



Date: _____

Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 51

The Holy Spirit Enters Our Hearts

Primary Scripture: Acts 2:1-13, 29-41

Key Verse: Acts 2:38, "...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."

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

The Holy Spirit may be a difficult concept for kids to understand. To help them understand that the Holy Spirit personally brings them the faith and gives them the power to live in that faith, we will use this phrase: ****The Holy Spirit enters our hearts so we can trust Jesus and live for him.*** Kids can thank the Holy Spirit for working in their lives and for bringing them to faith. They can ask the Holy Spirit to help them live for Jesus.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus did not leave us as orphans but he gave us his presence through sending the Holy Spirit.

Jesus in us: We can be open to the work of the Holy Spirit as we ask him to control our lives.

Jesus through us: Just as Jesus worked through the message given by the disciples on the first Pentecost, so he can work through our messages we share with others.

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: mirror

For this introduction, you will need a mirror and a volunteer from the audience.

Have you ever seen someone's breath? Blow your breath into your hand. Can you see it? Usually we can't. But we can feel it, and we know it's there.

I need a volunteer to help me show you evidence of someone's breath.

Ask for a volunteer to come forward. Say:

I have a mirror in my hand and I'm going to hold it right in front of my volunteer's mouth.

Ask the volunteer to breathe two big breaths on the mirror. Then show the mirror to the group. The volunteer may then be seated.

Here you see evidence of this person's breath. Did you know God's Holy Spirit is sometimes referred to as the wind of God or the breath of God? Can you see the Holy Spirit? No, you can't. Can you know he is here? Certainly! God tells us the Holy Spirit enters our hearts so we can trust Jesus and live for him.

This is what Jesus said in John 20:22. "...he breathed on the disciples and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit...'" The Holy Spirit is like the breath of God that fills our hearts with God's presence. Because of that, we can worship God and tell him how wonderful he is. Let's do that now.

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.

We know God wants to breathe the Holy Spirit into our hearts. The Holy Spirit enters our hearts so we can trust Jesus and live for him.

What would happen if we tried to keep the Holy Spirit from working in our lives? The Bible calls that trying to quench the Holy Spirit.

Invite a volunteer forward and ask him to put his hand over his mouth and hold his nose.

How long can this volunteer go without breathing? It is not good for you to hold your breath for very long. You would eventually pass out.

It also wouldn't be very good if you refused the Holy Spirit. This happens if you decide you don't want the Holy Spirit to help you live for Jesus. When we do wrong things, it's not good for us and we need God's forgiveness.

Let's think of some of the things this week we need forgiveness for and the ways God can change us.

Give time for private confession of sin, and then continue with a group prayer.

Dear God, thank you that Jesus gave his life for us so our sins could be forgiven. Please forgive our sins and fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, enter our hearts so we can trust Jesus and live for him every day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

When we turn from our sins and ask God's forgiveness like we just did, that's called "repenting." To repent is to "turn around," to

change direction and instead of walking away from God, to walk toward him by the power of God's Spirit.

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.



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.

Supplies:

- darts (If darts are not available, pencils might work as well.)
- four red heart balloons, each of which has a clue on a sheet of paper within them (See appendix page.)
- answers to the above clues each written on an 8-½ x11-inch sheet of paper
_____ to the heart.
_____ from the heart.
_____ the heart.
_____ the heart.
- backdrop that is safe for overthrown darts (This might be a cardboard box or movable divider.)

Mystery Heart Game

This is a game of clues in which the boys compete with the girls as they try to find four mystery words to complete a message. The game requires four red heart balloons, each of which has a clue written on a strip of paper within them. The four clues are as follows. (See appendix.)

1. What does a scissors do to a paper, a barber do to hair, and the word of God do to hearts?
2. You don't want to REthink this question or REdo it, but you will be RELieved when it is REvealed to you. RETurn to write your answer when you think of this word that means to change your mind or heart.
3. This feels wet but is so much more. It has the very promise of God! When this happens God says, "You are my special child."
4. The opposite of being empty of the Holy Spirit is to be _____ with the Holy Spirit.

The phrases these clues answer are as follows. Write each phrase on a separate 8-½ x11-inch sheet of paper.

1. _____ to the heart.
2. _____ from the heart.
3. _____ the heart.
4. _____ the heart.

The balloon with the clue inside is taped to the corresponding sheet of paper with the mystery blank. These four balloons are attached to their fill-in-the-blank pages and are mounted on a backdrop that is safe for overthrown darts. (*This might be a cardboard box or movable divider.*)

To introduce the game, refer to the balloons with phrases and say:

These four things happened to the people as they heard the message the disciples preached on Pentecost. The objective of the game is to pop each balloon and discover the clue to fill in the blanks.

