

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.

WELCOME ACTIVITY

Place several small, inflated balloons on a table. Let children blow them back and forth across the table.

Say: **What make the balloons move?** (The moving air). **Can you see the air?** (No.) **How do you know it is there?** (You can see what it does.)

Have children blow on their hands to feel the air.

Say: **The air is there, even though you can't see it. The Bible tells us that Jesus is also here at all times, even though we can't see Him with our eyes.**

BIBLE STORY

Pentecost Acts 2:1-13

Open your Bible so children can see you "reading" God's Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you're saying is coming from God's Word. Use Tell the Story idea below.

"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)

We learned that Jesus had picked some men, called disciples, for special work. After these men saw Jesus go up to heaven, they stayed in the city of Jerusalem praying and praising God while they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them.

Today we learn how Jesus kept His promise of the Holy Spirit.

Ten days after Jesus left, the city was crowded with visitors from all over the world. Jesus' disciples were together in one house. All at once, the Holy Spirit came to them with some wonderful surprises!

First, a loud sound, like a mighty wind, came from heaven and filled the house. Next, a flame, like fire, sat on the head of each of those gathered in the house. Then, the disciples were led by the Holy Spirit to speak in languages that they had never learned!

Many people heard the strange sound and hurried toward the house. They were surprised to hear the men telling God's Word in their languages.

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit,

Thank You for working in my heart to believe in Jesus.

Please work in the hearts of the people that we tell about Jesus.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

"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)

Tongues of Fire Headbands

Before class cut flames from orange, red, and yellow paper. Cut a strip of red, orange, or yellow paper for a headband, print today's Bible verse on the band. Staple the flames to the band, staple the band around child's head.

GAME IDEAS

Who Has The Fire?

Introduce game: What flickered around the disciple's heads, but didn't burn them? Fiery flames.

Need: Orange construction paper balled up to be the fire.

Directions: The children sit in a circle close together. The child who is "It" stands away from the circle and hides their eyes while the fire is passed around. When "It" says "STOP!", the child holding the fire hides it (under their leg, up their sleeve, etc.). The child who is "It" guesses who has the fire. The child who had the fire is now "It".

Tissue Paper Flames

Create a simple Pentecost scene for children to decorate. Print or draw a scene featuring the apostles on a piece of paper. Have preschoolers cut out squares of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper. Let them glue the tissue paper "flames" onto the paper above the apostle's heads to symbolize the Holy Spirit appearing.

Make copies of the page following...

The Holy Spirit Comes



SING AND PLAY

Wind and Fire

(Sing to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Tongues of fire,

Tongues of fire,

Mighty wind,

Mighty wind,

The Holy Spirit is coming,

The Holy Spirit is coming,

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Flames of fire

Flames of fire

Mighty wind

Mighty wind

The Holy Spirit's coming

The Holy Spirit's coming

With His power

With His power!

Before class, cut pieces of crepe paper into 3 foot lengths. Use red and orange stapled to jumbo craft sticks, use white and blue to make the wind sticks. Make one fire and one wind stick for each child.

Teach children Go Tell It On the Mountain

Go tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is Lord.

Open your Bible to Matthew 28:19 and say,

The Bible tells us that Jesus said, “Make disciples of all nations.” Jesus loves all people – people who speak different languages, people with different skin colors, people who are rich and poor, people who live here and far away – Jesus loves them all!

*Dear Holy Spirit,
Thank You for working in my heart to believe in Jesus.
Please work in the heart’s of the people that we tell about Jesus.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

CLOSING ACTIVITY

Gather children around you.

Blessing:

**May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.**

*Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly
make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your
hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)*

**And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.**

*Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then
move your hands out to the sides.*

**And may God’s Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,
keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!**

Cross your hands over the heart.

*Move to a “strong man” position. Then
cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to
communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with “lead” and
the other with “guide” to complete the blessing.)*

Sing: Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.*