



Use Week of:

## Unit 28 • Session 1

# The Holy Spirit Came

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Acts 2

### STORY POINT:

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.

### KEY PASSAGE:

2 Peter 1:3

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

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## LEADER Bible Study

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon them. So the disciples went back to Jerusalem, where they waited and prayed for 40 days.

The time came for the Jewish festival called Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks. As with the Passover festival, Jews from all over the Roman Empire would be at the temple in Jerusalem.

During this festival, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in Jerusalem. They heard a sound like a violent, rushing wind. When the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers, they were able to speak in foreign languages. They went out into the city and began to preach, and the Jews from all over the world were amazed. These men were from Galilee, but they were speaking in languages the visitors could understand.

Some of those who heard this thought the disciples were drunk. But Peter explained that God had kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. He reminded them of the prophet Joel's words: "I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity" (Joel 2:28).

The disciples told about God's plan. The Holy Spirit convicted the crowd and they asked, "Brothers, what must we do?" Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. That day, three thousand people received salvation!

With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could share the gospel with the entire world. (See Acts 1:8.) God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As you teach kids, emphasize that the Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.

# The BIBLE Story

## The Holy Spirit Came

*Acts 2*

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were gathered together in Jerusalem. All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where Jesus' disciples were staying. Then tongues appeared like flames of fire, and they rested on each of the disciples.

**The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in languages they didn't even know!**

Now, Jews were in Jerusalem who had come from every nation. They heard the disciples' voices in their own languages, and they were amazed! How could the men from Galilee speak so many languages?

Peter stood up and said, "I'll tell you what's happening." He reminded the people of something the prophet Joel had said long ago: "God says, 'I will pour out My Spirit on all people ... I will show you wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below ... Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Peter said, "You saw the miracles, wonders, and signs God did through Jesus. Even though God planned for Jesus to die, you used



lawless people to nail Him to a cross and kill Him. **But death did not keep hold of Jesus; God raised Jesus from the dead.**”

Then Peter said, “You have seen the truth: **Jesus is alive! He went up to heaven to be with God the Father.** Do not doubt this.” Peter continued, “When you killed Jesus, you killed the Messiah!”

**The Holy Spirit convinced the people that Peter was telling the truth.** “What must we do to be saved?” they asked.

**Peter told the people to repent, to turn away from their sins and to turn to God.** “God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Be baptized in the name of Jesus,” he said.

**Everyone who believed Peter’s message was baptized. That day, about three thousand people joined Jesus’ followers.** They learned what Jesus’ disciples taught, and they met with other believers every day. They broke bread together and prayed.

*Christ Connection: God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit’s help, Jesus’ disciples could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior.*

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use Language:** Practice saying a few phrases of the Bible Story in another language. When you reach the part of the story where the disciples are speaking other languages, repeat the phrases you practiced.
- **Use spacing:** Stand on one side of the stage while discussing the disciples in their locked room. Move out of the “room” when the Holy Spirit comes. Stand amongst the kids while speaking about Peter’s sermon.

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** The Holy Spirit Came

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 2

**STORY POINT:** God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Peter 1:3

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss a time they waited for something wonderful, such as a birthday party or a holiday celebration.

**SAY** • When we want something good, but it hasn't arrived yet, we have to wait. Waiting can feel very difficult, but it is often a part of our lives. Today we will learn about a time Jesus' disciples waited for something wonderful and what happened when that wonderful event finally happened.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Power Surge" activity page. Kids will draw lines to match each item on the left with the source of that item's power.

**SAY** • Flashlights need batteries, cars need gas, and flowers need sunshine to do what they are made to do; people need the Holy Spirit to obey the commands God has given us! Today we will learn about the time the Holy Spirit came.

- "Power Surge" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Tongue Twisters

Challenge the kids to say tongue twisters repeatedly. You may use the suggestions here, or search online to find more.

- Goggles topple purple circles circling toppled cycles.
- Yellow bellied lizard gizzards bellow belly giggles.
- Red headed Beth bets beds against bird baths.

**SAY** • Today we will learn about the time the Holy Spirit arrived to Jesus' disciples. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak languages they didn't even know! That's much more impressive than saying a tongue twister without jumbling the letters!

