



Date: _____

Series: The Christian Church Begins (Spring)
Year 2, Lesson 51

The Spirit Comes at Pentecost

Bible Event: Acts 2:1-14, 38-41

Take Home Point: *JESUS SENT HIS SPIRIT – *God's Spirit lives in me.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit who fills me with faith.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that after Jesus returned to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples. The apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit and as they praised God, they spoke in many different languages. Many people could hear the Good News in their own language and many people believed and were baptized. The Christian church was born. The Holy Spirit empowers us to continue to reach out and tell others the Good News of how Christ died so their sins are forgiven. Kids will learn ***JESUS SENT HIS SPIRIT – *God's Spirit lives in me.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: List a video, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: I've traveled through the Bible and here's what I've discovered.

The traveler takes a blow dryer and ping pong ball out of his backpack and lays it on the table.

Children, what do you think I am going to do with these things?

After fielding a variety of answers that the children will give, plug in blow dryer and turn it on. Put the ball in the air stream so that the ball floats in the air.

Children, do you know what keeps the ball in the air? Can you see the power or air? (No.) Can you see Jesus? (No.) How do you know he is here? Well, God used a very powerful wind to bring his Spirit to the disciples. We can't see this power of the Spirit just like we couldn't see the power or air holding the ball up. So how do we know Jesus is here with us now? By the word of God; and the power and boldness we feel to tell others about him.

This reminds me of the true story of how Jesus sent his Holy Spirit first to the disciples. I discovered we all can receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit.

Last week we learned that Jesus told the disciples he must return or ascend to heaven to be with his Heavenly Father. He also told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Do any of you remember what number we counted to last week? Yes, we counted to 40. That is how many days Jesus stayed on earth after he rose from the dead. Now, let's count for fifty days or ten more days after forty.

Count to forty by tens and then stop and say,

"Jesus ascended to heaven."

Then continue from forty and add ten to get to fifty.

Ten days after Jesus returned or ascended to heaven was the day of Pentecost. Many people from different countries were in Jerusalem for a Jewish festival. When you are from a different country, you probably speak a different language. Remember when we counted to 40 and 50 earlier? Let's count to ten this time.

Count by one's to ten in English.

If you speak a different language, then the words sound different from what we spoke. Let's count to ten in Spanish.

Count by one's to ten in Spanish—or any language you know.

The words sound different but mean the same thing.

The disciples were in Jerusalem just like Jesus had asked them to be. Suddenly, a mighty, rushing wind entered the room where they were.

Turn blow dryer on for a short period.

Tongues that looked like fire appeared to them and were on the top of each believer's head.

Turn a lighter on.

The flames did not hurt or burn anyone. This was God's symbol that they received the Holy Spirit. As soon as they were filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples began praising God. But they were not

talking in the language they knew, they were speaking in many different languages.

Because they were speaking in many different languages, many of the people who were in Jerusalem could understand what they were saying. So, children, this would be like you counting to ten in Japanese or Spanish even if you didn't know how. God gave the power through the Holy Spirit. The disciples could see the Spirit at work when they were able to speak in different languages. Do you know what great thing happened next? Many of the people heard the news that Jesus Christ died for their sin so they could be forgiven. They wanted to be believers, too.

Get out water bottle and hold it up.

Over three thousand people were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. This was the beginning of the Christian church.

I discovered we all can receive the free gift of the Holy Spirit by trusting in Jesus Christ as our Savior. You and I are given the Holy Spirit's power to continue his work and grow stronger in faith.

Remember: *JESUS SENT HIS SPIRIT – *God's Spirit lives in me.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Lay a candy corn on top of an Elf cookie. This snack serves as a reminder of the tongues of fire resting on the heads of the disciples at Pentecost. *Option:* Lay a Red Hot (cinnamon candy) on top of a Teddy Graham.

Drama Zone: Show things from different countries such as a sombrero from Mexico, a stacking doll from Russia, china from England, etc. Act or retell how people talked at Pentecost in different languages.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to retell story.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #158, "The Gift of the Holy Spirit" from *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: To make:

1. Glue streamers or ribbons to the bottom of the cup.
2. Add the label so that the tops of the letters are pointing towards the opening of the cup.
3. Punch a hole in the cup about ½ inch from the opening.
4. Punch a second hole directly across from the first hole.
5. Cut two lengths of fishing line – the first 12 inches long and the second 18 inches long.
6. Tie the ends of the 12-inch length of line into the punched holes. Attach an 18-inch length of line to the one on the cup.
7. Make a loop on the free end large enough to hang from a hook.
8. Take it home and hang it outside.

Watch the power of the wind move your windsock and remind you of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Play Zone: Blown to Serve—To prepare:

1. Thread a length of fishing line through half a straw.
2. Tie one end of the fishing line to two plastic rings.
3. Have two children hold the ends of the string, pulling it taut.
4. Blow up balloon. Do not tie the balloon closed.
5. Hold the mouth of the balloon closed and taped to the straw.
6. Slide the straw to the end of the line near a child on the chair.
7. Have the third child hold the balloon end closed and release it to fly down the line.

Teaching point: The Holy Spirit is in us. When we are in love with Jesus and are full of the Holy Spirit, he moves us to serve God.

Options: Have a variety of heavy and light objects that children will try to move by blowing on them. Try orange and red Kush Balls, as well.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Pentecost.

Music Zone: Your choice of music

Coloring Zone: “Jesus Sends His Holy Spirit” coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out with a heavy and loud "sigh" and says he doesn't know if he believes in Jesus because he can't see him. The presenter says that is understandable, but he will help explain it to Bubba. The presenter asks the kids in the audience to help explain it to Bubba, too. The presenter uses the example of the blow dryer and ping pong ball. Bubba looks suspicious and asks what a blow dryer and ping pong ball have to do with believing in Jesus. The kids will retell what they learned in the Bible event. We can't see the air but we know it is powering the ball to stay in the air. We can't see Jesus but his word tells us he sent God's Spirit to live in us and power our lives. Bubba asks the presenter if he could be filled with the Holy Spirit. The presenter explains that Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to anyone who believes. Bubba asks what will the Holy Spirit help him do. The Holy Spirit empowers you to have greater faith and to be brave and bold to tell others about Jesus. Remember: ***JESUS SENT HIS SPIRIT – God's Spirit lives in me.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with 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,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

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

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- blow dryer
- ping pong ball
- lighter
- water bottle
- table (to put supplies on)

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Elf Cookies or Teddy Grahams
- candy corn or red hots
- napkins
- cups
- water or juice

Drama:

- costumes or objects from different countries such as a sombrero from Mexico, a stacking doll from Russia or china from England

Craft:

- one Styrofoam cup per child
- fishing line
- scissors
- paper punch
- red, yellow and orange ribbons or streamers
- label with take home point printed on it
- glue

Play:

- 30 feet of fishing line
- one straw cut in half
- one pre-inflated balloon—untied but held shut by binder clips or hands
- plastic rings—one for each end
- tape
- kush balls
- variety of items with different weights (feather vs. rock)

Quiet Reading:

- pillows
- books relating to the Pentecost story

Music:

- songs of choice

Puppet:

- assorted puppets

Felt:

- use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of "Pentecost;" a suggestion would be to use Lesson #158, "The Gift of the Holy Spirit" from *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt*

Coloring:

- coloring page
- crayons and markers
- plain paper

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- blow dryer
- ping pong ball

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils and paper
- basket of books