



THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

ACTS 1:1-2:47

GOAL

▶ **To teach children about Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.**

The Holy Spirit is one part of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

WORDS TO KNOW

▶ **Trinity:** There is one God, but He exists as three people: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity represents a different aspect of God, but God is still one person. God has always existed as all three entities.

MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Acts 2:38:** "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

John 14:26: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.



OVERVIEW

Read Acts 1:1-2:47: Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, He met with His disciples for a period of 40 days. While eating a meal together, Jesus told them to remain in Jerusalem because the Lord was going to send the Holy Spirit to them. After Jesus ascended, the disciples spent their time together in prayer and fellowship. On the day of Pentecost, the sound of a mighty wind from Heaven filled the house where the disciples were staying. As they tried to figure out what had happened, they noticed that tongues of fire had appeared over each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. People from many foreign countries who had gathered in Jerusalem for the holiday overheard the disciples speaking to each other, and these foreign people recognized their native languages. They were amazed! When the disciples spoke, each person in the crowd heard the message in their own language. How could these men from Galilee know how to speak their languages?! Peter stood up and explained to the crowd what was going on. He told them that, just as He had promised, God had sent His Holy Spirit to them. Peter boldly preached that Jesus, the man they had crucified, is Lord and the promised Messiah. The people in the crowd were shocked and shamed. They begged Peter to tell them what they needed to do. Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and that when they had done that, they would receive the Holy Spirit. On that day, 3,000 people were baptized and became believers. These people began to meet on a regular basis to learn about Jesus from the disciples, to pray, and to fellowship. This was the birth of the Christian church.



SUGGESTIONS

The coming of the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the tools they needed to carry out the mission Jesus had given to them. With the Holy Spirit, they could go tell everyone about God's work, His love, and His faithfulness as well as how to become followers of Christ, becoming part of God's family.

1. God kept His promises: In Joel 2:28, God promised to pour out His Spirit on those who love Him. Jesus also discussed the coming of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17. When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, the promises were fulfilled. Every person baptized in the name of Jesus Christ receives the Holy Spirit.

2. Believers are truly united with Christ: The Holy Spirit that indwells the believer is often called the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9, 1 Peter 1:11, Galatians 4:6, Romans 8:2). With the Holy Spirit, we are one with Christ and nothing can separate us from Him! This was why Jesus said it was better for Him to leave. When the Holy Spirit came we would become closer to Jesus than ever before.

3. Believers are born into a new family: The Holy Spirit not only unites us to Christ but also to our fellow believers. On Pentecost, 3,000 people instantly had a new family, and this family was unlike anything on Earth. The one that bound these believers together was none other than God himself.



**PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY**



Ages 5-7 **Tongues of Flame** | **Supplies:** cutouts of flame outlines, long strips of paper, crayons, markers, decorating supplies, stapler

Give each student a flame printout and a long strip of paper to color. Glue the flame to the middle of the long strip of paper. Have the students wrap the long strip of paper around their heads to measure their heads. Staple the ends together where they met around the student's head. Students now have tongues of flame like the disciples!

Ages 5-10 **Filled with the Holy Spirit** | **Supplies:** balloons, markers

Write "Filled with the Holy Spirit" on the balloons. Have the students inflate the balloons and then let go of them so that they fly away and go flat. At the end of the activity lesson, students can try to carefully draw on the inflated balloons. If the balloons pop, give the student a new one.

Explain to the class that a balloon is meant to be inflated. Its purpose has not been fulfilled until it is filled with air. God created us for a purpose and being filled with the Holy Spirit helps us to achieve the goals God has set for our lives. Without the Holy Spirit, we are as lifeless as a flat balloon!

Ages 8-10 **The Wind Blows Game** | **Supplies:** chairs

Set up chairs in a circle with the seats facing away from the center. Choose one student to say, "The wind blows for" and then add something that may apply to other students. For example, "The wind blows for anyone wearing blue," or "The wind blows for anyone who likes macaroni and cheese." If the statement applies to a student, he or she must get up and change seats with another student. The last student to take a seat is the next one to call out something. Continue until the class needs to move on.



MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING

▶ **Acts 2:38:** To receive the Holy Spirit and forgiveness of our sins, all we need to do is repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. We gain so much by giving so little.

John 14:26: The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ living within us. He guides us and teaches us throughout our lives.

POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY

▶ **Ages 5-7 Windblown Balloons | Supplies:** blue and red balloons, fans

Inflate more blue balloons than red ones. Divide the class into teams. Turn on the fans and aim them at the balloons so that they move all over the room. One student from each team will go in to catch a red balloon. Once they get one, the next student from the team goes in to catch one. Continue until all the red balloons have been caught. The team with the most red balloons wins.

Ages 5-10 Catching Fire | Supplies: small or fun-size candies; red, yellow, and orange construction paper; music; and a stereo.

Wrap a piece of candy in a piece of paper. Continue this until you have a ball with several layers of paper with a piece of candy in each. Instruct the students to sit in a circle. Give the ball to one student, and tell the class that when the music starts, they should throw the ball to each other. They can pass it to the person sitting next to them or they can throw it across the circle, but they can't throw it to the person who threw it to them. When the music stops, the student with the ball gets to unwrap the outer layer and keep the candy. Continue until the last layer is unwrapped and the candy is claimed.

Ages 8-10 The Spreading Fire | Supplies: red stickers

Choose one student to be It and give him or her a sheet of red stickers. Place a pile of additional red stickers at a location in the room. On "Go!" the student with the stickers will try to put a red sticker on the other students. When a student is tagged with a sticker, he or she must go get a sheet of red stickers to put on other students. Continue until all students have been tagged with a red sticker.



TAKE
HOME



1. God kept His promises: There is not one instance in the Bible in which God did not keep His promise. The Bible is filled with promises to believers, which means that they apply to us! If God has promised it, He will fulfill it. He is faithful.

2. Believers are truly united with Christ: When we are baptized in Jesus' name, we receive the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit lives within us, we are never alone. God is always with us.

3. Believers are born into a new family: The day of Pentecost is pretty much the birthday of the Christian church. The church and its members can be viewed as our extended family. These people understand the foundation upon which our lives are built, they understand the reasoning behind decisions we make, and they can offer support and joy through life's ups and downs unlike anyone who does not believe.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Jesus told the disciples to stay in what city?

A1: Jesus told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem.

Q1b: Have you ever had a friend move far away or start going to a different school than you?

TN: At first, the disciples were sad because Jesus had left them. But the angels told them that Jesus would come back someday. Getting to see a friend every day is definitely a better situation, but knowing that we will get to visit again soon makes it a little easier to deal with our friend's absence.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Where did the disciples gather in Jerusalem?

A2: The disciples gathered in the upstairs room of the house where they were staying in Jerusalem.

Q2b: Why didn't the disciples just go out and start telling people about Jesus?

TN: First of all, the disciples were afraid of what the Jewish leaders might do to them for preaching about Jesus. Secondly, sometimes taking action without having a full understanding of how that action could impact the overall goal can be a bad idea. Prayer can open our minds, hearts, and ears to what the Lord is leading us to do. If He has asked us to do something, He will help us figure out how to accomplish it.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What sound filled the house where the disciples were staying?

A3: The sound of a mighty wind from Heaven filled the house.

Q3b: Do you speak more than one language?

TN: Often our families speak more than one language, so we have learned to speak both as we grew up. Others have learned to speak other languages through lessons. Learning to speak another language can be difficult and time consuming. The disciples had not taken any lessons, and in some cases, they may have never even heard the languages they were suddenly able to speak! This was clearly the Holy Spirit imparting knowledge to them.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: Why were there so many people in Jerusalem?

A4: There were many people in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost.

Q4b: Without a map, how would you give directions to your house to someone who doesn't speak your language?

TN: That would be tough. We'd probably have to find someone to translate for us to make sure that the information was understood so the person wouldn't get lost. The information that the disciples had to give to the people that day important. Without the power of the Holy Spirit giving the disciples the ability to speak all the languages of the people there that day, they probably would not have been able to tell them about Jesus, what He had done for them, and how to be saved. The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to carry out the work God has created us to do.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: Who did Peter tell the crowd Jesus was?

A5: Peter told the crowd that Jesus was God's son, the Lord, and the Messiah.

Q5b: Have you ever made a mistake?

TN: We make mistakes all the time. When we do, we should admit it and apologize if necessary, but we should always learn from them. This helps us to not make the same mistake again. Peter was telling the people there that the Jewish leaders and people who wanted Jesus to be killed were wrong, and they had made a huge mistake. The good news for them was that God knew they were going to make this mistake, and He turned this terrible act into the greatest thing that has ever happened in history.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What did the people in the crowd ask Peter?

