

Good morning!! Here is a collection of activities for all ages that you can do as a family this week. My hope is that this lesson can help you connect together as a family and with God and will open up some authentic discussion as a family.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CHURCH!!**

**What He has done:** Jesus kept his promise and sent the Holy Spirit.

**Lesson Aim:** To know that all who believe in Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

#### **1. Setting the story:**

Today we are stepping out of sequence so that we can celebrate the birthday of the church. This lesson is focusing on the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His friends that He would send the gift of the Holy Spirit to them. Today, we will celebrate the way Jesus kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit.

#### **2. Telling the story**

Here is a link to a video of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

#### **Preschool version of the story:**

The Holy Spirit gives us power. He is our helper. He is with us wherever we go. In today's story, we will see how the Lord kept His promise to pour out His Spirit on all people.

Jesus had told His friends to wait for the gift.  
So, they waited together in town.  
Then came the holiday called Pentecost,  
And they all heard a very strange sound.  
It was heaven's wind blowing through the house.  
A small flame rested on each one.  
They spoke in many languages to the crowd,  
For the gift of the Holy Spirit had come.

#### **Preschool discussion:**

- The Bible tells us a small flame came to rest on Jesus' friends. The flame didn't hurt them. It was a symbol of the power the Holy Spirit gave each believer.
- What sound did Jesus' friends hear? Read Acts 2:2. (Wind.)
- Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. Did Jesus keep His promise? (Yes.)
- Do you like gifts?
- The Holy Spirit gave Jesus' friends power to do good things. They could speak in different languages to teach other people about Him. The Lord kept His promise to pour out His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a gift to all people. We can remember the day Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His friends.
- What did it sound like when the Holy Spirit came? (A loud wind.) Let's pretend to be like the wind that came that day. (Show the children how to cup one hand around their mouths and blow while waving the other arm back and forth.) Imagine the sound Jesus' friends heard that day!

**Elementary age version of the story:**

We worship the Holy Spirit who gives us power to reach all people with the good news that Jesus is Lord. The Holy Spirit is God. God is three in one: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus kept His promise that His apostles would receive power when He sent the Holy Spirit to be with them. They were suddenly able to speak in many languages and tell people that Jesus is Lord. One day in heaven, we will hear people saying, “Jesus is Lord” in every language! Imagine what a wonderful time of worship that will be.

Today, we will learn what happened when God sent the Holy Spirit. The story takes place in Jerusalem where the apostles were waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit. At that time, just like every spring in Jerusalem, Jewish people from all around the world had come to celebrate a festival called Pentecost to remember when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Pentecost festival was also called Shavuot or the Festival of Weeks.

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came just as Jesus had promised. Let’s find out what happened to the apostles at the Pentecost festival that year.

Peter stood up and spoke to the crowd to explain what was happening. He told them God was pouring out His Spirit. Read Acts 2:32-33, 36-39, 41, 42-47.

**Elementary age discussion:**

- What did the apostles see and hear when the Holy Spirit came that day? (They heard the sound of a mighty wind fill the house. They saw what seemed to be tongues of flickering fire resting on each apostle.) The fire rested on the apostles but did not burn them.
- The wind and fire showed them the power of the Holy Spirit. They also saw the power of the Holy Spirit when, suddenly, they were able to speak in many different tongues—that means many languages. This was a miracle because these men were speaking in languages they had never even heard before.
- Can you imagine the sound of the roaring wind and of people talking in so many languages?
- Can any of you speak more than one language?
- Do any of you know words from other languages?
- On the day the Holy Spirit came, Jerusalem had Jewish visitors from all over the world who had come to celebrate Pentecost. They spoke many different languages.
- Why do you think it was important for people to hear about Jesus in their own language?
- What do you think the visitors might have told their families and friends when they returned to their own lands? (They might have talked about the apostles and the Holy Spirit or shared the news about Jesus the Savior.)
- How many people believed and were baptized that day? (About 3,000.)
- Imagine how many more believed when these visitors returned to their own nations to tell others about Jesus.

**3. Prayer**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let’s fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let’s pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us, loving us and taking care of us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_\_. We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.

#### **4. Games (from the curriculum- you may need to play with your kids to fill out the teams):**

##### **GOD'S BLANKET FOR US**

**Purpose:** Children learn the meaning of the promise in Joel 2:28a.

**Supplies:** Large blanket

##### **Directions:**

1. In the center of the room, lay the blanket on the floor.
2. Children stand around the edges of the blanket.
3. God says, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people." The Holy Spirit is God. To pour out His Spirit is a way of saying God is with us in a powerful way. Let's imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.
4. Children pick up the blanket and raise it over their heads as they imagine God pouring His Spirit out on all of them.
5. Let's wrap God's Spirit around us.
6. Children duck under the blanket and pull it tight around them.
7. God wants you to know that He is as close to you as this blanket. That's why He gives you His Spirit—so you can be close with Him!

##### **GALLINITA CIEGA (THE BLIND HEN)**

**Purpose:** To play a game from the international community to introduce the idea that the Holy Spirit is for everyone.

**Supplies:** Blindfold

Let's play a game that children in Mexico like to play. This game is called Gallinita Ciega.

##### **Directions:**

1. Choose a girl to be the hen.
2. Blindfold the hen and spin her in a circle three times.
3. The other children run away from the hen while making chicken noises.
4. The hen follows the noise to find the other children and tag them.
5. When the hen tags a child, that child puts on the blindfold and becomes the new hen.

Today, we played a game from a different country because we learned that the Holy Spirit gave the apostles in Jerusalem the power to speak in the languages of many countries.

##### **FINGERS OUT**

**Purpose:** Children play a game from China and consider how God's Spirit is for all people everywhere.

**Supplies:** None

The Holy Spirit gives us power to reach all people with the good news that Jesus is Lord. This means people in your town, your country and in other countries! This next game comes from the country of China.

**Directions:**

1. Children find partners. Partners face each other.
2. One child in each set of partners puts their hands behind their backs.
3. Everyone counts out loud, together: "One, two, three!"
4. On "three," the children with their hands behind their backs, put out their right hands showing either a fist or with one or more fingers extended. At the same time, the other child shouts any number from zero to five to guess how many fingers their partner will show.
5. The child guessing correct number of fingers wins a point. First child to win five points wins game.
6. Play again switching which child holds out the number and which child shouts the number.

**Option:** For older children, partners may play simultaneously with both children shouting a number while displaying either a fist or one or more fingers extended. Partners play against each other to see which child can get to five points first.

**5. Craft:**

(see link in the email for "craft ideas- Pentecost")

**6. Bible Verse Memory:**

This is an EXTRA lesson added into the unit so you still have 2 MORE WEEKS to learn these memory verses (until June 13<sup>th</sup>). If you want to learn and say your verse, I can get a prize to you at your house. You can call me to say it or say it to your parent and they can text me to let me know you said it to them. I KNOW YOU CAN DO THIS!!!

Preschool verse: "I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember Your miracles." Psalm 77:11

Elementary aged verse: "For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17