TEACHER GUIDE · ACTS 2:1-47; GENESIS 11:1-9

The Holy Spirit Comes



On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit like a rushing wind and tongues of fire. The disciples told about Jesus in many languages, Peter preached, and 3,000 people believed. The church was born with great joy.

PRINCIPLE: JOY · The Holy Spirit is God's gift to everyone who trusts Jesus, and He fills God's people with real, deep joy.

Creation God made it	Fall We broke it	**Redemption** **Jesus fixes it**	Restoration Jesus makes it new

Since Babel, people have been scattered and divided. At Pentecost, the risen Jesus poured out His Spirit to gather people from every nation into one family, the first harvest of a new creation.

MEMORY VERSE

“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Acts 2:21 BSB

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CHRIST CONNECTION · JESUS' PLAN

Peter said the risen Jesus, exalted to God's right hand, "has poured out what you now see and hear" (Acts 2:33). Pentecost is Jesus keeping His promise to send the Helper. Peter's whole sermon points to Jesus, crucified and raised, as Lord and Christ.

Acts 2:32-36; John 14:16-17; John 16:7

Heads-up for parents: This lesson tells how the first believers responded to Peter's message by repenting and being baptized (Acts 2:38, 41). Older kids read this; younger kids hear it only briefly. If your child asks about following Jesus or about baptism, we'd love for you to talk with them or connect them with a church leader.

Class plan

Welcome and opening hook	5 min
Bible story	10 min
Talk about it	8 min
Theo's Workshop or activity	12 min
Review game	5 min
Live It	0 min
Total	**40 min**

Before class

☐ Read Acts 2:1-47 and Genesis 11:1-9.
☐ Print one handout per child for their age group.
☐ For Theo's Workshop, gather square paper (6 x 6 inches), pencils with erasers, push pins, a ruler, scissors and a small fan or hair dryer on the cool setting.
☐ Learn to say "Jesus loves you" in two or three other languages for the opening hook (for example, Spanish "Jesús te ama," French "Jésus t'aime").

Supplies

Square paper (6 x 6 inches) · Pencils with erasers · Push pins (adult use) · Ruler · Scissors · A small fan or hair dryer (cool setting) · Red, orange and yellow tissue paper · Tape · Bread or crackers · Printed handouts (one per child) · Crayons · Bibles (one per child in 3rd–6th grade) · Markers

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Babel turned around.

Long ago at Babel, people tried to build a tower to make a name for themselves. God confused their language and scattered them over the earth (Genesis 11:1-9). One language became many, and people were split apart.

At Pentecost, God did the opposite. People "from every nation under heaven" heard the good news, each "in his own language" (Acts 2:5-6). God didn't make everyone speak one language again. He spoke every language, and gathered people from everywhere into one family in Jesus.

Background

About 120 believers had been praying together in Jerusalem since Jesus went to heaven (Acts 1:14-15). On the day of Pentecost, a harvest festival fifty days after Passover, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a violent rushing wind filled the house. They saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages

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(2:1-4).

Jerusalem was full of Jewish visitors "from every nation under heaven." Hearing the sound, a crowd gathered, amazed that these Galileans were speaking in their own native languages about "the wonders of God." Some mocked, "They have had too much wine!" (2:5-13).

Peter stood up. It was only nine in the morning, he said; this was what the prophet Joel had promised, God pouring out His Spirit on all people (2:14-21). Then he told them about Jesus: they had crucified Him, but God raised Him from the dead, and now, exalted at God's right hand, Jesus had poured out the Spirit. "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!" (2:22-36).

The people were cut to the heart. "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter answered, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (2:37-38). About 3,000 believed and were baptized that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer, and ate together "with glad and sincere hearts, praising God" (2:41-47).

Responding to Jesus. This is the series' main "responding to Jesus" lesson. Like the crowd, kids may ask, "What should I do?" Invite them gently, with no pressure, to trust Jesus, turn from sin and follow Him. Encourage younger kids to talk with their parents. If older kids ask about baptism, explain that the first believers were baptized as a sign that they belonged to Jesus, and invite them to talk with a parent or church leader.