A6: The people in the crowd asked Peter what they needed to do to be saved.

Q6b: Have you been baptized?

TN: Make sure students don't feel ashamed if they have not been baptized. Make sure they understand that it is a very personal thing, and when they feel in their hearts that they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they should discuss getting baptized. If students have been baptized, ask them to share about their experiences.



SLIDE 7

QUESTION & ANSWER



Q7a: How many people were baptized that day?

A7: About 3,000 people were baptized that day.

Q7b: Have you ever tried something new and found that you're really good at it?

TN: A few hours before he stepped outside and started telling the thousands of people milling around the streets of the city that Jesus is the Messiah, Peter had no experience preaching to huge crowds. The Holy Spirit entered the scene and gave them the motivation to go out and tell everyone the truth about who Jesus was and what He had done for them. The Holy Spirit gave Peter and the other disciples the words to say to touch people's hearts and change people's minds. Leading 3,000 people to their salvation in Jesus isn't bad for a first day at work!



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSES

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John 14:26: But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

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BIG IDEA

▶ When the Holy Spirit came, Jesus came to live in our hearts forever!

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CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for the guidance and comfort it brings to us. Help us to hear Your Spirit’s still, small voice leading us on the right path through our lives. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



One day, as Jesus and His disciples were sharing a meal, Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem because the Lord was going to give them an amazing gift: the Holy Spirit! Jesus told the disciples that they would act as witnesses to the whole world about the great works He did while on Earth. Then, right before their eyes, Jesus rose up into the sky and was hidden from them in a cloud! Jesus ascended to Heaven, just as He had promised! As they stood there staring into the sky, two angels appeared. They asked the disciples, “Why are you looking at the sky? Jesus will return to the Earth one day the same way He left.”

SLIDE 2



After witnessing Jesus ascend to His Father in Heaven, the disciples began the day long walk back to Jerusalem. They gathered together in the upstairs room of the place where they were staying. There, the disciples, the women, and Jesus’ mother and brothers joined together in prayer on a regular basis. After Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension, His close followers devoted their lives to prayer.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 3



On what seemed like a normal day, the group of Jesus' followers gathered as usual in the upper room to pray and fellowship, when a sound like a rush of mighty wind from Heaven suddenly filled the entire house. As they tried to figure out what just happened, they looked at each other, and saw what looked to be tongues of fire that settled on each person in the room. This was it! This was the gift Jesus promised would come: the Holy Spirit! When they opened their mouths to praise God for this incredible gift, they began to speak in different languages—languages they had never spoken before! This was the power of the Holy Spirit!

SLIDE 4



Jerusalem was packed with people who had traveled from many foreign lands for the festival of Pentecost. These foreign pilgrims began to overhear the disciples speaking foreign languages. A crowd of stunned and confused people gathered outside of the house where the disciples were staying. When the disciples spoke, the people in the crowd heard them speaking in their own foreign languages! How was this possible? Some people were amazed, wondering what this could mean, but others mocked the disciples and said they were drunk.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



Peter came out of the house and addressed the crowd of people, explaining how they were able to speak all these languages. He told the crowd that everything that was happening at that moment had been promised long ago in Scripture. Peter explained that Jesus, the man they had put to death, was God's Son and He had risen from the dead and ascended to Heaven. Peter said, "Let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!"

SLIDE 6



When the people heard Peter's message, it pierced their hearts. Filled with sorrow, grief, and regret, they were desperate to know what they could do to make things right between themselves and God and the Messiah they did not recognize and had rejected. People in the crowd cried out to Peter and the other disciples, "What must we do to be saved?!" Peter shared the simple Gospel message with them: turn from sin, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 7



Peter continued preaching to the crowd, telling them that the promise of forgiveness of sins through repentance and baptism was for them, their children, and everyone who would believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. Peter urged the people to save themselves and turn away from the path of the evil Jewish leaders. About 3,000 people who heard Peter's message that day believed and were baptized! They devoted themselves to the disciples' teaching about all the great works Jesus had done and His call for us to love each other. This group of new believers met to learn, fellowship, and pray together, just as we do today. This was the birth of the Christian church.