



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Now...
Spring Year 1, Lesson 51

Pentecost— Jesus Gives the Holy Spirit

Take Home Point: *Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to continue his ministry. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Timothy 1:7-8; Acts 1:8, Acts 2

Key Verses: 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...to the ends of the earth."

2 Timothy 1:7-8, "God didn't give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord..."

We will help kids know:

- Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit after he ascended to heaven.
- The Holy Spirit descended on the disciples at Pentecost and they were filled with power.
- Just as the presence of the Lord filled the temple in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, lives in us, as our bodies are now the temples of the Lord.




We will help kids feel:

- The Holy Spirit's strength and power to witness about Jesus in culturally relevant ways.
- The radical need to be filled with Christ's Spirit to accomplish extraordinary things.

We will help kids do:

- Examine the cream filling in cupcakes as they discuss the Holy Spirit's work in their lives.
- Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit that they might continue the work of Jesus' ministry.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids discuss their accomplishments and the difference between what they can do on their own and accomplishments with God's help.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • matches • ashtray • small white "Christ" candle
Large Group 	4 8 9 10	Overview Pentecost—Jesus Gives the Holy Spirit Reading the Bible: Act 2. Kids read portions of the Bible passage. Christ Candle Object Lesson – The mood in the room is set with lighting and music, while an illustrative teaching shows how the Holy Spirit filled the disciples' lives and fills believers today.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteers to read • volunteers to hold candles • a Christ Candle –this can be a large thick plain white candle or it can have some ornamentation that signifies it as a Christ Candle • matches • birthday candles or small utility candles for each student. <i>Use 3x5 index cards cut in half with a hole poked through to insert the candle for protection so wax does not drip from the burning candle.</i> • background instrumental music
Small Group Application 	4	Kids examine the cream filling in cupcakes as they discuss the Holy Spirit's work in their lives and pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they might continue the work of Jesus' ministry.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least one cupcake with filling in the center for every two students, or you can supply one cupcake for each child • a plastic knife • napkins

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.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.

Supplies: a book of matches, an ashtray, and a small white utility or taper candle similar in appearance to the Christ candle used in large group.

As a discussion starter, let kids light a match as they answer the following questions. Have them blow out their match when done answering the question, and place the burnt matchstick in an ashtray.

As always, warn children about the dangers of playing with fire and remind them that they are allowed to strike this match only if they use extreme caution and because they are in the presence of an adult. Emphasize that this is a privilege reserved only for those who show responsibility.

Ask:

What accomplishment have you had in the last year that makes you feel good?

What is a great accomplishment you would like to achieve in your lifetime?

What might be a great accomplishment a person could make for God?

After discussing the last question, have a student light your small group's "Christ candle" with the match he/she has not blown out. Then say:

Just like a lighted match goes out in a short amount of time, some accomplishments we make on our own may have a short-term effect. But with God, an accomplishment made for him can have a lasting or even an eternal effect.

The Bible tells us in Zechariah 4:6, "... You won't succeed by might or by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Armies." Today we will learn more about the power of the Holy Spirit and that *Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to continue his ministry.

Encourage kids to bring their Bibles to large group to follow along with the Bible reading.

Large Group Overview: 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.*

Reading the Bible: Act 2. Kids read portions of the Bible passage.

Christ Candle Object Lesson – The mood in the room is set with lighting and music, while an illustrative teaching shows how the Holy Spirit filled the disciples lives and fills believers today.

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. Our process of learning to use the Bible involves three types of questions. Observation Questions ask, "What happened?" Or, "What does it say?" Interpretation Questions ask, "What does this mean?" Finally, Application Questions ask, "What does this mean to me?" This question helps the student discover how to best apply it to his or her life.

For this lesson, these questions are grouped around the Bible verses being examined so that the questions follow a logical progression of thought.

Observation and Interpretation Questions What happened?/What does this mean?

Don't feel like you have to cover all these questions. Adapt to your needs and the time available. It is important to leave enough time for the application activity.

Read Acts 1:4, 5, 8 and Acts 2:1-4.

