

# The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-41

## **MEMORY VERSE**

ACTS 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

A well-worn and marked shoe.

Slips of paper with animal names on them; there should be two slips for each animal.

A water pitcher, a clear glass, a pan, and sponges.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **The Shoe Tale**

Take a shoe that has been well worn and tell a story about its life explaining all of its marks and wears. You can even put some stickers indicating travel. Grass stains, gum in the sole, a missing heel should all have special significance to this shoe's life. Be sure to give ample time to explain the significance of the foot's relationship to the shoe. For example, the foot put the shoe on and the shoe went and did whatever the foot wanted.

Explain that the shoe is controlled by the foot that wears it, and its marks are evidence of where the foot has taken the shoe. This is like being indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our lives and their markings should be indications of what Jesus has done with our lives, where He has taken us. **Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.**

## LESSON TIME!

In our lesson today we are going to learn about the Holy Spirit. We have learned a lot about God the Father and God the Son, but today we will learn more about God the Holy Spirit. God is shown to us in the Bible as three persons, yet one being. There is only one God who functions as three persons. All three are God and all three are one. This is called a Trinity. In our lesson today we see the Holy Spirit at work on the day of Pentecost to give birth to the church. Pentecost was a Jewish feast that was celebrated during the harvest when the people would give the first-fruits of their harvest to God and trust Him to supply the rest. On this particular feast of first-fruits the Lord would choose to bless the harvest of souls as thousands gave their hearts and souls to Jesus that day.

### ACTS 2:1

**Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.**

Our lesson begins with the disciples gathered together in one place. The disciples had been in Jerusalem for ten days. Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem until they received a gift from God (Acts 1:4-5). The gift they were waiting for was the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would come and baptize them like John baptized people with water in the river. God would baptize people with His Holy Spirit.

To help us understand this better, let's look at Jesus' baptism by John. We see three things about baptism:

- 1) Water baptism symbolizes salvation. The submerging is symbolic of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection and our own death to our old life and new life in Jesus. The first act of obedience in Jesus' public ministry was water baptism.
- 2) When Jesus was baptized, all three persons of the Trinity were present.
  - Jesus in the river
  - God in Heaven (the audible voice)
  - Holy Spirit descending (dove)
- 3) John baptized Jesus in water. The Holy Spirit also came upon Jesus, in the form of a dove, to empower Him to do God's will.

The disciples were also waiting for the power that the Holy Spirit would bring to them. Jesus promised them that when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would receive power (Acts 1:8). What kind of power? Power like dynamite. The Holy Spirit would give them dynamic power. This power would not be physical, but spiritual; not power

like Superman, but power to be a witness for Jesus. This is what the disciples were waiting for and praying for as they came together; the power of the Holy Spirit sent by God as a gift. **God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.**

The disciples had already accepted Jesus as their Savior and had been baptized. Now they were waiting for a special gift from God to help them to be bold witnesses. If you would like to receive this gift from God, it is necessary to first accept Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life.

### **ACTS 2:2**

**And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

So when the 50th day after Jesus' resurrection had come, the disciples were all together waiting for this special gift of the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, there was a sound; a sound like a rushing mighty wind came from Heaven. The sound filled the whole house where they were sitting.

### **ACTS 2:3**

**Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.**

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus like a dove. When the disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit, they saw what looked like fire coming down on them (Matthew 3:11). The waiting was over; the Holy Spirit was coming upon them. **God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.**

Do you remember what it was like to wait a long time for something you wanted very badly? Remember what it was like when it finally came? The disciples were getting more than they could have ever hoped for.

### **ACTS 2:4**

**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

What did they receive? They were filled with the Holy Spirit. This means they were overflowing with the Spirit of God. Like a glass of water that is spilling over the top with water. They spoke in languages they did not know. The Holy Spirit was giving them words to speak and they were speaking them out.

## **Speak My Language**

Make pairs of animal names on slips of paper and pass them out to your class. When you say go, have the children make only the sounds that that animal would make. Have the children find their partner, the matching animal sound.

