

LESSON 44

Pentecost

ACTS 1:15–2:12



BIBLE TRUTH

THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT IS Poured OUT.

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 1:15—2:12 from the Scriptures or read story 122, “Pentecost,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

What’s the Connection? What are the Requirements?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ paper and pencils

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Plot the Countries

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bible map of first century Palestine copied for each student with all the countries listed
- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ colored pencils

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Holy Spirit Drawing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

What Is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit For?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The betrayer Judas is replaced—Peter addressed the group of about 120 believers and explained that a witness to Christ's resurrection had to be chosen to replace Judas who had killed himself after betraying Jesus. Peter laid down the requirement: he had to be a man who had been with them from the time of John's baptism through the ascension (Acts 1:22). Two men were chosen who filled these requirements: Justus and Matthias. Rather than make the final choice through debate, they prayed for God's will, cast lots, and allowed the providence of God to guide their choice.

The Holy Spirit is poured out—On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover was celebrated and about ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the waiting for the Holy Spirit ended. As the Holy Spirit was poured out, a sound like a tornado came from heaven and filled the whole house (Acts 2:2). Something that looked like tongues of fire settled upon each of them. All of them began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (Acts 2:4).

The assembly was amazed—The people from various nations heard the disciples speaking in their own language. They could not understand how the disciples could do this since they were Galileans. Yet there were others who heard only a loud babble they could not understand. They wrongly assumed the disciples were drunk.

This event marked a major development in God's salvation plan for man. It signaled that the gospel was for all peoples and all tongues. God was now going to take initiative by his Spirit, through the followers of Jesus, to reveal himself to people outside of Israel. From this point on, people did not have to identify with the nation of Israel and learn the Jewish tongue to know God. He was now speaking by his Spirit, through his disciples, to the whole world in order to reach every tribe and tongue.

God had separated the nations by confusing their language at the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:7). Now, with the beginning of the advance of the gospel, God was at work bringing them together again.

A LITTLE BIT MORE*The Death of Judas*

Judas did not directly purchase the field where he was buried. The blood money he was paid for betraying Jesus was used to purchase the field. Compare Peter's account reported by Luke in Acts 1:16–19 with that of Matthew:

Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. (Matthew 27:3–8)

As for the description of Judas' body bursting open (Acts 1:18), most commentators suggest that after hanging himself, when his body finally fell down, it burst open due to decay.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In the Old Testament, the feast of Pentecost was called the Feast of Harvest or day of the firstfruits (Exodus 23:16; Numbers 28:26–30). On this day, bulls, lambs, and a goat were sacrificed, in addition to the regular offering, to make atonement.

Now that Jesus has been sacrificed upon the cross and salvation has come to the people of Israel, there is no longer need to kill the goat of atonement. In addition, the promised blessing to Abraham has been fulfilled. With the arrival of the Spirit of God, the disciples were free to begin the advance of the gospel to people of every tribe, language, and nation.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Acts 1:15—2:12 from the Scriptures or read story 122, “Pentecost,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

What’s the Connection? What Are the Requirements?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ paper and pencils

The purpose of this exercise is to have the students look carefully at the Scriptures before you teach them. Divide the class into groups of four and have them answer the following questions:

1. Summarize Acts 1:15–20 and then ask the class: What was the requirement for a replacement disciple in Acts 1:21–26?
2. Read Genesis 11:1–9 to the class, then have them read Acts 2:1–11 in their group and see if they can determine the connection between Genesis 11:1–9 and Acts 2:1–11.

After you give them a few minutes, draw out the important details of the Acts passage, and discuss as a large group the connection between the two passages. This should engage more of the students in your class and help them remember the lesson.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Plot the Countries

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bible map of first century Palestine copied for each student with all the countries listed (You can find a detailed map in back of a study Bible or in a Bible atlas.)
- ✓ Bibles for the class
- ✓ colored pencils

Have the students look through Acts 1:15—2:12. Instruct them to mark the countries listed as they find them in the passage. When they are finished have them draw a straight line from each dot representing the country back to Jerusalem. Once complete it should look like the spokes of a wheel going in almost every direction. Talk about how this shows the spread of the gospel. Look up the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:14 and talk about how God’s mission was to reach the world.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Holy Spirit Drawing

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of the Holy Spirit falling upon the disciples as described in Acts 2:1–4.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

What Is the Ministry of the Holy Spirit For?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Have one student read each Scripture, and discuss as a class what it tells us about the Holy Spirit:

LUKE 24:49

JOHN 14:26

ACTS 1:8

ROMANS 5:5

ROMANS 15:13

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19

1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

GALATIANS 5:22-23

EPHESIANS 1:13-14

2 TIMOTHY 1:14

1 JOHN 4:13

1 JOHN 5:6