

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.

Object Lesson: Wind Power

Ahead of time, cue the Wind Sound Effect. Plug the fan into an outlet (if electric) but don't turn it on yet.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. **Welcome! We're going to hear a story from the Bible today about people who heard something amazing. They heard a sound like wind that was very loud and filled the room where they were. What do you think wind sounds like?** Allow the kids to respond. **Let's turn on this fan and get curious!**

Play the Wind Sound Effect. **Can we see the wind or only hear and feel wind?** Allow the kids to respond. **We can't see the wind, but we can see what it blows.**

What do you think the wind feels like? Have you felt the wind blow? Did it feel soft or strong? Was it loud or quiet? Allow the kids to respond to each question. **How do you feel when it blows?** Turn on the fan and let the kids feel it. Let the fan blow the lightweight objects. Invite the kids to gather the objects as the fan blows them.

We can hold our hands out and feel the wind. We can feel the wind on our faces. Sometimes we can even hear the wind blowing. We can see what the wind blows. Turn the fan on the lowest speed to allow kids to feel the wind.

That wind can be powerful. We'll learn today about when people heard a strong wind sound when God sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. Set the fan out of kids' reach after the activity.

Activity: Wind and Fire

In God's big story today, we'll hear about when the sound like a strong wind filled a house and how something like flames appeared over people's heads when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers. Let's pretend to be wind. When I say, "wind," and hold up the Wind Picture (show the Wind Picture), you can blow air from your mouth, pretending to be the wind. When I say, "fire," and hold up the Fire Picture (show the Fire Picture), you can wiggle your whole body like dancing flames in a campfire.

Take turns holding up the pictures and saying, "wind" and "fire" and encourage the kids to pretend to be wind and fire.

We can't see wind, but in our story today, we'll hear about a sound like wind. The sound filled a house where people were gathered. We'll hear how God sent the Holy Spirit to His people.

Our Wonder Truth today is: **THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO SHARE GOD'S STORY. The word *empowers* means to give us power.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—*Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.*
- **EMPOWERS US**—*Point to yourself*
- **TO SHARE**—*Cup your hands to your mouth, as if speaking*
- **GOD'S STORY**—*Put your hands in front of you like a book.*

You may want to save the Wind and Fire Pictures to use again in God's Big Story.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "power," hold up your arms and show your muscles.

God, thank You for giving us power (show muscles) from the Holy Spirit. Thank You for giving us power (show muscles) to share Your story with others. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands 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.

Activity: Holy Spirit Power

In our story today, we learned that the Holy Spirit came to God's people, and they heard a sound like blowing wind! The Holy Spirit gave the people power, and the Holy Spirit gives us power! Close your eyes and sit very still. If you feel any wind on your hands, you can jump up and shout, "The Holy Spirit gives us power!" Then go to someone else and tell that person, "Jesus loves you." You can share God's story with others.

Invite the kids to close their eyes as you go around and use an accordion-style fan to gently blow air on their hands. Encourage the kids to jump up and shout, "The Holy Spirit gives us power!" as you blow air on their hands.

Leader Tip: You can make your own paper or cardstock fan by folding a piece of paper back and forth to create an accordion-style fan. You can even give one to each kid and let them practice making wind. They can take their fans home to show their families how to make their own wind and tell the story of God sending the Holy Spirit.