

A TELLING TRUTH

Pentecost
Acts 2:1–24
AD 33

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE VERSE

You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God gives me the Holy Spirit to work faith in my heart.

LAW & GOSPEL

We think we can come to understand and trust in God by our own power.

The Holy Spirit works faith in our hearts as we hear His Word proclaimed.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

With the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire, the promised Holy Spirit descends on the disciples. As they speak “in other tongues” (v. 4), their hearers, from a multitude of nations, hear about “the mighty works of God” (v. 11) in their own languages. Beginning with Old Testament prophecies, Peter’s sermon proclaims Jesus, the promised Messiah.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Acts 2:1–24 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read through “The Third Article (Part 1)” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- ☐ Wrapped gift box
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Red crepe paper
- ☐ Variety of birthday candles
- ☐ Mini cupcakes with red sprinkles
- ☐ Red and blue ribbon
- ☐ Dry pasta in a variety of shapes and sizes
- ☐ Muffin tins

FOR EVERY LESSON

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Device with prepped music
- ☐ Copies of downloadable activity page
- ☐ Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- ☐ Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- ☐ Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- ☐ Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

SAY

- ☐ **Jesus loves us. Today, you'll hear about a special gift He gives us.**
- ☐ Show a wrapped gift box. (If desired, put small items such as "Jesus Loves Me" pencils in it to give to children at the end of class.) Ask, **Do you like to get gifts? What are some times when you get gifts? Today, you will hear about a special gift Jesus gave His friends.**

PRAY

Dear Jesus, You give all good gifts. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Your name we pray. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Help students reenact the story. Using an online translator, look up the words "Jesus Loves You" in several languages, and have different students say them as they portray the disciples.
- ☐ **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE OLDER** Once students have the details of this Bible narrative down, talk more about the context of the story. Talk about the bookend events of the Tower of Babel in the Old Testament and Pentecost in the New Testament. What happened to language at the Tower of Babel? How did the Holy Spirit at Pentecost allow people who spoke different languages to hear the Gospel? How do people who speak different languages hear the Gospel today?

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- ☐ What did the people see and hear on Pentecost?
- ☐ Who sent the Holy Spirit to help them?
- ☐ What news did Peter tell the people?
- ☐ How do you think the lives of the people who heard the Gospel on Pentecost were changed? How are our lives changed because we know the Gospel and have the gift of the Holy Spirit?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- This event is the reversal of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9), where God confused the languages of rebellious people. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit made people of many languages hear the Gospel. Some older students will "get" it and others may not—that's okay. They may understand it the next time they hear this Bible narrative.
- The events of Pentecost were a miracle, showing us God includes all nations and people in the new covenant.
- Because we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and life and salvation through Jesus, we want to share it with others.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, creating faith in the hearts of those who receive Him.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: Ask children to make the sound of the wind and wiggle fingers over their heads for the fire. Have children pretend to be part of the crowd of people and ask, “What shall we do?”

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He promised, “I will be with you always.” Then He said, “God will send you a helper.” This helper is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus’ friends went back to Jerusalem. They met with one another and prayed together as they waited for the helper to come. Then one day, on the day we call Pentecost, God the Holy Spirit came just as Jesus promised. He came in a mighty way.

Jesus’ friends were praying together. All of a sudden, they heard a big noise that filled the whole house! “It sounds like a mighty rushing wind!” they said. Whooooosh. Then they saw something that looked like little flames of fire resting on them. (*Wiggle fingers over head.*) When Jesus’ friends started talking, they could speak in different languages! This was the way the Holy Spirit showed that He had come to live inside them and make them brave. He would help them go tell others about Jesus.

A lot of people were in the city of Jerusalem that day. They heard the big noise too. They hurried to the house where Jesus’ friends were filled with the Holy Spirit. Then Peter, one of Jesus’ friends, stood and talked to the people. God the Holy Spirit helped Peter speak bravely so everyone would hear.

“I have a friend named Jesus,” Peter said. “Jesus helped many people. He made sick people well. He made sad people happy. Jesus was good to you, but you were not good to Him. You put Him on a cross where He died. But Jesus did not stay dead! He is alive! Now He is with God the Father in heaven. We know He loved us. He loved us so much He died to save us all!”

When the people heard this, they were afraid. They thought God would punish them. They cried out, “What shall we do?”