How do these passages compare? *(The Holy Spirit did come to the disciples in a few days and they were filled with power to witness about Jesus. It happened just as Jesus had promised.)*

What kind of "power" is this? *(See Key Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7-8. Boldness and courage.)*

On the day of Pentecost, what was the visible sign of the Holy Spirit's presence? *(Acts 2:3. Tongues of fire.)*

How did the Holy Spirit reveal his power through the disciples? *(Acts 2:4. They spoke in languages people from other nations could understand.)*

Why do you think God chose the Pentecost Feast as the time to send the Holy Spirit? *(It was a few days after Jesus ascended as he said. Many Jews from other nations were in Jerusalem for the Feast and the Holy Spirit could show his power. (Acts 2:5-11.) It also might be a way the good news about Jesus would spread from "Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8.)*

From the time of Jesus' arrest until after his resurrection, the disciples did not show much faith or courage. How were the disciples different after Pentecost?

What made the difference between the timid Peter at Jesus' trial and the bold Peter in Acts 4:8? *(Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit.)*

What special training did the disciples have to preach the Good News of Jesus? *(Acts 4:13. None. They had no education or special training. They were just ordinary men who had spent time with Jesus.)*

Read the disciples' prayer in Acts 4:29-30.

How did God answer their prayer? *(Acts 4:31. When they were finished praying, their meeting place shook. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God boldly.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Read Acts 2:22-24, 32-36.

How is Peter's great sermon like the testimony we should share with others? *(We should tell others about Jesus' life and what we personally have seen him do in our own lives.)*

On Pentecost, the disciples spoke in languages others could understand. How can you speak about Jesus in a way other 5th or 6th graders can understand?

Application Activity:

Supplies: packaged cupcakes with filling in the center, a plastic knife and napkins. You will need at least one cupcake for every two students, or one cupcake for each child.

Show kids a cupcake and ask:

What is on the inside of this cupcake? (Filling.) Let me perform cupcake surgery and cut this one in half.

Let kids divide cupcakes with a knife so each one can see the filling inside.

How might this cupcake filling be like the Holy Spirit who fills us? Who can think of some comparisons? *(The Holy Spirit lives inside our lives. The white reminds us of the purity of God, the Holy Spirit. It might be the best part of us!)*

Do you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you? *(Discuss.)*

Faith Test:

This is how you can tell. Take the FAITH TEST. Do you trust Jesus as your Savior? What does it mean to trust Jesus as your Savior or rescuer?

When you trust him, you are saying: “I admit that I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I trust in what you have done for me, Jesus. You have given your life on the cross as payment for my sins. I believe that you are alive and I want you to live in my life.”

Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can you trust Jesus. So, if you trust Jesus, the Holy Spirit is living in your life and filling you with the character and goodness of Jesus himself. How many of you have experienced this? Can you tell me what it was like?

NOTE: Be sensitive to those who do not know Jesus as Savior. Be ready to take children to scripture and share the salvation message again.

Keep being filled:

The Bible tells us that we can keep being filled with the Holy Spirit so we have power to continue Jesus’ ministry. We can ask him every day to live in our lives so that we get filled more and more with his love and power. *(If you would like specific verses for this truth, check Luke 11:13 and Ephesians 5:18b “be filled with the Holy Spirit,” or literally, “keep being filled with the Holy Spirit.”)*

Would anyone share a time you felt especially close to God and he used you to help others? *(Point out that this was the Holy Spirit working through them. They were continuing the ministry of Jesus. He was working through them.)*

Shepherds, you may want to share some personal experiences you have had as you have asked the Holy Spirit to fill you. Speak of how you are now better enabled to live out the character and ministry of Jesus. Perhaps you will have an opportunity for very meaningful conversation on how each of the children has experienced the Holy Spirit's power.

Closing Prayer:

Encourage children to ask that the Holy Spirit fill them. If any of the children are not sure of their faith relationship with Christ, give them opportunity to pray with you the prayer above in the section "Faith Test."

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Pentecost – Jesus Gives the Holy Spirit

Supplies:

- a Christ Candle (This can be a large thick plain white candle or it can have some ornamentation that signifies it as a Christ Candle.)
- matches
- birthday candles or small utility candles for each student. Use 3x5 index cards cut in half with a hole poked through to insert the candle for protection so wax does not drip from the burning candle.
- background instrumental music

INTRODUCTION

Last week we talked about how Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift God had promised them. Do you remember what that gift would be?

Jesus said to them, “I’ve told you what the Father promises: John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)

READING THE BIBLE: Acts 2

For the reading of this Bible passage, ask a volunteer or two to come forward who would be willing to read aloud. Select kids who read well. The students take turns reading the italicized passages. (*Other Options:* They can read from their own Bibles, if you point to the volunteer when it is his/her turn to speak. Or, you can select students beforehand and give them a card with the verse printed and they can stand up where they are and read the passage at the appointed time.)