CHRIST CONNECTION · JESUS' PLAN

Pentecost is Jesus keeping His promise. Before He died, He said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16-17), and "It is for your benefit that I am going away" (John 16:7). Peter explains that the risen, exalted Jesus "has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear" (Acts 2:33).

The whole sermon is about Jesus. The Spirit didn't come to point to Himself but to Jesus (John 15:26). And the joy of the first church came from knowing their sins were forgiven and that Jesus is Lord.

Acts 2:32-36; John 14:16-17; John 16:7

Bible Times

The feast of Pentecost

Pentecost was a harvest festival, also called the Feast of Weeks (Leviticus 23:15-21). Jewish people from many countries traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the first wheat harvest and thank God. So the city was packed with visitors who spoke many different languages.

Many languages

Jews had been scattered across the Roman Empire and beyond for hundreds of years. Many grew up speaking Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Persian, Egyptian or Arabic. When the disciples, who were from Galilee,

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spoke their home languages, the visitors were amazed.

Where were they?
The believers were together in one place, probably a house in Jerusalem near the temple. About 120 followers of Jesus had been meeting and praying there since He went to heaven (Acts 1:15).



Dasch Digs Up: Did You Know?

"Pentecost" means **"fiftieth."** It came 50 days after Passover.
Acts 2:1

The sound was like a **violent rushing wind**, and it filled the whole house!
Acts 2:2

Acts names people from **15 different places** who heard the disciples in their own language.
Acts 2:9-11

It was only **9 in the morning**, so the disciples couldn't be drunk, Peter said!
Acts 2:15

About **3,000 people** believed and were baptized in one day.
Acts 2:41

The first believers ate together **"with glad and sincere hearts."**
Acts 2:46

Words to know

Pentecost	A harvest feast 50 days after Passover.
Holy Spirit	God the Spirit, who lives in Jesus' followers.
Repent	To turn away from sin and turn to God.
Baptize	To wash with water as a sign of belonging to Jesus.
Church	God's family of people who follow Jesus.
Joy	Deep gladness that comes from God.
Babel	The city where God confused people's language.

Say it right

Pentecost: PEN-tih-kost **Joel**: JOH-ul **Babel**: BAY-bul **Mesopotamia**: mes-uh-puh-TAY-mee-uh

Object lesson

You can't see the wind 5 min

You'll need: A small fan or hair dryer (cool setting), Red, orange and yellow tissue paper

1. Tape strips of tissue paper to the edge of a table. Ask, "Can you see the wind?" (No.)

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2. Turn on the fan. Ask, "Now can you tell the wind is there?" (Yes! The paper moves.)
3. Say, "Jesus said the Spirit is like the wind (John 3:8). We can't see Him, but we can see what He does."
4. Ask, "What did the Holy Spirit do at Pentecost?" (Gave power, gave words, changed hearts, brought joy.)

The point: We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can see His work in people who follow Jesus, especially boldness to tell about Jesus and deep joy (Acts 2:4, 46; John 3:8).



Theo's Workshop Build challenge

Wind-powered pinwheels 15 min

You'll need: Square paper (6 x 6 inches), Pencils with erasers, Push pins (adult use), Ruler, Scissors, A small fan or hair dryer (cool setting)

1. Use the ruler to draw lines from each corner toward the center of the square. Stop each line 1 inch from the center.
2. Cut along the four lines. Bend every other point into the center (four points) and hold them together.
3. An adult pushes a pin through the points and the center into the pencil eraser. Leave a little space so it spins.
4. Test it! Blow on it, then hold it in front of the fan. Try it close to the fan, then 1 foot away, then 3 feet away. Which spins fastest?
5. Make a second pinwheel with longer cuts (stop 1/2 inch from the center). Does it catch more wind?
6. Read Acts 2:2. Ask, "What did the sound of the wind tell the disciples was happening?"

How it works: A pinwheel turns because its curved blades catch moving air and push it to the side, and the push sends the blade the other way, round and round. Longer, bigger blades catch more air. Wind is strongest close to the fan and spreads out as it travels, so the pinwheel slows down farther away. You can't see the air, but you can see its power.