The game begins with a boy and a girl throwing a dart at one of the four balloons to make it pop. Have the contestants throw their darts from a distance far enough to be a challenge. Rotate new throwers after each missed dart.

As soon as one of the children hits a balloon, he can collect the clue and bring it to his team. The team reads the clue out loud and has ten seconds to give an answer for the fill-in-the-blank. If they fail to guess within ten seconds or guess incorrectly, the other team can try to answer. If the other team fails, the first team gets a second guess. Eventually all the mystery words will be filled in to indicate what happened to the hearts of those people who became believers on that first Pentecost.

The teaching point will be seen in today's reading when we discover how people heard the good news of Jesus and they were cut to the heart, they repented from the heart, their hearts were baptized, and their hearts were filled with the Holy Spirit.

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.

*Supplies: video, *The Visual Bible: Acts (2:1-17)*, produced by Visual Bible International and Visual Entertainment, Inc. (1984)—order from*

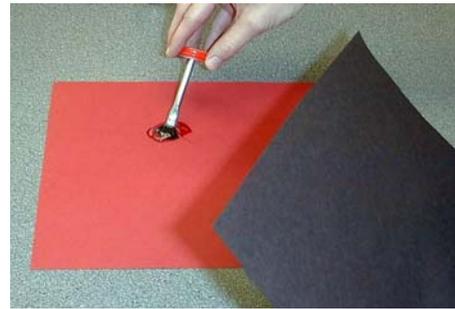
http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364

Watch the Pentecost account (Acts 2:1-17) as presented in the video, *The Visual Bible: Acts*. Order from http://www.christiancinema.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=364.

Application:

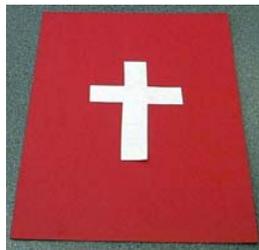
Object Lesson:

Supplies: sheet of red construction paper, sheet of black construction paper, glue, scissors, small bowl of water, cross cut from white paper, ten bowls, 3,000 small items (jelly beans, candy hearts, etc.)



“Peter Talks to the Crowd,” Acts 2:29-41

In advance, prepare a specially made heart. Glue together a sheet of black construction paper and red construction paper. The glue must cover the paper thoroughly since these papers will later be cut in smaller strips.



Exactly in the middle of the red construction paper, paste a cross cut from white paper.

Cut the papers into a heart shape by folding the paper in half and cutting the outside edge.

Begin the presentation with:

People from all the different areas had gathered when they heard the followers of Jesus speaking in their own languages about the wonderful miracles Jesus had done. Peter stood and loudly said, “Pay attention to me! God says in these last days he will pour his Spirit on everyone. That is what you are seeing now.”



Hold up the heart.

“God’s Spirit is being poured into these people’s hearts. I will tell you more.

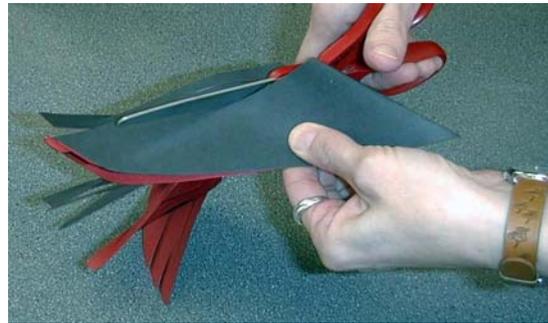
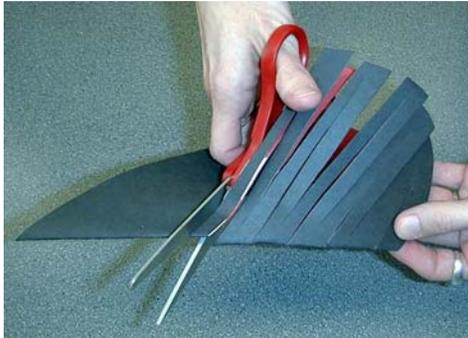
Our ancestor, King David, died many years ago and was buried here. But David was a prophet and he knew God promised that one of his descendants would be on his throne. David knew the Messiah would come back to life and he spoke about that before it happened. He said the Messiah would not be left in the grave and his body would not see decay.

God brought this man back to life. We are witnesses to it! God used his power to give Jesus the highest position. Jesus has now poured out the Holy Spirit as his Father had promised. That is what you are seeing and hearing.

All of you should know this. Jesus, whom you crucified, is both Lord and Christ.”

When the people heard this they were deeply upset. They were cut to the heart.

Begin cutting the heart as shown. Alternate cutting in from the center and from the edge.



