



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year 3, Lesson 50 (Spring)

# The Holy Spirit Helps Us Tell Others

**Primary Scripture:** Genesis 11:1-8; Acts 2:1-15; 29-41

**Key Verse:** Acts 2:4, “All the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.”

## How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids may have learned that different languages, races and nationalities can separate people. Because of this separation, the world experiences hatred, conflict and even more. God desires all people to hear the one message he has for them. Through Jesus Christ, all people can be saved. The tower of Babel is an example of how the people of the world were divided. They could not understand one another's languages. Pentecost is an example of God bringing all nations of the world together and speaking to them in the common language of his love. Since Pentecost, the church has been diligent about translating God's word into many different languages so that all can “hear.” Kids will learn today that they, too, can share the message of God's love with friends, family and even those that speak different languages or live far away.

## How does Jesus fill this need?

**Jesus for us:** Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we have all been made one people. Through salvation, we have been made the children of God.

**Jesus in us:** Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are filled with the presence of Jesus so that we, too, can share the message of God's love with the world.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus works through us so that even people who are distant or far from him, separated by cultural or linguistic boundaries, might encounter him.

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## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: a candy bar*

In advance, select a volunteer who will pretend to have a conversation with you in a foreign language, but it will only be gibberish. Practice a little, pretending like you can understand each other and using tonal inflections so that you hear questions being answered, surprise and, finally, a celebration that you have communicated just what you wanted to.

When doing this before the audience, at the point of celebration reach in your pocket and give a candy bar to this student. Explain to the crowd what happened using the made up language. Of course, the kids won't understand. Then ask the volunteer to be seated.

**Boys and girls, did you understand what my friend and I said? You didn't? That's because we had our own language. Did it sound like we understood each other? It sure did. And, as a matter of fact, because of that conversation, I found out that this person likes the candy bar I had and so received it. How many of you would like such a conversation? (All hands will go up.)**

**Well, today we are not passing out candy bars, but we are passing out good news. This is what happened in the Bible event on Pentecost. Many people from different countries were in Jerusalem and they heard about Jesus in their own language. They heard the**

disciples preach a message of God's Good News. They were excited that they could hear about Jesus in their own language and discovered that the reason they could understand the disciples was because the Holy Spirit filled them.

Did you know God speaks everyone's language? He wants to speak to you today so you can understand how much he cares for you. He wants you to know the Good News of Jesus. Jesus is the Promised One from God. Through him, you can have forgiveness of sin and the freedom to live as friends with God forever. Let's worship him.

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies: a candy bar*

Take out another candy bar. Hold it up.

**Do you remember earlier when I gave a candy bar to one of my friends because we could speak our own language? None of you got one. How did that make you feel? Did any of you feel left out? Raise your hand if you did.**

Put the candy bar away.

**Sorry, I'm not passing out candy bars to everyone, but maybe this will help you feel what it is like to be left out. It may be one thing to be left out of receiving a candy bar. That really isn't so important, but some people feel left out of something much more important. Some people feel left out of church. They feel they would never be accepted if they came to church. Maybe they feel they wouldn't be accepted as your friends because they are a different color. Or maybe they speak a different language so they can't talk to you. Or maybe they have done so many bad things that no one would ever accept them. Does God want that to happen? Of course not. He wants everybody to feel welcomed here—and he wants *us* to help welcome them. He wants us to invite them to meet our friend, Jesus. Let's take time to pray for them now.**

Dear God, sometimes we might ignore people who are different, or make fun of them causing them to feel left out. We are very sorry for doing that. We are sorry if anyone came to our church and felt left out. Sometimes at school we might even exclude other people. Maybe they are the ones you want us to be friends with so we can share your love and acceptance. Please forgive us. Thank you for accepting us just as we are and giving us Jesus. When he died on the cross, he took away all of our sins so that we can be freed from doing the same wrong things. Help us to serve you by showing your love to everyone. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Song of Response:

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## Offering:

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Talk about any mission projects that involve people of another culture, race or language. You may have someone come in and give a mission lecture and make this a major portion of your Kids Church.

Needing ideas from translating ministries? Check out these websites for illustrations.

- Lutheran Bible Translators <http://lbt.gospelcom.net>
- Wycliffe Bible Translators <http://www.wycliffe.org>
- Project Compassion <http://www.projectcompassion.org>



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Option One: Stacking the Tower

*Supplies: stacking materials such as cardboard boxes, milk jugs, plastic boxes, plastic pails, etc.*

In advance, distribute an equal amount of the same stacking materials for the number of groups you will have. Try to have groups of seven or less. The supplies can be a wide variety of items that the kids will be able to creatively stack to see who can make the tallest tower.

