



The Holy Spirit Arrives

Acts 2:1–47



LESSON GOAL

The children will repent and place their faith in Christ and thus receive the promise of the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- The Holy Spirit came on the day called Pentecost.
- The apostles spoke in different languages.
- Peter gave the gospel and many people were saved.

KEY VERSE

“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”

—Acts 2:38–39

APPLICATION

- Obey God’s Word.
- Tell others about what happened to Jesus.
- Love others.

NEXT WEEK

Peter and John Preach the Gospel

Acts 3:1–4:31

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



4 Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

Introduction

Immediately after Jesus’ ascension, the apostles returned to Jerusalem to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. During the days between Jesus’ ascension and Pentecost, the apostles prayed in the upper room with Mary, the mother of Jesus, various other women, and Jesus’ brothers (Acts 1:13-14). (All together one hundred and twenty disciples were gathered in Jerusalem at this time (Acts 1:15).) In addition to praying in the upper room, the apostles were “continually in the temple praising and blessing God” (Luke 24:53). While the apostles waited for the promised coming of the Holy Spirit, they prepared to fulfill Christ’s commission by selecting a twelfth apostle to replace Judas (Acts 1:15–26). They chose from among the men who had been with Jesus “beginning with the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us” (Acts 1:22). The apostles were eager to begin testifying to Jesus’ resurrection but faithfully waited for the outpouring of the Spirit.

The Baptism of the Spirit (Acts 2:1–13)

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred 50 days after Passover on the Day of Pentecost. The Day of Pentecost (which means fiftieth in Greek) refers to the Jewish Feast of Weeks, so-called because it occurred a seven weeks (“a week of weeks”) after Passover (Exod. 34:22). The feast was also called the Feast of Harvest because Israel was commanded to offer two loaves made from the wheat harvest (Lev. 23:15–17). The Law required that all Jewish men come to present themselves before God at the Feast of Pentecost (Exod. 23:14–17). Jerusalem may have even been more crowded during the Feast of Pentecost than it had been at Passover because the weather made for better traveling conditions.

Although not an eyewitness, Luke vividly describes the outpouring of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit came while “they were all with one accord in one place” (Acts 2:1). Luke does not specify who the “all” were or where they were. While the twelve apostles were definitely present, the fact that 120 believers had been assembling together (Acts 1:15) suggests that the “all” included the whole group. It is possible that the Spirit came while the believers were located in the upper room (Acts 1:13–14). The Spirit’s coming was miraculously revealed to those present when they heard a “sound from heaven” which was like a “rushing mighty wind” (Acts 2:2). They saw what looked like “tongues, as of fire,” rest upon each person (2:3). The sound like wind and the appearance like flickering flames was accompanied by the filling of the Holy Spirit, a temporary demonstration of the Spirit’s power in the life of a believer. The believer’s being filled with the Spirit was an evidence that the baptism of the Spirit had occurred. After being filled with the Holy Spirit, those present “began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave

them utterance" (2:4). The Holy Spirit's enabling of the 120 to speak in other languages was a dramatic proof that the baptism of the Spirit had occurred.

When the multitude in Jerusalem heard the sound of the rushing wind, they naturally came to investigate (Acts 2:6). But instead of answers, the crowd had only more questions. Among those in the crowd were "dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven" who were "confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language (2:5–6). The Jews were shocked not only to hear their native languages being spoken but also to hear them spoken by Galileans (2:7–8). The crowds did not expect the largely uneducated Galileans to speak in their native languages. Regardless of what country they came from (2:8–11), the Jews (and even some proselytes from Rome) heard in their "own tongue the wonderful works of God" (2:11). When the crowds heard in their own languages the wonders of God, no doubt including the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, they were divided in their initial response. Some simply wondered what to make of the mysterious events while others mocked and assumed the believers were drunk (2:13).

The Power of the Spirit (Acts 2:14–36)

Before His ascension, Jesus had promised the apostles that they would receive power after they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit and they would by His witnesses in Jerusalem (Acts 1:7–8). Just as Jesus had promised, the apostles powerfully witnessed to Jesus on Pentecost. After hearing the crowds assume they were drunk, Peter stood up (with the other eleven apostles) and addressed the crowd.