Continue with the following:

When the Bible says they were cut to the heart, it means they felt very strongly that they had done something wrong and must change. They knew they had sinned—all people had sinned. Jesus had died for their sins. They were part of the reason why Jesus was crucified. They were cut to the heart just like this.

Show the black side of the cut heart.

The people asked Peter, “What should we do? We are so deeply upset.”

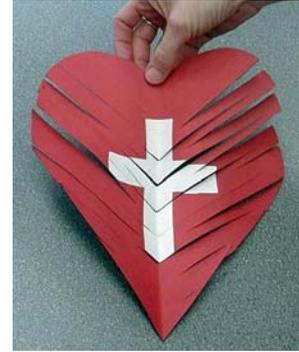
Peter answered, “All of you must repent from the heart. Repent to God and change the way you think and act.”



Turn the heart to show the red side.

Anyone who wants to grow close to God must change his way of thinking and acting like Peter had said. Now they could face God, admit their sins, and receive forgiveness from him.

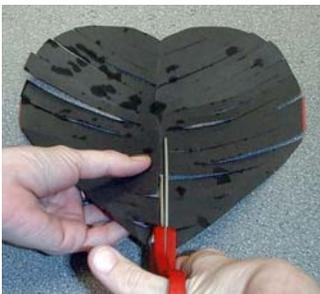
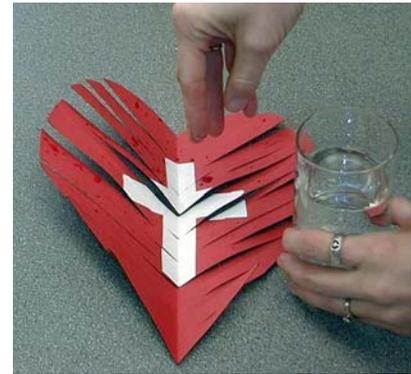
The third thing that happens to their hearts is baptism. Peter says, “Each one of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ so your sins will be forgiven.



Sprinkle water over the heart. Talk to the children about their baptisms.

Baptism is a way God gives you the promise of Jesus and his forgiveness. It's a way you can know that your heart is washed clean from sin and Jesus is with you.

Carefully cut the inside of the folds, without cutting the top or bottom of the heart. *(You may want to practice cutting on a scrap heart first.)*



Finally, Peter says, “Your heart is filled with the Holy Spirit.” He told the people this was a promise for them and their children. It belongs to everyone who worships God.

When the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts, it is like God's Spirit coming to live inside us. Does it seem possible for God, as big as he is, to come live in our hearts and lives? How would God ever fit inside our hearts? Watch this.

Demonstrate by placing a Holy Spirit nametag on yourself. Undo the heart cut out and drape it around you.



This is an example of how God restores our broken hearts that have been cut from feeling so bad about our sin. When we know we need God and we repent, turning our hearts washed in baptism to him, our hearts are then filled with the Holy Spirit.

Do you know what happened to the people listening to Peter tell them about the works of the Holy Spirit? They trusted Jesus and wanted to live for him. Those who accepted and believed in Jesus were baptized. Almost 3,000 people were added to the group of believers that day!

Do you think that would be a lot of people to come to faith after hearing the good news of Jesus just one time? Let me demonstrate how many this is.

Demonstrate the multiplication effect by putting 300 small items (*jelly beans, candy hearts, etc.*) into a bowl, counting ten at a time. Then ask:

This represents only three hundred. Three thousand actually became believers.

Produce nine more bowls the same way until there are 3,000 of the small items. You can have nine different groups filling the bowls simultaneously. (*You could also estimate by filling the bowls to the same level as the first.*) Bring all the bowls together and say:

Isn't the power of God awesome that this many people believed in Jesus and were baptized after hearing one sermon?

Let's pray for the Holy Spirit to move in such a powerful way in our lives:

Dear Lord, we are cut to the heart when we think of how much we need you and that we have done wrong. It cost you as you gave your life for us on the cross. We repent, which means we turn to you. We know you love us and will forgive us for Jesus' sake. We thank you for the gift of forgiveness that you show to us in baptism. We ask that you would fill our hearts with the power of your Holy Spirit.



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.

God did powerful things through the disciples when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. He also promises that he will do powerful things through his believers who are filled with the Holy Spirit today. Some of the powerful things are the things you can say and do to show others God's love.

Let's have some of you share how you have seen God work powerfully in your life so others could come to know Jesus. Maybe you have noticed how God is working in someone else's life and you could share that as well.

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.

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 songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- mirror

Learning Game:

- darts (If darts are not available, pencils might work as well.)
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Application:

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- sheet of black construction paper
- glue
- scissors
- small bowl of water
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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.