

Morning Overview

Lesson: Pentecost

Lesson Objective:

In today's lesson our children learn about Pentecost! This is when the Holy Spirit comes upon the Apostles and they are able to speak to a large crowd gathered in Jerusalem. This event marks when the Holy Spirit comes to be with God's People just like Jesus promised (John 14-17). It's really important for the kids to understand the Holy Spirit comes to be with God's People – God is always with us! This year we will learn how the Holy Spirit helps us take the message of the Gospel to those near and far away.

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The disciples have now become Apostles because they had seen the resurrected Jesus.
- After Jesus goes back to Heaven, the Apostles choose another to take Judas' place. The man's name was Matthias.
- The Apostles, gathered in an upstairs room, had the Holy Spirit descend upon them. The sound of wind filled the room and little flames of fire were above each of their heads.
- The Holy Spirit enables the Apostles to speak in various languages to a crowd of people from all over the known world.
- Peter preaches a sermon about Christ's life and resurrection. Many people hear it and believe!

Scripture: Acts 1:12-2:41

Story: Vos Children's Bible, pages 333-334; Gospel Story Bible, pages 244-247; The Beginner's Bible, pages 500-505; Jesus Storybook Bible, pages 326-332.

Scripture Memory for June: Acts 26:17b-18 (ESV)

I am sending you (*point up to God and then to yourself*)

to open their eyes (*close your eyes with hands closed beside them then open hands wide as you open your eyes*)

so that they may turn from darkness to light (*turn around and lower your head covering it with your arms and then face the front again raising arms, lifting your hands to the light*)

... that they may receive forgiveness of sins. (*open wide your hands out in front of you*)

Craft: Flame

Supplies: Paper flame, craft stick, decorative tape, verse sticker, magnet, glue

- Instructions:**
1. Cut piece of decorative tape and place on craft stick.
 2. Glue flame to one end of stick.
 3. Place verse sticker on back of craft stick.

If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet.



Story

Transition

Boys and girls, in the beginning of the Bible God makes three promises to Abraham, and those promises are for us too. The first promise is God will be our God! The second is that we will be His people, and the last promise, and one we are going to learn about today, is that God will always be with us. Let's find out from our story today how God is always with us...

Another Disciple Is Chosen

After Jesus went back to Heaven, the disciples, now apostles because they had seen the resurrected Jesus, went back to Jerusalem and stayed there just as Jesus told them to do. When they entered the city, the apostles went to an upstairs room where they were staying. All the apostles were there; all except Judas. Judas had served the Lord, but he turned on Jesus and led men to arrest Him. Judas got paid a lot of money to turn Jesus over. Judas bought a field with his money, but he took a bad fall and died.

The Bible tells us the Apostles, some women who followed Jesus, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers continued praying together.

Peter announced that the Apostles must replace Judas. Not just any person could take Judas' spot. "A man must join us and become a witness of Jesus' being raised from death." But not just any man would do. Peter explained that this man "must be one of the men who were part of our group during all the time the Lord Jesus was with us. He must have been with us from the time John began to baptize people until the day when Jesus was taken up from us to heaven."

The group gathered decided on two men for the group to choose from to be the next apostle. Joseph Barsabbas, also called Justus, was one of the guys. The other was Matthias. The Bible tells us the apostles prayed, "Lord, you know the minds of everyone. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to do this work. Lord, show us which one should be an apostle!" The disciples used lots – a sort of game – to choose the next apostle, and the lots showed that Matthias was the one. So, he became an apostle with the other 11.

The Holy Spirit Comes

Soon after Mathias joined the apostles, the day of Pentecost came. It was a strange, unexpected day for the disciples, but it was something which Jesus had promised would come. The Apostles were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise came from heaven. The Bible says the noise sounded like a strong wind blowing (teacher: making a whooshing sound!). This noise was really loud; the wind-sound filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then the Apostles saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. The Bible tells us all the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, and then they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages.

There were some religious Jewish people staying in Jerusalem. These people were from every country in the world. When they heard this whooshing-wind noise, lots of people came to see what was happening. Everyone was surprised because each person heard their own language being spoken by the Apostles. Everyone was completely amazed at this. They said, "Look! Aren't all these men that we hear speaking from Galilee? But each of us hears them in his own language. How is this possible? We are from different places around the world. But we hear these men telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!" The crowd was amazed and confused. They asked each other, "What does this mean?"

Just as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit came to His disciples. The Holy Spirit is God's promise that He would always be with us. The Holy Spirit would help the disciples, and us too, tell everyone about Jesus!

Some people began making fun of the apostles, saying, “They have had too much to drink!” and “They are being silly!”

Peter’s Sermon

But Peter stood up with the 11 apostles. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd: “Everyone listen to me. Pay attention to what I have to say. These men have not had too much to drink! It is only nine o’clock in the morning! But long ago the prophet Joel explained what would happen. He told us the Spirit would come freely to all kinds of people. All sorts of amazing things will happen!” Peter told the crowd to look to God to be saved. He told them of how Jesus came and did miracles, wonders, and signs. Everyone knew it because they all saw it!” Then Peter scolded the crowd, “Jesus was given to you by God, but you killed Him! With the help of evil men, you nailed him to a cross! But God knew all this would happen. This was God’s plan which he had made long ago. And then God raised Jesus from the dead. God set him free from the pain of death. Death could not hold Jesus!” When the people heard this, they were very, very sad. The crowd asked Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do?”

The Bible tells us Peter said to them, “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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” That day many people believed what Peter told them about Jesus!

Questions for Review

- There were only 6 disciples left after Jesus went back to Heaven. (No! There were 11 disciples. Judas was no longer a disciple.)
- A 12th disciple was chosen and his name was Matthias. (Yes)
- The day the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and followers of Jesus was called Christmas. (No! It was called Pentecost!)
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come to God’s people. (Yes!)
- The Holy Spirit is with God’s people for forever. (Yes!)
- When the Holy Spirit came it sounded like a roaring lion and beeping car horn. (No! It sounded like a mighty rushing wind or a big windstorm)
- Little fires appeared upon the Apostles’ heads as the Holy Spirit filled the room. (Yes!)
- Peter then preaches a sermon to the whole crowd about Jesus. (Yes!)
- The Holy Spirit is a promise to God’s people from Jesus that God will always be with them. (Yes!)
- Sing “God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three-in-one song” (tune to Frere Jacques); this will help re-enforce our belief in God as Trinity.
 - God the Father, God the Father
 - God the Son, God the Son
 - God the Holy Spirit, God the Holy Spirit
 - Three in one, three in one.