The point: The disciples heard a sound like a mighty wind, and then they were filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Just as we can't see wind but can see what it moves, we can't see the Spirit, but we can see Him moving God's people to speak about Jesus with joy.

Safety: Adults handle push pins and scissors for younger kids. Keep fingers and hair away from the fan.

Act it out: The day of Pentecost

Parts: Narrator, Peter, John, Believers, Visitors from many lands, Mocker · **Props:** Red, orange and yellow tissue paper, A small fan or hair dryer (cool setting)

NARRATOR
Jesus' friends were praying together in Jerusalem.

NARRATOR
Suddenly there was a sound like a rushing wind! *(Turn on the fan.)*

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BELIEVERS
(amazed, little paper flames held over heads) Whoa!

NARRATOR
They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to praise God in other languages.

VISITORS
We hear them in our own languages! How can this be?

MOCKER
They've just had too much wine!

PETER
No! It's only nine in the morning! God promised to pour out His Spirit. Jesus died, but God raised Him from the dead!

VISITORS
What should we do?

PETER
Turn from your sin. Be baptized in the name of Jesus. You'll be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit!

NARRATOR
That day, about 3,000 people believed.

EVERYONE
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!

Review game

Pass the flame 5 min

You'll need: Red, orange and yellow tissue paper

1. Crumple tissue paper into a "flame." Kids pass it around the circle while you play or sing.
2. When the music stops, whoever holds the flame answers a review question. Each right answer, everyone cheers, "Glad hearts!"

Tips by age

Preschool	Use the fan and paper flames. Keep it simple, "God sent His Spirit, and people were so happy!"
K–2nd	Let kids try saying "Jesus loves you" in other languages. Ask, "Why did God let everyone hear in their own language?"

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3rd–4th	Compare Genesis 11:1-9 with Acts 2:5-11. Ask how Pentecost is like Babel turned around.
5th–6th	Read Acts 2:22-41. Trace Peter's argument and discuss what the crowd's question and Peter's answer teach about responding to Jesus.

Song ideas

♪ **I've Got the Joy** Preschool, K–2nd
♪ **This Little Light of Mine** Preschool · Traditional
♪ **Spirit of the Living God** K–2nd, 3rd–4th, 5th–6th · Hymn
♪ **Joy to the World** 3rd–4th · Hymn
♪ **Holy Spirit** 5th–6th · Modern worship song

Song titles only. Use any recording or songbook your church has permission to use.

Activity sheet answers

K–2nd	Story order: 2, 3, 4, 1, 5 (top to bottom) · True or false: 1 false, 2 true, 3 true
3rd–4th	Secret code: THE SPIRIT GIVES JOY · Fill in the verse: everyone, calls, name, saved · Quiz: 1 Fiftieth, 2 Nine in the morning, 3 3,000 · True or false: 1 true, 2 false, 3 true, 4 false
5th–6th	Crossword: 5 across FELLOWSHIP, 6 across REPENT, 7 across JOEL, 1 down BABEL, 2 down BAPTIZE, 3 down PENTECOST, 4 down CHURCH · Fill in the verse: everyone, calls, name, Lord, saved · Who said it: 1 Mockers in the crowd, 2 God through Joel, 3 The crowd, 4 Peter · True or false: 1 true, 2 true, 3 false

Note for parents

Today we learned how **the Holy Spirit came**. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples heard a sound like a rushing wind and saw little flames on each person. The Holy Spirit filled them, and they told about Jesus in languages they had never learned! Peter preached about Jesus, and 3,000 people believed and were baptized.

Ask at dinner: *What does the Holy Spirit do for people who trust Jesus? What makes you truly joyful?*

This lesson invites kids to respond to Jesus. If your child has questions about following Jesus or about baptism, we'd love for you to talk with them, or bring them to a church leader.

Memory verse: "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:21)

Going deeper: Genesis 11:1-9; Exodus 32:28; Joel 2:28-32; John 14:16-17; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22-23

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