



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** The Early Church  
Spring Year 1, Lesson 51

# Birth of the Church

**Take Home Point:** \*Holy Spirit, fill me up and send me out. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Acts 2:1-41

**Key Verse:** Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Pentecost Bible event in Acts 2.
- The Holy Spirit is God who comes to us and helps us trust Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit fills us with his presence and then sends us to help tell others about Jesus.
- "Stinkin' thinkin'" is when we think we can't witness to others about Jesus.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Excited and challenged at new ways of thinking.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit to do great things for Jesus.

**We will help kids do:**

- Confess their old way of stinkin' thinkin' that God would not want to fill them up and send them out.
- Make a straw flyer to represent their lives sailing for Jesus.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Kids try to shoot the straw wrapper off the end of the straw at a target. Even though witnessing about Jesus may seem difficult, the Holy Spirit gives us power to get rid of such <i>stinkin' thinkin'</i> that says we can't.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a paper covered straw for each child</li> <li>• cup for each group</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4-5  8-9  9  10  11-12	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Stinkin' Thinkin.'" Mr. King uses a rhyme to teach Gordy that being afraid to witness about Jesus is <i>stinkin' thinkin'</i>. There is nothing to fear as long as God is near!</p> <p><b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Acts:2---</i> The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples on the day of Pentecost.</p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> "Stinkin' Thinkin'"</p> <p><b>Object Lesson Presentation:</b> "Holy Spirit Sends Us"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy - wearing a clothespin</li> <li>• video, <i>The Visual Bible: Acts 2</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, Inc. (1994) (<i>NOTE: This is a long chapter and a recommended abbreviation is to fast forward through verses 17-28.</i>)</li> <li>• box fan or some other type of fan that can be aimed to different sections of the room</li> <li>• spray can of room deodorizer</li> <li>• craft components to make a flying straw glider (See small group application.)</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-7	Kids will make a glider in review of the Bible event of the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples in wind and fire and giving them the power to "sail" into the world with the gospel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transparent tape for each group</li> <li>• paper clip for each child</li> <li>• straw for each child (from warm-up activity)</li> <li>• two 1 x 8 ½-inch strips of paper for each child. One strip of paper is labeled, "Holy Spirit fill me up..." The other strip is labeled, "and send me out."</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies needed for the activity include a wrapped straw for each child and a cup.

Begin by saying:

**Last week we learned about witnessing. What does it mean to witness about God?** (*Showing and telling about God, leading others to Jesus, showing his love.*)

**Remember the target we made? Who did you target to witness to last week?** (Take a few responses.) **Did you hit the target?**

**This week we will think again about the target God wants us to hit. Let's begin with this straw and this cup. The cup will be our target and the wrapper from the straw will be us. God wants to send us to the target. The target represents people that do not know about God's love for them. It represents people that each one of us can talk to about Jesus or show them Jesus' love by our kindness.**

**Okay, let's see if we can blow the wrappers from the straws into the cup.**

Place a cup in the center of the group for the target. Give each child a straw and let them shoot the straw wrapper off the end of the straw toward the target. Can they hit the cup? Can they make their wrapper land *inside* the cup?

*You may have to show some children how to shoot the wrapper off a straw, although most are born knowing how to accomplish this feat! Tear off one end so you can blow through the straw from that end. Twist the paper on the other end so air cannot escape.*

**It was fun blowing the paper wrappers off the straws, wasn't it? Was it hard to make the wrappers land in the cup?**

**Sometimes we think it is hard to share God's love with others. We don't think we can hit the target. What are some of the reasons we give for not sharing God's love?** (*Not old enough, not good enough at talking about Jesus, just didn't want to show love.*)

Let the children give you as many reasons as they can. Then say:

**You know, Satan would like to make us give up trying to hit the target that God would have us hit. He would rather we didn't try at all to tell others about Jesus. Satan wants us to believe that we could**

never witness to someone else. This is what we call *stinkin' thinkin'*. It's rotten. It's bad. It's what the devil wants. Everyone hold your nose while I tell you some thoughts that are *stinkin' thinkin'*.