Peter told them, “Be sorry for your sins and be baptized. God will forgive you!” That day many people told God they were sorry for their sins and were baptized. The Holy Spirit came to live inside them and made them God’s children. They believed in Jesus as their Savior.

The Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe in Jesus as our Savior too. He makes us God’s children through Baptism and God’s Word. He comes to live inside us and changes our hearts. He helps us show love for others and tell them about Jesus. He helps us be sorry and forgives us when we sin.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jews from all over the world had come to Jerusalem for the harvest festival of Pentecost. In God’s perfect timing, He would use Jesus’ disciples all gathered together in one place, along with all these people in Jerusalem at the same time.

On Sunday morning, suddenly, a loud sound like a fast-blowing wind came from heaven and filled the house where the disciples were. They saw what looked like tongues of fire spread out and rest on everyone. All the people there began speaking in languages they had never studied or learned before. The Holy Spirit gave them power to understand and speak different languages!

Many of the Jews who were gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost heard the sound and rushed over to see what was going on. Suddenly, they heard the disciples speaking the Good News about Jesus in their own languages, the languages they had spoken since they were children.

But some of the Jews who lived in Jerusalem made fun of the disciples and said they were drunk.

When Peter heard this, he stood and raised his voice to speak to them. He explained that the disciples were not drunk, but that God had poured out the Holy Spirit, who

gave them the ability to speak in the different languages of the people gathered together in Jerusalem.

Peter told them this is exactly what the Old Testament prophet Joel had said would happen in the last days when God poured out His Spirit. Then, Peter explained why it had happened: because God had sent Jesus Christ, His Son, the promised Savior to them. Instead of believing in Him, however, they had rejected Him and killed Him on the cross, but God had raised Him from the dead. The disciples had seen Jesus many times after He had risen from the dead, and now they were urging everyone who heard them to be baptized. That day, three thousand people were baptized and became disciples of Jesus and members of the Church.

Today, the Bible has been written down in many different languages so people all around the world can know how Jesus came to save them.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

☐ Pentecost Tag

Children scatter around the room. Ask one child to be “Peter.” When “Peter” touches a child, he says “Pentecost.” The tagged child joins Peter in tagging others until everyone has been tagged. Say, **On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ friends and gave them power to tell people about Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us tell about Jesus too.**



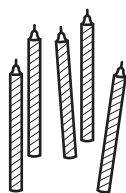
☐ Pentecost Wind Sock

Give each child a sheet of cardstock to decorate with crayons or markers, then tape it into a ring. Give children strips of red crepe paper to tape to the bottom edge. Punch two holes in the top of the wind sock. String with yarn for hanging. Say, **When the wind blows through your windsock, you can remember how God the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost to be our helper.**



☐ Candle Counting

Set out a variety of colored birthday candles. Let children sort them by color or pattern. Say, **When we light candles on a birthday cake, it shows we are celebrating someone’s birthday. God used fire in a special way at Pentecost—to show that He was sending the Holy Spirit to be our helper. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church!**



☐ Sanctuary Visit

Take children into the church to look at the baptismal font. Talk about baptizing babies and grown-ups too. God gives us the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. Also look at the altar Bible. The Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to teach us about Jesus.



☐ Happy Birthday, Church! Snacks

Serve mini cupcakes with red sprinkles. Talk about how Pentecost is often called the birthday of the Church. As children snack, talk about the color red that they see in church on Pentecost. What things are red? What does the red remind them of?



☐ Wind and Fire Wands

Attach lengths of blue or red ribbon to craft sticks. Give to children to wave for wind or fire. Say, **On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came in wind and fire to help people hear and believe in Jesus.** Tell the main points of the story as the children wave their wands.



☐ Sorting Shapes

Set out various sizes and shapes of dry pasta to sort into muffin tins. Talk about how pasta comes in different shapes and sizes. People come in different sizes, shapes, and colors too! We don’t all look the same. But Jesus loves us all. God wants all of us to be His children.



LEAVE

SAY

God gives us the Holy Spirit. It may not be in a big dramatic-looking event like Pentecost, but it is just as real and just as important in our lives.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for the gift of faith. Thank You that the Holy Spirit helps us hear and understand Your Word every day in our lives. Help us to share Your precious Word with others. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.