Peter began his witness by explaining to the crowd what they were seeing. Instead of seeing drunk men (it was only the "third hour" or nine in the morning!), the crowds were seeing the fulfillment of Scripture. Quoting from Joel 2:28–32, Peter explained through the prophecy that the last days had begun and that God had begun to pour out His Spirit (Acts 2:17–21). Although Joel's prophecy will be fulfilled completely at the "coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord" when Christ returns in judgment, the promised baptism of the Spirit had come. (The book of Acts records how this prophecy continues to be fulfilled as more and more people believed in Christ and experienced the baptism of the Spirit. The prophecy is still being fulfilled as men and women receive the Spirit at conversion.)

After explaining that the promised baptism of the Spirit had come, Peter testified to Jesus, just as Jesus predicted he would (Acts 1:7). Peter began by testifying to Jesus' life (2:22). He told the crowd how God demonstrated that Jesus was the Messiah through His "miracles, wonders, and signs" which they themselves had seen. He next accused the crowd of being responsible for crucifying and killing Jesus although God had decreed the murder should happen (2:23). Peter followed by proclaiming the resurrection of Christ (2:24) and giving Scriptural proof from Psalm 16:8–11 (quoted in Acts 2:25–28) that King David had prophesied that the Messiah would rise from the dead (Acts 2:29–31). Although the Psalm sounds like David is speaking of himself, Peter explained that David understood that His descendant would sit on his throne and "foreseeing this, spoke concerning Christ" (Acts 2:31). Peter concluded His testimony by proclaiming that the resurrected Jesus had been "exalted to the right hand of the God" (2:33). The Spirit's being outpoured at Pentecost testified to Jesus' ascension as did another Davidic psalm (Psalm 110:1). In Mark 12:35–37, Jesus used the same psalm quoted by Peter (Acts 2:34–35) to testify that He is not only David's son but also his Lord. In Psalm 110:1, David prophesied that his Lord the Messiah would sit at the Father's right hand. Peter finished his testimony to Jesus by proclaiming "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). Peter's use of Scripture demonstrated that Jesus was both the Lord and the promised Messiah.

The Promise of the Spirit (Acts 2:37–47)

Following Peter's explanation of Pentecost and testimony to Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the crowds were "cut to the heart" and begged to know what they should do (Acts 2:37). The Holy Spirit had worked through Peter's message to convict the crowds of their wickedness in crucifying their Messiah. Peter called upon the crowds to repent, by turning away from their sins and submitting themselves to God, and to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, demonstrating their allegiance to Jesus as their Lord and Christ (2:38). Peter did not call on the crowds to be baptized "for the remission of sins" so that their sins would be forgiven but as a demonstration that their sins had been forgiven. Peter also promised the crowds that Jesus would give to them the same "gift of the Holy Spirit" that the apostles had received (2:38). Just as the apostles received the promise of the Spirit, the crowds, their "children" (future generations of Israel), and all "who are afar off" (including the Gentiles) would receive the baptism of the Spirit when they believed and repented. The promise continues today as all believers are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13).

Peter continued to address the crowds in the Spirit's power with the result that "three thousand souls were added to them" (Acts 2:41). There is no record that those saved received the Spirit with any miraculous signs like the one hundred and twenty. (Sometimes in Acts the baptism of the Spirit is accompanied by signs but sometimes it is not.) Although there is no record of the Spirit's coming on those three thousand with "a sound from heaven" or "divided tongues, as of fire" (2:4), they demonstrated the Spirit's present by their transformed lives. The converts "continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine," in "fellowship" with each other, in the "breaking of bread" (a reference to the Lord's Supper), and in "prayers" (2:42).

After describing the conversion of the three thousand, Luke described in more detail the early Christian community. The believers were marked by their willingness to care for each other, both by sharing whatever they had and by selling "possessions and goods" to give to those in need (Acts 2:44–45). They prayed together in the temple, shared the Lord's Supper together from house to house, and ate together with "gladness and simplicity of heart" (2:46). Their hearts were united in their praise to God (2:47). Because of the purity of their lives and their love, the church enjoyed a "favor with all the people." The Lord continued to work through the Spirit by adding "to the church daily those who were being saved" (2:47).