“Aww, I'll never be able to talk to people about God's love.”

“I don't know what to say.”

“People will think I'm weird if I tell them about Jesus.”

“I'm too young to talk to people about Jesus.”

Today we will learn to get rid of this *stinkin' thinkin'*. God's Holy Spirit will blow it away. Blow through your straws right now. Let's get rid of that *stinkin' thinkin'*.

Next, pick up the wrappers from your straws and roll them in little balls. Put them on the table. Now blow the little balls off the table where I can catch them in the cup.

Hold the cup sideways at the edge of the table.

This is our target cup. Aim your wrapper balls for this target.

This is a picture of what we will learn today. God's Holy Spirit is like the wind. He will send us out to the people he wants us to share his love with, and we will hit the target!

Today we are going to pray, *\*Holy Spirit, fill me up and send me out.* God is going to blow away our *stinkin' thinkin'* and show us that we can share his message and his love with other people.

If time permits, continue discussion with the following. Be prepared to share examples from your own life.

**How have you shared God's love with someone recently? Have you told anyone about Jesus giving his life for us so we could be God's friends forever? Have you acted kind toward someone?**

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview:

#### **Puppet Presentation:** “Stinkin’ Thinkin’”

Mr. King uses a rhyme to teach Gordy that being afraid to witness about Jesus is *stinkin’ thinkin’*. There is nothing to fear as long as God is near!

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Act 2---* The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples on the day of Pentecost. (NOTE: This is a long chapter and a recommended abbreviation is to fast forward through verses 17-28.)

#### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** “Stinkin’ Thinkin’”

#### **Object Lesson Presentation:** “Holy Spirit Sends Us”

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### **Observation Questions: What happened?**

Have kids refer to Acts 2 in their Bibles.

**On the special day that we call Pentecost, the believers were all together. What suddenly happened that was out of the ordinary?** (Acts 2:1-3. *There was a sound like a blowing wind and there were tongues that looked like fire that came to rest on each believer. (This will seem strange to the kids because....well it is strange. But to help better explain it, ask if the kids remember how God had appeared in the Old Testament in the form of fire. Remember Moses and the burning bush, the pillar of fire by the Red Sea exodus, the fire guiding the Israelites through the wilderness?) God was showing that his presence, as evidenced by the fire, would now be dwelling in the lives of his followers.*)

**What impossible thing happened when the tongues of fire came to rest on each believer?** (Acts 2:4. *They began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. You might give examples of different words in different languages like Spanish or French.*)

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Why do you think it was important for the disciples to be able to speak in different languages?** *(It showed God's power, but it also showed that God wanted the message to go to all different kinds of people. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...")*

**Why do you think the people who saw the believers were so surprised? Why would they have said, "Who would have guessed it?"** *(Because the disciples were ordinary men and didn't know these languages. It was too early in the day to be drunk.)*

**Were the disciples bold and brave before this happened? (No.) What changed?** *(The Holy Spirit filled them up and they became bold witnesses for Jesus.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

### Application Activity:

*Supplies needed: a straw, a paper clip, and two 1 x 8 ½-inch strips of paper for each child. One strip of paper is labeled, "Holy Spirit fill me up..." The other strip is labeled, "and send me out." Also have transparent tape available.*

**We will do an activity that seems absolutely amazing. It will remind you that God wants to do something absolutely amazing through you, just like he did through the disciples at Pentecost.**

As you ask the application questions, begin the craft. Discuss as you construct your glider first. (See directions below.)

**Are you doing all that Jesus would want you to do in your life to witness for him?**

**Who do you think God might be sending you to talk to about Jesus or to show God's love? Friends? Family? Enemies?**

**If God were to send you today, what would he tell you to do or say?**

**Who would he send you to? Family? Friends? Enemies? The world...is he calling you to be a missionary to another country?**

Give each child a straw, a paper clip, and the two pieces of paper. Next give them the following directions.

1. Attach the paper clip to one end of the straw. (*This adds weight to propel the glider forward.*)



2. Tape the strips to form loops. Then tape one loop to each end of the straw.



3. Hold the straw with the paper clip end forward and loops downward and let it sail. (You will need to take your class in the hall for this.)

