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Pentecost , The Holy Spirit Comes

Scripture: Acts 2:1-41

Theme: God sends the Holy Spirit to empower His people

4th-6th Grade (Ages 9-11)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

This Sunday school lesson explores how God's power was dramatically renewed through the Holy Spirit's arrival on Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2:1-41. Students will learn that God didn't just send the Spirit as a one-time gift but as an ongoing source of empowerment, enabling believers to live boldly for Him. The passage shows how the apostles, filled with the Spirit, spoke in languages they didn't know, revealing that the Spirit transforms hearts and enables us to share truth with others. They'll also discover that this event wasn't just for the first century but a pattern of God's work in history, calling them to trust Him for supernatural strength today. The key verse, Acts 2:4, teaches that the Holy Spirit doesn't just give us power, He empowers us to use it in ways we're surprised. Optional reflection: children can draw a picture of Jesus helping their friends, then share one way they can help someone else this week. This extra activity supports the lesson's theme and gives teachers a simple, lowprep option for extending the discussion.

Bible Story

On the day of Pentecost, about a thousand years after God had promised the prophets, the disciples of Jesus, now gathered in Jerusalem, were waiting in fear and joy. The upper room where they had spent the past three days with Jesus was filled with the sound of the wind, like a rushing, mighty breeze. Suddenly, they heard something even stranger: a noise that sounded like many languages speaking at once. Peter, who had been there since the beginning, looked around in surprise. 'What's happening?' he whispered to his friend John, who had also been there since Jesus' resurrection.

Then, just as suddenly, the disciples saw something extraordinary. The walls of the room began to glow with a bright light, and tongues of fire appeared, dividing and settling on each of them one by one. The disciples gasped, but Peter's heart wasn't afraid. He stepped forward, his voice firm. 'Why are you standing there? Get to work!' he commanded. The crowd outside, packed with Jewish visitors from all over the known world, had gathered to celebrate

the feast of Pentecost. They couldn't believe their ears as the disciples began to speak, some in their native tongues, others in languages they had never heard before.

One of the disciples, Peter, stood before the crowd. 'Men of Judea and all of you living in Jerusalem,' he said, 'listen to what I have to say!' He told them about Jesus, the one they had crucified, the one God had raised from the dead. 'This man,' Peter said, 'was handed over because you had him nailed to a cross. But God didn't let him stay dead. He raised him to life and gave him a seat at God's right hand.' The crowd listened, stunned. Then Peter added, 'You know what happened next: Jesus promised that God would send His Spirit to empower His people, just as He had done in the days of Solomon. And now, you see it!' He pointed to the disciples, their mouths open, speaking in tongues. The crowd murmured, confused.

Some laughed. Others demanded, 'What does this mean?' But Peter didn't back down. He reminded them that in the days of Solomon, God had given the people the ability to speak in different languages so everyone could understand. 'This is the same Spirit,' Peter declared, 'this is what God promised!' The crowd's confusion turned to disbelief, but then something changed. Peter spoke again, this time with authority. 'Repent and be baptized,' he said, 'so your sins will be forgiven. Then you will receive the gift God promised to all of you through Jesus Christ!' The disciples were amazed. 'What does this mean?' asked a devout woman named Mary, who had been there since the beginning. Peter smiled. 'God is not limited by language or culture. He's offering everyone a chance to know Him!

That day, thousands of people believed what Peter said. They were baptized in the name of Jesus, and the disciples began to fill the streets of Jerusalem with joy. Peter and the other apostles watched as new believers joined them, all filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke in tongues, praising God in ways they had never imagined. The first Christian church was born, not just in one room, but in the hearts of thousands who had never heard God's word before. As the days passed, the church grew, and the power of the Holy Spirit changed everything. The disciples no longer felt alone; they were empowered to share the good news with the whole world.

Key Verse

Acts 2:4 , 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

The key verse (Acts 2:4 , 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.') calls us to respond to God's truth.

Activities

Activity 1: Wind and Fire Craft

A hands-on craft to illustrate the appearance of the Holy Spirit as wind and fire in Acts 2. Children will create their own 'wind' (paper streamers) and 'fire' (cotton balls) to represent the Holy Spirit's arrival.

Supplies needed:

- Cardstock or construction paper (red, white, blue)
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Tape
- Paper streamers (for wind)
- Cotton balls or colored tissue paper (for fire)
- Markers or crayons

1. Step 1: Divide the children into small groups. Each group will create a 'wind' and 'fire' display together.
2. Step 2: Cut out the wind streamers and glue them onto a cardstock base to represent the wind in the Holy Spirit. Attach cotton balls or tissue paper to another part of the card to symbolize fire.
3. Step 3: Ask the children to describe what they created and how they think the Holy Spirit felt when He came on that day in Jerusalem.

Activity 2: Petition Cards

Children will write or draw what they would pray for if they could ask God for His Holy Spirit to empower them in their lives, similar to the disciples in Acts 2.

Supplies needed:

- Paper and pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers or colored pencils (optional)

1. Step 1: Explain that the Holy Spirit helps us pray and gives us strength to serve God. Ask the children to think of one thing they would pray for if God gave them His Holy Spirit.
2. Step 2: Have them draw or write their prayer on a piece of paper, then fold it and put it in a box or bag to share later.

Discussion Questions

- Q1: What do you think it felt like when the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples in Acts 2? How does the Holy Spirit help us today?
- Q2: Why do you think the disciples were all together in one room? What does it mean to wait on the Lord?
- Q3: How can the Holy Spirit empower us to live for God, even when we feel afraid or unsure?
- Q4: What is one way we can share the good news of Jesus with others, just like the disciples did on the Day of Pentecost?
- Q5: If the Holy Spirit came to you today, what would you do differently in your life to follow Jesus?

Prayer Focus

Ask God to empower our class to live as bold witnesses of Jesus. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give us courage, wisdom, and strength to share His love with others, just like the disciples did on the Day of Pentecost.

>> Missions Spotlight

Pray that Brazilian churches continue to grow in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask God to open doors for sharing the gospel in new ways, especially among those who may not yet know Jesus.

-> To the Cross

The disciples waited on God's promise because Jesus had already gone to the cross and made the way for the Holy Spirit to come. His sacrifice opened the door for the Spirit to live inside every believer, giving us eternal power and peace.