Conclusion

The apostle Peter promised the Holy Spirit to "you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39). The Lord God has continued to graciously call men to repentance and to each of them He has given the promise of the Holy Spirit. While the Holy Spirit no longer works miracles as He did through the apostles, He still gives power to witness and to transform lives. Every believer must examine whether they are trusting in the Holy Spirit's power to transform lives, both theirs and others.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Where did Jesus tell the disciples to stay?

Jesus told the disciples to remain in Jerusalem.

What did Jesus tell the disciples that they would receive?

Jesus told them to wait for the promise of the Father.

What was the promise of the Father?

The promise of the Father was the Holy Spirit.

What did Jesus instruct the disciples to do after they received the Holy Spirit?

Jesus said that they would be His witnesses.

Where did Jesus tell the disciples to go as His witness?

Jesus said to give the gospel (good news) to those in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

What did Jesus do after giving these instructions?

He rose up into the clouds to return to heaven.

Where did the disciples go?

The disciples waited in Jerusalem as Jesus had instructed them.



Wall Mural of Pentecost

During the week prepare a large wall-mural of the day of Pentecost, outlining what the upper room might have looked like back then without the people. Before today’s lesson, have the class work together to draw a room filled with people on the mural. At this point explain to them those who would have gathered in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. Then allow the students to color in tongues of fire above each person on the mural. These could then be used either later or before the lesson to explain what miracles to place there in the upper room on the day of Pentecost. The pouring out of the Spirit look like tongues of fire resting on each person and sounded like a mighty wind from heaven.

Snack Time

Give students cupcakes or brownies with flags from foreign countries. See if the students can identify the country and language where their flag is from.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done." —Psalm 78:4

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Immediately after Jesus ascended to heaven, the apostles returned to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had told them to do. They gathered together in a place called "the upper room". The apostles were all there, along with Mary, the mother of Jesus, some other women, and Jesus' brothers. There were one hundred and twenty people there. During this time, they praised God and prayed together. They faithfully waited for the Holy Spirit to come, just as Jesus had promised.

Fifty days after Passover, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came. They were all together when they heard what sounded like a mighty rushing wind. It was a sound from heaven. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire, and the fire came and rested on each person. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit! As a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, they were each given the ability to speak different languages.

A large crowd had gathered around them, because all over Jerusalem, people had heard the great rushing wind and came to find out what it was. When they got there, they were amazed to hear the different languages spoken. There were people from all over the world there, and yet they heard the apostles speaking their language. They were amazed, many even believed that they were drunk.

Peter stood up and got their attention. He began to teach them about what was happening. He explained that it had been prophesied that in the last days, God would pour out His Spirit, and that the last days had begun. He then preached to them about Jesus Christ. He told them about the sinless life that He had led and the signs and wonders He had performed to demonstrate that He was the Son of God. He reminded them that Jesus had been crucified by their hands, that He had died but rose from the dead three days later, and that they had all witnessed it happen. He showed them that Jesus had been the Messiah for which they had been waiting for hundreds of years, but they had killed Him. He told them that after His resurrection, Jesus had ascended to heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of God.

After Peter's sermon, the people were very sad because they realized what they had done to Jesus. They begged Peter to tell them what to do. The Holy Spirit had worked through Peter's sermon to bring many people to repentance. Peter told them that they must repent of their sins, submit themselves to God, and be baptized to demonstrate that their sins had been forgiven. He promised them that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit just as the apostles had been given. Three thousand people became Christians that day. The Holy Spirit came upon them, and they showed that the Spirit lived within them through their lives. They continued to learn about Jesus and what He taught, they gathered together in fellowship, they had communion together, they prayed together, and they took care of each other. Their lives showed that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

This was the beginning of the church, and they continued to grow. The Lord continued to work through the Spirit by adding “to the church daily those who were being saved” (2:47).



Lesson Questions

Where were the apostles waiting on the day of Pentecost?
They were waiting in Jerusalem as Jesus had told them to do.

What did the people hear?
They heard a noise that sounded like a rushing wind.

What did they see?
They saw things that looked like flames above the people.

What did the apostles begin to do?
They began to speak in different languages.

What did the people think about this?
Some people thought they had been drinking alcohol.

What did Peter say to the people?
He told them that they were not drunk but explained what was happening. He told them about Jesus.