Remember to conclude the activity with the point:

**Today we learned to ask the *\*Holy Spirit, fill me up and send me out.***

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for getting rid of the *stinkin' thinkin'*. Invite every child to think of at least one person the Holy Spirit might be sending him to share the love of Jesus. Give the children an opportunity to pray for these people and any other prayer requests.

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## Large Group Presentation

### “Stinkin’ Thinkin’”

#### Puppet Presentation

**Take Home Point: \*Holy Spirit, fill me up and send me out.**

Gordy: *(Wearing a clothespin on his nose.)* Hi, kids! Hi, Mr. King! Whew! It must smell horrible out here.

**Mr. King: Hi, Gordy! What’s the deal with the clothespin? Is there something out here that stinks?**

Gordy: Well, let’s see, Mr. King. Are you wearing your Dead Skunk Cologne?

**Mr. King: Gordy, I don’t wear Dead Skunk Cologne!**

Gordy: You mean you smell that way all by yourself?!

**Mr. King: Who’s to say that / stink, Gordy?**

Gordy: I’m just kidding around with you, Mr. King. But we were talking about stinkin’ thinkin’ in our small group so I thought I’d better plug my nose. I don’t know what stinkin’ thinkin’ smells like. Do you know what it is?

**Mr. King: Oh, that! Sure! It’s not something you just smell with your nose. It’s a way of describing how someone can think in a way God wouldn’t want us to think.**

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Mr. King: Gordy, have you ever felt like God wanted you to talk to someone about him? Maybe God wanted you to tell someone about Jesus because that person didn’t know anything about him?**

Gordy: Yeah, but I think I’m too young to do that.

**Mr. King: Oh, wait a minute. Now you are *stinkin’* in your *thinkin’*.**

Gordy: But sometimes when I try to witness to someone, I have trouble making the words come out. Or else my voice sounds funny.

**Mr. King: You mean you stutter as you mutter...**

Gordy: I mean I don’t know how to say the right thing!

**Mr. King:** Oh, I understand. You're squawkin' when you're talkin'.

Gordy: Sometimes it is almost like my mouth doesn't work right. My tongue gets stuck or something.

**Mr. King:** You are having the old problem of slippin' when you're lippin'.

Gordy: The other day I was so frustrated because I thought my friend was going to think I was stupid or something that I actually started yelling at him about Jesus. Argh! *(Puts head down.)*

**Mr. King:** Oh, so you're yellin' as you're tellin'.

Gordy: Mr. King, who do you think you are? The rhyming genius? What's this all about?

**Mr. King:** Sorry, Gordy. I was just rhyming all the examples of stinkin' *thinkin'*. But the truth is, from time to time I also have trouble with *stinkin' thinkin'*. Once it even seemed that I couldn't tell anyone about Jesus. *(Sadly.)* I was failin' in my sailin'.

Gordy: Who would have guessed it? What did you do? You are so good at telling people about Jesus now. Something must have changed.

**Mr. King:** There was a Bible event that really helped me. You see, the disciples were sitting in a room kind of afraid to do anything after Jesus had left them. They had to get powered up. When I learned how that happened, I started flowin' in my goin' to tell others about Jesus. Why don't you listen to this Bible event with me?

Gordy: Do you think it might help me keep from stinkin' in my thinkin'?

**Mr. King:** That's right. No more smellin' in your dwellin'.

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King. But no more rhymin' or I'll change your name to Simon. Let's see the Bible event.

Show the Bible event using the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*. Begin at Acts 2:1, but when you get to verse 17, fast forward to 28. Then show to the end of the chapter.

## **“Stinkin’ Thinkin’”**

### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion**

Gordy: Mr. King, what happened to those disciples when the wind and tongues of fire came over them?

**Mr. King: God’s Holy Spirit came to them.**

Gordy: Who is the Holy Spirit?

**Mr. King: Jesus told the disciples, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples became powerful witnesses for Jesus.**

Gordy: But who is the Holy Spirit?