For round one, challenge the groups to see how tall they can build the tower. During the process, no one can say a word to another person. They can make sign gestures but they cannot speak. Give three minutes for this building time. Recognize the winners of round one.

For round two, let one person in the group speak and everyone else must be quiet. Give three minutes for this building time. Recognize the winners of round two.

For round three, let all group members talk. Give three minutes for this building time. Recognize the winners of round three.

Debrief the game with the following questions:

**What did it feel like when you tried to build your tower and you couldn't talk?**

Take a few individual responses.

**What did it feel like when you could talk and understand each other?  
Was it easier to work together? Why?**

Take responses from one or two.

**In today's Bible event, we learn how languages were confused and people couldn't understand one another. Because of this, they could no longer work together. We will also discover how God wanted all languages to hear the one message that can bring everyone together—the Good News of Jesus.**

### **Option Two: Mad Gab**

*Supplies needed: Mad Gab game from Patch Products, Inc.*

*Mad Gab is a game that challenges teams to say a group of words that appears to make no sense and figure out what word or phrase is hidden in the phonetics. (A member of the church may have this game that can be borrowed.)*

Divide kids into groups of four, mixing older children and younger children. Give instructions for the game and play, giving different cards to each group. Afterwards discuss the following:

**How did you feel when you couldn't understand the meaning of the words? How did you feel when you finally understood?**

**Today we will learn about a group of people who suddenly couldn't understand each other. They got so frustrated that they couldn't be together or work together, so, they separated into many different people groups and languages.**

**We will also learn how God helped all languages understand the important message that he has for them. That message is that God sent his Son to be their Savior.**

## **Bible Presentation:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

### **Participation Drama**

**The Tower of Babel and Pentecost**

**Genesis 11:1-8, Acts 2:1-12**

*Supplies needed: flames cut from red, orange and yellow construction paper or tissue paper (see below)*

### **Introduction**

**I will need some participants able to do some building. This is not an ordinary building. This will be the tallest building ever built by mankind. Now we're not using bricks that you can see, we have to**

**use our imagination. Everyone practice this with me. I want you to pick up a heavy brick, I mean a *heavy* brick, and carry it a few feet over and set it on the ground.**

Let the kids pretend to practice carrying a very heavy item.

**Now can you lift it up again and return it to its original place? Good. I think you are all ready to be workers.**

**When I come around and tap you, then you will be a part of the story.**

Go around the audience picking participants and have them come forward.

### Reading the Bible event: Genesis 11:1-4

**This happened a long time ago, after the time of Noah, when the world was being populated again after the flood. Here is what it says in the Bible.**

Read Genesis 11: 1-4:

***“The whole world had one language with a common vocabulary. As people moved toward the east, they found a plain in Shinar [Babylonia] and settled there. They said to one another, ‘Let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.’ They used bricks as stones and tar as mortar.***

***“Then they said, ‘Let’s build a city for ourselves and a tower with its top in the sky. Let’s make a name for ourselves so that we won’t become scattered all over the face of the earth.’”***

### Kids begin to build

**Well, I see that all of you are here to make a name for yourselves and build the biggest building in the world. So, here is the edge of the wall. When I tap you on the head, bring your heavy brick over here and set in line. Then you must tell the person coming after you exactly where to put his/her brick, so the bricks don’t bump into each other and are stacked in a straight line.**

Begin to tap children one at a time and have them help communicate how the bricks should be laid. Encourage their talking and instruction of each other.

My! What a fine job.

**And now, everyone, stop and look at this building. Isn't it wonderful? Isn't it grand? Isn't it the best building ever built? As a matter of fact, look at all the people and how proud they are. They stick out their chests and point to themselves and say, "Look what we did. We're the greatest. We're the greatest. We must be like gods."**

**Ahh-oh! Was there any problem with them building a tower? No. There was nothing wrong with building a tower or a city, but there is something wrong with feeling so prideful that you want to make a name for yourself and leave God out of it. There is something wrong about seeing yourself as powerful as God. This is called sinful pride. Here is what happened next.**

Read the Bible.

Continue reading at Genesis 11:5.

***"The LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the descendants of Adam were building. The LORD said, 'They are one people with one language. This is only the beginning of what they will do! Now nothing they plan to do will be too difficult for them. Let us go down there and mix up their language so that they won't understand each other.'"***

Kids pretend to speak different languages.

Address the workers building the imaginary tower:

**You explained to each other what was to be done, but now suddenly you all speak different languages. You don't understand each other anymore because you each speak a different language. Let me hear you speak a different language to each other.**

Let the kids babble their gibberish to each other.

