked about Jesus
New People Believed in Jesus
Those Who Believed were Added to the Church

Scripture Ref: Acts 2

Memory Verse: Acts 2:21 *...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Lesson: **Jesus Promised the Holy Spirit would Come**

- Jesus had gone back into heaven.
- He had left the disciples on earth. *(That seems sad, doesn't it?)*
- But... Before Jesus left He had promised that God would send the disciples the Holy Spirit, who would be with them forever.
- He told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came.
- Have you ever had to wait for something? *(Yes!)* What did you have to wait for? *(Wait for children to answer. Some ideas are: Birthdays, Christmas, School to be out, Babies to be born, etc.)*
- It is fun to wait? *(NO!)* No, not usually. How long do you think the disciples had to wait for God to send the Holy Spirit? *(Wait for answers.)*
- After Jesus went back into heaven, the disciples had to wait 10 days before the Holy Spirit came. Can you count to 10? Let's count together. *(Count to 10 together... on your fingers!)*
- But after waiting for 10 days, the Holy Spirit came! And you know what?! He came on a special holiday that was called Pentecost. *(Repeat Pentecost.) Pentecost means "50." It was a Jewish celebration, held 50 days after the Passover. Can you count to 50? Let's Count by tens to 50. (Use both hands for 10.)*

God Sent the Holy Spirit

- The Bible tells us that it on the morning of Pentecost (at about 9 o'clock) all of the Disciples were together in one place (Acts 2:1)
- All of a sudden, there was a sound, like a big rushing wind.
- Can you make a “whooshing sound” like the wind? (*Everyone blows air, making a whooshing sound. Teach the children a signal for “stop”.*)
- That’s great. But the Bible says it was a LOUD like a BIG wind. Can you make a louder whooshing sound? (*Everyone makes a LOUDER whooshing sound. Stop.*)
- OK! Great! Thank you! The sound they heard was just like that... And then, the Bible says, that they saw what seemed to be “tongues of fire” or “flame” that separated and came to rest on each of them
- And then each of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
- And they began to speak in other tongues (*or languages*) as the Spirit enabled them
- Wow! That’s an amazing story! (**NOTE:** *You may need to go back through parts of the story slowly, answering questions. Try and stick to the words in the Bible. Just explain what the words mean, as best you can. You may need to explain that the tongues of fire weren’t real fire... No one got burned, etc. ☺*)
- But the REALLY amazing part is what happened next!

The Spirit Empowered the Believers

- Because of the celebration of Pentecost, there were lots of extra people in the city of Jerusalem. These people were from lots of different countries and spoke lots of different languages.
- But guess what!! All the people (*who had come to see what all the noise was*) heard the disciples talking to them in their OWN languages from their OWN countries!! HOW did they do that?!!
- The Holy Spirit (who had come to the disciples) had empowered them (*had made them able to do something*) that they had never been able to do before. Now they were talking in different languages! Languages they had never known before!
- Amazing! And what do you think they were saying?

The Believers Testified of Jesus

- The Bible says that they were “declaring the wonders of God.” (*Maybe that means praising God and saying how wonderful He is, and telling about all the wonderful things He had done.*)
- Some of the people listening made fun of them. They said, “They’ve had too much wine!” (*Or, they are drunk!*)
- Then Peter (one of the Disciples) stood up and gave a great sermon. He told them that the men were not drunk. (After all, it

was only 9 o'clock in the morning!) He explained that what they saw was God keeping His promise to send the Holy Spirit.

- Then he told the people all about Jesus; and how He had come, and died, and was raised from the dead.
- He told them how God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

New People Believed in Jesus

- Think about it... Lots of these people had been in Jerusalem just a few weeks before when Jesus had been crucified, died, and was buried. Most of them had heard how He had risen from the dead, and how He was seen by lots of other people.
- Now here were His Disciples, through the power of the Holy Spirit, speaking in languages they could not have known.
- Suddenly the people knew that what Peter was saying was true!
- Many new people believed in Jesus that day

Those Who Believed Were Added to the Church

- Those people who believed on Jesus as their Lord and Savior that day were added to the church
- On that one day over 3,000 people believed in Jesus! (That's a LOT of people!)
- Can you count to 3,000? Yeah, maybe so, but let's not try it. (*Or maybe we can count to 3,000 by thousands! One... Two... Three thousand!*)
- Anyway... This was the beginning of the Church!
- And now the Holy Spirit lives in the lives of all who believe in Jesus. And He helps the Church accomplish everything that God has for us to do!

Let's pray and thank God for sending His Holy Spirit and starting the Church!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you for sending your Holy Spirit to us!
Thank you for starting the Church!
Thank you for loving us!
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Choose 2-3 activities that seem to work well with your group.

Like the Wind – *The children will do activities to explore the movement of air and wind.*

Before Class: Bring a fan (either electric or handmade) to class

During Class: Explain that you are going to talk about the air and how it moves. Say that air is the stuff around us that we breathe and that, even though we can't see it, we can usually feel it when it moves. Ask the children some of the following questions:

Can you whistle? (*Wait to see if they can whistle.*)

Can you blow air, like you are going to blow out candles on a birthday cake?