Also have a small number of kids with small candles up front and an adult present to quickly light these candles during the following reading. You made need to read the passage slowly while the candles are lit.

Option: For added effect, have someone play a drum roll with a crashing sound during the underlined sentence. Or, have the audience make the sound of wind.

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

Have some kids hold lit candles over their heads at this point.

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.” (Acts 2:1-4.)

Have kids blow out their candles.

What was the visible sign of the Holy Spirit resting on the believers? Right, tongues or flames of fire. What are other ways God appeared to his people as fire? (He appeared to Moses in the burning bush. He led the Israelites out of Egypt in a pillar of fire/cloud. God descended on Mt. Sinai in fire and smoke as he met with Moses to give him the commandments. Exodus 19:18.)

God also filled the temple at its dedication with a cloud of smoke to show his presence. The priests couldn’t serve because of the cloud. 1 Kings 8:11 says, “The Lord’s glory filled his temple.”

Continue the reading at Acts 2:5.

“Devout Jewish men from every nation were living in Jerusalem. They gathered when they heard the wind. Each person was startled to recognize his own dialect when the disciples spoke.

“Stunned and amazed, the people in the crowd said, ‘All of these men who are speaking are Galileans. Why do we hear them speaking in our native dialects? We’re Jewish people, converts to Judaism, and visitors from Rome, Crete, and Arabia. We hear these men in our own languages as they tell about the miracles that God has done.’

“All of these devout men were stunned and puzzled. They asked each other, ‘What can this mean?’ Others said jokingly, ‘They’re drunk on sweet wine.’ Then Peter stood up with the eleven apostles.”

You remember Peter, who denied Jesus three times while Jesus was on trial and then ran and hid. Why the change in him now? In a loud voice Peter said to them, “These men are not drunk as you suppose.” He goes on to preach a sermon about Jesus and his ministry, his death and resurrection. Then Peter said,

Have a student read Acts 2:32-33.

“God brought this man Jesus back to life. We are all witnesses to that. God used his power to give Jesus the highest position. Jesus has also received and has poured out the Holy Spirit as the Father had promised, and this is what you’re seeing and hearing.”

CHRIST CANDLE AS AN OBJECT LESSON

In advance, prepare the room by covering windows or other sources of light so that it can be completely dark. Darken the room and light the Christ candle. Begin playing light instrumental music in the background to create a contemplative mood. Maintain it throughout the following presentation.

This candle has a flame or tongue of fire that represents the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of Christ or the Spirit sent from the Father. The Holy Spirit gives us power to believe the good news about Jesus and receive him as our Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit fills us with the character of Jesus so that Jesus lives through us and we continue to do Jesus’ ministry here on earth. Through his power, we can share the Good News with others.

Have shepherds pass out birthday or small candles to each person in their group. Then have the shepherd come forward and light his candle at the Christ candle. The shepherd then should light each of the student’s candles in his/her group. *Be sure to hold the lit candle upright and tilt the unlit candles into the flame.*

Remind kids that this is a reflective time and that only those who are listening and showing responsible behavior will have their candle lit.

While candles are lit, continue reading Acts 2:36-38.

“All the people of Israel should know beyond a doubt that God made Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.

“When the people heard this they were deeply upset. They asked Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’

“Peter answered them, ‘All of you must turn to God and change the way you think and act, and each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift.’”

Have a student read Acts 2:39.

“This promise belongs to you and to your children and to everyone who is far away. It belongs to everyone who worships the Lord our God.”

After all of the candles are lit read:

“Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” (1 Corinthians 3:16.)

“...the person who unites himself with the Lord becomes one spirit with him.” (1 Corinthians 6:1.)

“Don’t you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you. You don’t belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God...” (1 Corinthians 6:19.)

The Spirit of Christ fills us up like the presence of God filled his temple. The Spirit of Christ is passed on to us like a torch is passed. We now need to pass his light to others.

2 Timothy 1:14 says, “With the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us, protect the Good News that has been entrusted to you.”

Have kids now blow out their candles. Say:

Even though we blew out the light of these candles, the Holy Spirit inside of us cannot be blown out. Instead, Paul says to us as he said to Timothy and I am saying to you:

Instruct the kids to extend their hand over the head of someone near them as you read the following benediction:

“You received a gift from God when I placed my hands on you... now I’m reminding you to fan that gift into flames. God didn’t give us a cowardly spirit but a spirit of power, love, and good judgment. So never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.