**Mr. King: The Holy Spirit is God, just like Jesus is God and God the Father is God. You see, God the Holy Spirit is the one who fills us with God’s power to trust in Jesus and to witness for him.**

Gordy: So how does the Holy Spirit come to me?

**Mr. King: God the Father sends him to us. But we can pray and open our lives to him. Like this. Pray with me, everyone.**

**Dear God, please send your Holy Spirit to me. Holy Spirit, fill me up and send me out to witness about Jesus.**

Gordy: Now will wind blow across here and fire come on my head?

**Mr. King: I don’t think so, but it could. The Holy Spirit came in wind and tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost because the disciples needed to know for sure that it was God coming to them as Jesus had promised. If you pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you up, you can be sure he will do it!**

Gordy: And then he will send me out to talk to my friends or others about Jesus, right?

**Mr. King: Right.**

Gordy: So, I don’t have to worry about all those *stinkin’ thinkin’* reasons why I can’t be a witness!

**Mr. King: Right, Gordy! I think you are ready to go!**

Gordy: *(In sing-song voice.)* I am ready to go, that's the end of the show. I've cleaned up my thinkin', it's no longer stinkin'. I'm out of time so this is my last rhyme.

Mr. King: **Great job, Gordy! See you later. Kids, let me give one last example of how the Holy Spirit will work in you.**

Go immediately to "Object Lesson Presentation: Holy Spirit Sends Us."

## **"Holy Spirit Sends Us"**

### Object Lesson Presentation

*Props:*

- *box fan or some other type of fan that can be aimed to different sections of the room*
- *spray can of room deodorizer*
- *craft components to make a flying straw as will be done in small group application*

The presenter continues with the following.

**Let's imagine that all of you are those early disciples that had known and followed Jesus. You had seen Jesus alive after he died on the cross. He spoke to you and told you that you would be his witnesses all over. He also told you to go to Jerusalem and wait until you would receive power from heaven. He said to wait until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you up.**

**Now do you think any of the disciples then had *stinkin' thinkin'* and didn't think they would be very good at telling others about Jesus? I bet they did. They might have thought:**

**"I'm not smart enough!"**

**"I don't know what to say!"**

**"I don't know who I should talk to!"**

**As you know, that's *stinkin' thinkin'*. Let's just imagine that you are those disciples. Suddenly the sound of a mighty wind fills the place where you are sitting. Then you see little tongues of fire that seem to rest on you. You are then filled with the Holy Spirit.**

**What do you think happened to the disciples *stinkin' thinkin'*? Right! It went away. Here's an example.**

Turn on the fan and spray the deodorizer in the air stream as it is sprayed out to all the people.

**Do you smell that? That reminds us that God can take away our *stinkin' thinkin'* and we can know for sure that the Holy Spirit has been given to us. We may not have fire over our heads like the first disciples, but we can know that God the Holy Spirit is coming to live in us.**

**What did the disciples do next? They went out and talked to people about Jesus. But the Holy Spirit gave them a miracle. He gave them power! He gave them the ability to speak in different languages that they didn't even know.**

**Different people from different countries could understand them. It was amazing! The Holy Spirit filled them up and sent them out to tell others about Jesus. That day, called Pentecost, they were able to lead 3,000 people to Jesus.**

Hold up the straw.

**Here is an example of that. Can this straw fly? You don't think so? This straw is just like you and me, and the Holy Spirit is the wind that wants to sail us out to other people. I'll show you that this straw can fly.**

Assemble the straw craft project as you talk. (See the small group application for directions.) Then sail it out into the audience.

***\*Holy Spirit, fill me up and send me out.***

**Kids, you will have a chance today in small group to make this glider. It will remind you that God the *\*Holy Spirit can fill you up and send you out* to witness to others about Jesus.**

**Let's pray.**

**Dear God, Thank you for filling us with your power that is as strong as the wind. Help us to remember that the next time we have *stinkin' thinkin'* and are afraid to tell others about your love. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus to die for us so we can have your forgiveness when we fail. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

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HOLY SPIRIT FILL ME UP

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