Can you sing? (*La, la, la, la, la...*)

All of these things, as well as talking, are done by you moving air.

Take a deep breath, and hold it. Now, let it out. That's air coming out of your lungs!

How else can we move air? (Wave our hands/feet, run, walk, hop up and down.)

Turn on the fan. Can you feel the air moving?

When the air outside moves around us we call it the wind.

Learning About Me – *The children will listen to themselves breathing*

Before Class: Ask someone with a stethoscope (nurse or physician) if you may borrow it, or if they will bring it to class, so that the children may listen to themselves breathing. Be very careful with the stethoscope. It is not a toy, it is a medical instrument.

During Class: Have the children sit down. Explain to the children that they will be listening to their own breath sounds with the stethoscope. Tell the children that the stethoscope is not a toy, it is a medical instrument and must be handled very carefully. If anyone does not handle it carefully, they will not be allowed to participate with the others. Show the children how the tips of the stethoscope go in their ears. (*NOTE: This can be a little uncomfortable. Some children might not like it.*) Then show them how to hold the other end up to their chest and how to “listen” to their breathing. Have them breathe in and out. They will probably be able to hear it fairly clearly. Let the children take turns. Put the stethoscope away carefully when you are done with it as a group.

Napkin Parachutes – *Older children will make parachutes with handkerchiefs/ napkins.*

Before Class: Obtain handkerchiefs or paper napkins; one for each child. Also provide 4 pieces of thread (or fishing line) and a small weight (like a washer) for each child.

(*NOTE: Make a model of your “parachute” to test out before you go to class.*)

During Class: Give one napkin or handkerchief, 4 pieces of fishing line, and one washer to each child. Have the children tie the pieces of line onto the 4 corners of the handkerchief. Thread the other ends of the 4 pieces of fishing line through the washer and tie them to it securely. Now you have a parachute. Show the children how to throw the washer up in the air, so that the parachute will float down. The thing that keeps the napkin or handkerchief open, while it's falling, is the air that's trapped under it.

Plastic Tablecloth Play – *The children will move air with a big plastic tablecloth.*

Before Class: Obtain a plastic tablecloth; preferably a round one. Bring it to class.

During Class: Place the round plastic tablecloth on the floor and have the children stand around it and take hold of the edges of the cloth with both hands. Move the cloth up high and down low, seeing how it moves the air and billows out.

Make a Fan – *The children will make a hand held fan to take home*

Before Class: Provide a sheet of paper, or a copy of the Activity Sheet, for each child. Also provide something to secure the end of the fans: staples, tape, or paper clips.

During Class: Give each child a copy of the Activity Sheet or a piece of paper. Show the children how to fold the paper “accordion style” so that it folds back and forth on itself. Use the dotted lines as a guide. Pinch the folded paper together at one end, and secure by stapling, taping, or by paper clip. Let the other end of the paper “fan” out.

Languages – *The children will talk about and hear about different languages.*

Before Class: Consider asking someone (or more than one person) who speaks a different language to come to class and talk with the children.

During Class: Invite the children to sit down. If you have a guest (or guests), introduce him/them to the children. Remind the children that people in different parts of the world speak different languages than they do. Ask your guests to speak to the children in their native languages. Perhaps they will say “Hello, I’m glad to be here with you today” or something to that effect. They could also say simple words or phrases that the children might repeat. (Example: Yes, no, thank you, please, excuse me. It might also be fun to have them say, “Jesus loves you.”) Talk with the children about how the language sounds. Does it sound different? Did you understand any of the words? Are any of the words like our language? If you do not have a guest, repeat some words from various languages. For example: Say “hello” in several different languages. You may need to do some research for this. Be sure to ask the children if they know how to say things in a different language.

Map of the World – *The children will study a map of the world or a globe.*

Before Class: Obtain a map of the world or a globe for the children to review.

During Class: Make the map or globe available for the children to see. Where do you live? Where did Jesus live a long time ago? What country is there now? (Israel) Talk about other countries where they speak your language. What kinds of languages do they speak in other countries?

Lock and Key – *The children will discuss the Great Commission and the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Obtain a large lock with its key and bring them both to class.

During Class: Close the lock, and keep the key where it is not seen. Show the children the closed lock. Let them examine it. Let them try and open it, or pull it open. They cannot. It is too hard. It is too big of a job. Show them that even you cannot open it.

Hold the lock. Discuss how when Jesus gave His disciples “The Great Commission” He was giving them a really big job. It was a job that was too big and too hard for anyone (or any one group of persons) to do. He wanted them to go out into the world, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them (in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit) and teaching them to obey everything He had commanded them. Wow! That is a really big job! How were they supposed to do all of that?

(Now, produce the key!) Say, “They needed a key!” Unlock the lock with the key. How simple and easy! Just like the key opens the lock, Jesus gave us the key for doing this really big job. He sent His Holy Spirit to live in us and to help us do this big work... Without the Holy Spirit it would be impossible. (In addition Jesus is always with us; and He has all authority in heaven and on earth!) Now we can do this big job, because we have the key.

Open and close the lock a few times. Allow the children to open and close the lock with the key.

A large area of the page is filled with vertical dashed lines, intended for handwriting practice. The lines are spaced evenly across the page, creating a series of vertical columns for writing.