What did the people think?
Many people trusted in Jesus to save them from the punishment of their sins.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards®

Use appropriate A Beka Book® Flash-A-Cards® with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannel Graph

Use appropriate Betty Lukens flannel graph with the lesson.



Time Line

To help the students remember the events leading up to the day of Pentecost create a time line containing several events that took place before the pouring out of the Spirit (i.e., God promises the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, Jesus later promises His disciples the Holy Spirit, Jesus is arrested, Jesus is crucified, resurrected, spends 40 days with the disciples and then ascends into heaven). Use the time line before the lesson as a visual aid, reminding the students that the Holy Spirit is coming.



Teaching Objects

Use the following list of objects to help you describe what took place on the day of Pentecost:

A tongue of fire (have a tongue in the shape of a flame of fire, colored red and orange)

Fan—mighty rushing wind

Gift box—the Holy Spirit is a gift to those who repent

Bottle—drunk with wine

U-turn sign for repent

Praise and Worship

Seek Ye First

There Is a Redeemer

Majesty



The Holy Spirit

S is for scripture, He was the inspiration,

(close thumb over bent fingers)

P is for power, to spread the gospel to the nations,

(point down with two fingers spread apart as if walking)

I is for intercede, He talks to God for us,

(hold up pinky finger, close other fingers)

R is for receive, God's help which we can trust,

(cross middle finger over index finger, close other fingers)

I is for inside, He lives inside my heart,

(hold up pinky finger, close other fingers)

T is for Trinity, of which He is a part,

(bend fingers with thumb between index and ring finger)

What do these letters spell?

(hold hands palms up, shrug shoulders)

S-P-I-R-I-T?

(repeat letter motions from above)

Spirit, the blessed, Holy One,

(point up)

Sent to those who believe.

(tap temple, then pat heart)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Mobile: "Acts 2:42"

Materials: copies of "Acts 2:42" craft page, scissors, yarn, hole-punch, crayons or other decorations

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft page on cardstock. Have the students color and decorate the pictures. Then, cut along the lines and punch holes where indicated. Attach one yarn loop at the top for hanging, and attach each picture card to the top strip with a loop of yarn to make mobile.



"Repentance Bookmark"

Materials: one bookmark per student, crayons, yarn or ribbon, hole punch

Directions: Give each child a bookmark and have him or her color and decorate it. Help them punch a hole in the tops of their bookmarks and then insert yarn or ribbon through the hole and tie together. Read Acts 2:38.



Coloring Book Review

Begin a picture book with the students of the events throughout Acts. Make an extra copy of all coloring sheets for the students and hole punch these sheets. Create a cover with the title "ACTS" and use yarn to thread through the cover and the sheets. Each week add that weeks coloring pages in sequential order. This book will be used to review the entire book of Acts on the last class. The students should take home the books on the last day and may color the sheets at home.

Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring pages from the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



MEMORY VERSE

"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." —Acts 2:38b

Acts 2:42

The Christians were continually
devoting themselves to...



the
apostles'
teaching



fellowship

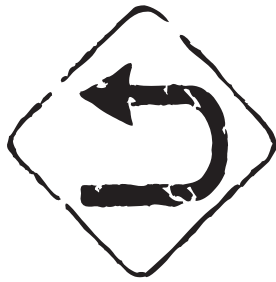


the breaking of bread



prayer

Repentance Bookmark



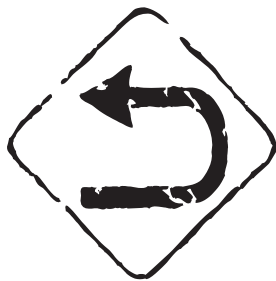
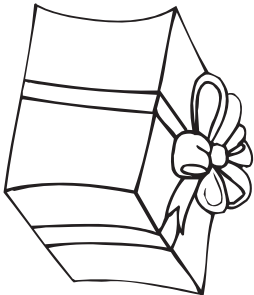
“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent; and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

—Acts 2:38



“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent; and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

—Acts 2:38



“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent; and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

—Acts 2:38



“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent; and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

—Acts 2:38





“Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” —Acts 2:3–4



“Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?’ Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” —Acts 2:37–38a

