

April 17, 2013

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-13

LESSON FOCUS

“And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.” (Acts 1:8)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. . . . And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.” (Acts 1:8)

“No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. Ten days later, as they were gathered together with other followers of Jesus, it happened! The Holy Spirit came upon them with some miraculous signs: the sound of loud wind, tongues of fire on the heads of the apostles, and everyone heard them witness God*s truth to them in their very own languages.

The Holy Spirit’s performed three miracles on the day of Pentecost:

- He caused the disciples to witness the word of God in many languages;
- He gave them courage and faith to witness His word;
- He caused many people (3000 that day) to believe and to be baptized.

v. 1-13

- The promise to send the Holy Spirit upon the disciples was to enable them to make disciples from all nations.
- This outpouring of the Holy Spirit was accompanied with external signs: the sound of a loud wind, tongues of fire set on the heads of the apostles, and they were able to witness in other tongues (known human languages).
- The Spirit of God had been active in Old Testament times, indicated by words such as: “the Spirit of the Lord was upon him.” But now the word would not be confined to God*s Old Testament people in Israel.
- It was to spread through all the world. Therefore, the emphasis is not on the gift of speaking in tongues, but on the preaching of the Gospel in words that people could hear in their own languages.

APPLICATIONS

In the explanation to the third article of the Apostles Creed we confess: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel...”

How thankful we are that our unbelieving hearts did not turn from the Gift of God which is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit present in God*s word, He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us and the whole Christian Church on earth... and He keeps us in that saving faith through the word until Jesus comes again in glory to take us Home.

BIBLE STORY

Pentecost Acts 2:1-13

Read from your Bible. Ask students to find it in a Bible too. Those that can read can follow along. Choose the passages you would like to read aloud. Use visuals to help tell the story.

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“No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:3)

We learned that Jesus had picked some men to do special work. After these apostles had seen Jesus ascend into heaven, they stayed in Jerusalem praying and praising God while they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Today we will learn what happened when Jesus kept His promise. Ten days after Jesus ascended, the city was crowded with visitors from all over the world. They had come to praise God on the church holiday called Pentecost.

The apostles were meeting together in a house. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came to them with some wonderful signs. The sound of a rushing, mighty wind came from heaven and filled their house,

Next, a fire-like flame sat on the head of each apostle. Then, the Holy Spirit led them to speak God’s Word in languages that they never knew before.

Many people in the city heard the strange sound and hurried toward the house where the apostles were. How surprised they were to hear the good news about the forgiveness of sins in the language of their country!

Dear Holy Spirit,

Thank You for opening our hearts to believe in Jesus as our Savior. When we tell others about Jesus’ love for them, work in God’s Word to open their hearts to believe also. Come to each of us when we study Your Word to keep us ready when Jesus calls us to heaven. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Who had gone up into heaven? *Jesus*

Who did Jesus promise to send? *The Holy Spirit*

What were the disciples doing while they waited? *Praying and praising God*

What sound was heard? *Wind*

What came on the heads of those in the house? *Flames like fire*

What were the disciples able to speak? *Other languages*

Why did they need to speak other languages? *Many people from around the world were in Jerusalem*

BIBLE CHALLENGE

“And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other.” (Acts 1:8)

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Activity Pages – make copies of the activity pages, use markers or colored pencils to complete the pages.

GAME

Game 1: Listen Up (Jesus Sends Power from God)

John 16:13-15, Acts 2:1-21

Energy Level: Low Energy

This game will help kids remember to listen for the Holy Spirit.

Supply List:

- Wire clothes hanger for every two kids
- Five-foot length of string for every two kids
- Chair or table

The Game

Help kids form pairs. Give each pair a wire clothes hanger and a length of string. Demonstrate how to tie the middle of the string to the hook of the hanger. Show kids how to wrap one end of the string several times around one index finger, and the other end of the string around the other index finger. Show the kids how to place the ends of their index fingers lightly in their ears and bend over carefully. Then let the hanger hit lightly against the chair or table. Surprisingly, the sound you will hear will be that of church bells or an old-fashioned clock.

Ask kids what they think they'll hear when they perform the experiment themselves. Then let partners take turns doing the trick. After everyone has had a turn, collect the supplies.

Post-Game Discussion Questions

After playing the game, ask your students to sit down in groups of four and discuss:

- Did you hear what you expected to hear? Explain.
- Does God always communicate with you in the ways that you expect? Explain.
- How can you be more open to hearing and obeying the Holy Spirit?

Say: **Sometimes God speaks to us in unexpected ways. God sends the Holy Spirit to remind us of what Jesus said, to comfort us, and to help us. We can all be more open to hearing what the Holy Spirit has to say.**

SCIENCE EXPLORATION



Dove Craft

You'll need:

Copies of dove free-hand on paper
Crayons or markers
Yarn

Directions:

Allow time for students to cut dove.

Cut a slit in the middle and punch a hole above the slit.

Fold a piece of paper into a fan for wings.

Put the wing through the slit in the dove. Fan out the wing a bit. Tie yarn into a loop through the hole.