God scatters the people.

**How confusing. This is why the tower was named Babel. Because at this event, the LORD God turned the language of the whole earth into babble. Is that what it sounds like, boys and girls? Babble? It sure does. From that place, the LORD God scattered the people all over the face of the earth. Everyone can be seated because you are now scattered and all speak different languages.**



**Why were they scattered? They were scattered because of their sinful pride. Then divisions between the people began. Not only did they speak different languages, they lived in different lands. As years passed, they grew to distrust one another. They couldn't understand each other.**

**What would God do to fix this problem?**

### God builds a building of people: the Church

**God builds a building. But it is not a building with bricks and mortar. No, it's a building of people. It's called the church. To do that, God called people from all different languages, all different nationalities, and all different places in the world. This is what happened.**

### Introduce the Pentecost event.

Invite four kids up to play the role of disciples.

**Use your imaginations. These four kids will play the role of four disciples. It is fifty days since Jesus' resurrection.**

### A wind blows

Read Acts 2:1-2.

***"When Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Passover, came, all the believers were together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like a violently blowing wind came from the sky and filled the whole house where they were staying."***

**Kids, I need to hear the wind.**

Have kids make wind sounds.

**Disciples (the volunteers), I need to see a surprised look.**

### Tongues of fire

Read Acts 2:3.

***"Tongues that looked like fire appeared to them. The tongues arranged themselves so that one came to rest on each believer."***

Hold pieces of orange, red, and yellow construction paper or tissue cut to resemble flames over their heads.

## Speaking in different languages

Continue reading verses 4.

***“All the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.”***

**Now our disciples begin to speak in different languages. Can I hear your language, Disciple 1? Can I hear your language, Disciple 2? Can I hear your language, Disciple 3? Can I hear your language, Disciple 4?**

Each disciple illustrates his/her made up language.

**Do any of the rest of you kids recognize or speak these languages?**

## People hear their language.

Read Acts 2:5-12. Then continue with:

**The Bible says that there were many different people in Jerusalem at that time and the disciples were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come. It was fifty days after Passover.**

**When the Holy Spirit came, visitors from all over the region heard the disciples speak in their language. They understood what was being spoken. They heard in their own language God’s word about how Jesus was truly the Promised One.**

**I see some of them now (looking at the audience). There is Parthian. There is an Elamite. There is an Egyptian... a Libyan... a Roman... an Arabian...**

Ask kids to say “I got it,” as you point to them.

## The crowd makes fun.

**Not everyone understood what was happening. Some thought the disciples were speaking gibberish. They thought the disciples drank too much wine, even though it was only nine o’clock in the morning. I see a group of them over there.**

Point to some kids. Have them laugh out loud, giggle, and speak “gibberish.”

## The Good News

**But some of them were ready to listen. What did they hear? They heard the Good News that Jesus is the Promised One, or the Messiah, or the Christ. Jesus is God’s Son and he came to give his life for the world’s sin. All that receive him as their Savior will serve him as the Lord of their life and he will make them free.**

## **Application:**

### Option One:

Show a clip from *Beyond the Gates of Splendor* (Produced by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox. Order from <http://www.foxstore.com/detail.html?item=1556> or rent from your local video store) or *The End of the Spear* released in January 2006.

*Both of these movies show the dramatic story of five missionaries who were killed in an attempt to bring the gospel to a primitive tribe in South America.*

Show a clip of your choosing (perhaps ten minutes) of how the language barrier can be confusing. But because of the missionaries’ love for Christ and those who didn’t know him, they chose to live with another people group and learn their language.

### Option Two:

Go directly to *Witness and Tell* activity that will give kids an opportunity to share their faith with others in Kids Church.



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Encourage kids to tell others what God has done for them and how he has helped them.

After kids comment and tell their stories, point out that a relationship with Jesus makes a difference in people's lives. A good way to witness is for people to simply tell of the benefits they have experienced when they know Jesus as their Savior.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**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:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## *Attention Grabber:*

- candy bar

## *Power of the Cross:*

- candy bar

## *Learning Game:*

### *Option one:*

- stacking materials, such as cardboard boxes, milk jugs, plastic boxes, plastic pails, etc.

### *Option two:*

- the game, *Mad Gab*, from [www.Mattel.com](http://www.Mattel.com) or your nearest Wal-Mart or Toys R Us.

## *Bible Presentation:*

- flames cut from red, orange, and yellow construction paper or tissue paper

## *Application:*

- your choice of a clip from either *Beyond the Gates of Splendor* that can be purchased from <http://www.foxstore.com/detail.html?item=1556> or rented from the local video store, or *The End of the Spear*, released as a movie January 2006