Explain that the Jews from all over the known world recognized their own languages on the day of Pentecost. This was very surprising for them because the men speaking their languages could have had no way of learning to speak in these languages. The disciples were indwelt and empowered to do the work of evangelism on the day of Pentecost.

### **ACTS 2:5-12**

**Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.**

**And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.**

**Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"**

**And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?**

**Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,**

**Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,**

**Cretans and Arabs--we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."**

**So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"**

People from many different nations who spoke several different languages were visiting Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. As the disciples spoke out in the different languages, the people in the crowd were able to understand them because the Holy Spirit was helping the disciples to witness about the love of God to people who spoke

other languages. These visitors to Jerusalem all heard in their own language these disciples giving praise to God just as Jesus promised. The power had allowed them to be witnesses of Jesus in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to people all over the world.

### **ACTS 2:13**

**Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."**

Sometimes when people see something or hear something they do not understand or like, they make fun of it. Some mocked the disciples and said they were drunk. Do people ever make fun of your faith in Jesus? Do they ever mock you? Well, remember that you are in great company! The disciples and even Jesus were mocked for righteousness' sake.

### **ACTS 2:14**

**But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.**

Peter stood up and explained what was happening there that day. Peter was now full of this powerful gift from God. He was empowered by the Holy Spirit, and he was bold. He was no longer afraid of these men as he was just days before. **God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.**

We do not have to be afraid to tell people about Jesus. We can pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give us this power. God wants us to desire this power (1 Corinthians 14:1).

### **ACTS 2:15-34**

**"For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:**

**“'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams,**

**and on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.**

**I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath:  
blood and fire and vapor of smoke.**

**The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood,  
before the coming of the great and notable day of the Lord.**

**And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord  
shall be saved.'**

**“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man  
attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did  
through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—**

**Him, being delivered by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of  
God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to  
death;**

**whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was  
not possible that He should be held by it.**

**For David says concerning Him: “I foresaw the Lord always before  
my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken;**

**therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my  
flesh will also rest in hope,**

**because You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your  
Holy One to see corruption.**

**You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of  
joy in Your presence.'**

**“Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David,  
that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.**

**Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an  
oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He  
would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,**

**he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.**

**“This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.**

**Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.**

**For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,**

**till I make Your enemies Your footstool." '**

**"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."**

Peter preached boldly and powerfully to the crowd of their need for salvation. He explained what this special gift was; it was a fulfillment of a promise of God (Joel 2:28-32). Then he told them that they were sinners and were guilty of the death of Jesus. We all are guilty; we all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). Jesus died for us because of our sin.

### **ACTS 2:37-39**

**Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"**

**Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."**

They asked how they were to be saved. We need to be able to tell people how they can be saved. They need to repent of their sins, and accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, believing that He died and rose from the dead (Romans 10:9-10). Then, they will receive salvation as a gift (Ephesians 8:9). Salvation is a gift from God; we could never do anything to earn it, we just accept it freely from God.



The gift of salvation is when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives (John 20:22); the gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit overflows out of us. **God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.** Remember, first He has to be accepted into our lives before He can overflow out of our lives.

### **ACTS 2:40-41**

**And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."**

**Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**

In obedience to the command of Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20), the new converts were baptized in water as a public profession of their faith in Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit had brought three thousand new converts into the church. The Holy Spirit had birthed the church and began to fill it up all the same day. Oh, what a great day! We must always keep our hearts open to the overflowing power of the Holy Spirit. God baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. **God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower us.**

### **Getting Wet**

Fill a pitcher with water. Place a clear glass on a cake pan and surround it with dry sponges. Begin to fill the clear glass with the water. When it reaches the top, continue to pour the water so that it overflows the glass. The sponges on the pan should absorb the water. Have the children come up and touch the wet sponges. Ask them how they got wet; what happened to the glass that changed the sponges.

Explain that when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, our lives impact the lives around us. Just like when you hug someone who has been water baptized and get wet, so it is when you encounter someone who has been Spirit baptized, you get "wet" by your contact with the Holy Spirit.

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the dynamic power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit; pray that the Lord will baptize each believer in your class with His Holy Spirit. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.