

## LESSON 2

## JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST)

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Empowers Us to Share God's Story

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** While celebrating the first Pentecost after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly proclaim the good news that Jesus is Lord!

**WORD OF WONDER:** The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

## FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

**WHO?**

Jesus gave Peter a special role as His “rock,” His chosen leader of the disciples and the early church (Matthew 16:18). He spoke to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem, including Jews from many different regions and backgrounds who had traveled to celebrate the festival.

**WHAT?**

God's Spirit empowers the disciples to communicate the gospel through miraculous means. As Galilean men, they would have been native speakers of Aramaic. But when filled with the Spirit, their language was heard as if in each person's native tongue.

**WHERE?**

Jesus told the 11 disciples who remained after Judas' death to wait in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit. Jerusalem contained the temple, the central location of the Jewish faith. From there, God spread the good news of Jesus throughout the wider world.

**WHEN?**

Pentecost is the Jewish festival that comes 50 days after Passover (in Greek, Pentecost literally means 50). This would be the first Pentecost feast following Jesus' resurrection, since the resurrected Jesus remained with His followers for about 40 days.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

God promised Abraham that He would bless the whole world through his family (Genesis 12:1–3). In Acts 2, we see God fulfilling this promise when He sends the Holy Spirit to fill and empower His followers to share His story with people from many nations gathered in Jerusalem.

# Curiosity

## Play Stations

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?**

### Play Station: Holy Spirit Flame

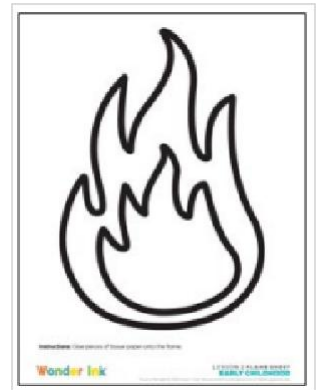
**Set up:** Ahead of time, print several copies of the [Flame Sheet](#) on cardstock and set out red, yellow, and orange tissue paper and glue sticks.

**Play:** Invite the kids to tear the tissue paper into pieces and glue them to the printed flames on the Flame Sheets.

### Play Station: Wind Mover

**Set up:** Set out disposable straws and pom-poms. Use painter's tape to create a simple path on the floor or table. The maze should include straight, wavy, and curved lines.

**Play:** Give each kid a disposable straw (and make sure they don't share). Invite the kids to blow through their straws to move pom-poms along the path.



**Leader Tip:** If time allows, kids can use their straws to move other lightweight objects in the room.

### Play Station: Pentecost Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the [coloring sheet](#) and set out coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids could also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a time when someone helped them.

## Faith

### Craft: Paint Blowing

Give each kid a House Sheet and a straw. Set out acrylic or watercolor paints. To contain messes, you can give each kid a smock or apron, if available.

Use a disposable spoon to drop a small amount of paint in several drops around the use on each kid's sheet. Invite the kids to use a straw to blow the paint until it spreads around the house on the paper. Instead of paint, the kids can use coloring utensils or chalk to color the houses and draw a picture of what they think the house looked like when the Holy Spirit came and filled the people.

**In our God's big story today, we learned about when the Holy Spirit filled the house where the disciples were gathered. The sound was like a strong wind blowing, and then there was something that looked like flames on the top of each person there. Use your straw to blow and make wind to move the paint around the house and remember how the Holy Spirit filled each of the people in the house that day at Pentecost. How does the Holy Spirit help us? Allow the kids to respond. The Holy Spirit helps us be brave and bold as we share God's story with others. We can tell them how much Jesus loves them and how they can follow Him.**



**We can be thankful that the Holy Spirit gives us power! Take your pictures home to remind you how the Holy Spirit gives us power.**

## Identity

### Closing Game: Pom-Pom Power

Spread a parachute (or blanket or towel) on the floor. Invite the kids to sit around it. Set out a bucket or bowl filled with pom-poms.

**Today we learned from God's big story that the Holy Spirit gives us power to share the story of Jesus. Let's play a game where we'll need power to throw pom-poms in the air and catch them with a parachute. The Holy Spirit gives us ... (invite kids to shout with you) power!**

Invite the kids to throw pom-poms in the middle of the parachute (or blanket or towel). **We'll hold on to the parachute and walk in a circle. When I say, "up," we'll all lift the parachute high above our heads. When it's above our heads, we'll quickly pull it down together onto the floor. That will send the pom-poms in the air. We'll try to catch all of the pom-poms back on the parachute after they fly up in the air. We can all work together to help one another have power as we toss the pom-poms and remember how the Holy Spirit helps us have power to share God's story with others.**

Encourage the kids to hold onto the parachute to lift it off the floor. Have them walk in a circle while holding the parachute. When you tell them to stop, they can lift the parachute and then pull it quickly down to the ground to make the pom-poms fly into the air. If the pom-poms fly all over the room, have a race to see who can get the most back into the bucket or bowl.

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

**Hold your hands up and wave them side to side as I say, “Holy Spirit” and show your muscles when I say, “power.” Let’s pray and talk to God.**

**God, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit (hands up, waving) to give us power (show muscles) to share about Jesus. Thank You for hearing our prayers and caring about us. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** God gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort us, help us, and give us power. May you walk in the power of the Holy Spirit this week, sharing the story of Jesus with your family and friends.