### OPTION 2: Wind power

Invite the kids to form pairs. Give each kid a straw and hold a series of races where kids compete head to head to see who can blow their table tennis ball the farthest with a single breath.

- table tennis balls, 2
- drinking straws, 1 per kid

**SAY** • Wow, you all made some mighty wind with your breath and a straw. You blew those table tennis balls clear across the room! Today, we will learn about an even greater source of power that also has some things in common with wind! What power do you think that could be?

## Transition to teach the story

# TEACH the Story



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- room decorations
- Theme Background Slide (optional)

**Suggested Theme Decorating Ideas:** Decorate the room to look like a fire station. Place coiled hoses on a table. Spray paint 2-inch PVC pipes silver and set them up to look like firefighter poles. Consider contacting a local fire station to ask about borrowing some equipment for display.

## Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire

*[Leader enters wearing a firefighter costume.]*

**LEADER** • Hey there everyone! You may know just from looking at me, but I'm a firefighter. My job is to make sure any fires that start are put out quickly before they can damage too much or hurt anyone. It's dangerous work, but I really enjoy it. It makes me feel great knowing that I help people. And all this equipment definitely makes fighting fires safer nowadays than it was even a few years back!

One thing about firefighting equipment: it's not hard to recognize. I've never met someone who sees me in my gear who asks "so, what do you do for a

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

living?” If you see me, you already know. In some ways, that’s similar to believers. Our lives should look pretty different from anyone who doesn’t believe the gospel. But we can’t live that way on our own. We need to be equipped by God through the Holy Spirit! That reminds me of a Bible story. Let me share it with you.

### **Big picture question (1 minute)**

**LEADER** • As we get into the story, I want you to think about this question: *How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?* I’ll give you the answer later, but I want you to see if you can find some examples in the story of ways the Holy Spirit helps.

### **Giant timeline (1 minute)**

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. · Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • If you have been coming week after week, you may remember that we recently discussed what happened near the end of Jesus’ time on earth. Jesus died the death we deserve and rose from the grave on the third day. After that, Jesus spent time with His disciples for a little over a month before He ascended—rose up into the air—back to heaven to be with God.

But before Jesus left, He gave His disciples a mission, and a promise. The mission was to spread the gospel and make disciples who love and obey Jesus. The promise was for a Helper who would come to guide them in their mission. This week, we will learn about the time when the Helper finally arrived!

- Bibles
- “The Holy Spirit Came” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Acts 2. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Holy Spirit Came.”

**LEADER** • Before the Holy Spirit came, Jesus’ disciples

were locked in a room, afraid of the religious leaders who had crucified Jesus. After the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ disciples rushed out to begin boldly sharing about Jesus. Nothing about the disciples themselves had really changed. They didn’t have a sudden burst of new knowledge or wisdom; what they had was the Holy Spirit in their lives!

The Holy Spirit gave the disciples boldness to proclaim the good news. He gave them wisdom to remember what Jesus had taught them. He even gave them power to speak in languages they had never studied or learned! He is the amazing fulfillment of Jesus’ promise that God would be with believers forever.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. That means He is fully God just as Jesus and the Father are fully God. He is the Helper Jesus promised to send. He lives with all believers and gives us the power we need to live for God’s glory. ***How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God’s glory.*** Without the Holy Spirit, no one could love and obey God, and with Him anyone can have a huge impact to change the world for God’s glory.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the "Unit 28, Session 1" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about how the Holy Spirit has changed them. Guide them to discuss how they can know they have the Holy Spirit with them.

• "Unit 28, Session 1" Questions from Kids video



## Missions moment (3 minutes)

Play the "Lottie's Love" missions video.

**LEADER** • When the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers, they were able to do so much more than they could with their own power. Missionaries have the power of the Holy Spirit, so they can make more followers of Jesus. Lottie Moon was a missionary who served in China over 100 years ago, but people still remember her today. We can support missionaries—and even be a part of sharing the gospel—so that we honor God by obeying His plans for the world.

• "Lottie's Love" missions video

## Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together 2 Peter 1:3. Then sing "Life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3)."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "Life and Godliness (2 Peter 1:3)" song

**LEADER** • There is no better source of power and guidance than the Holy Spirit who lives within us. Peter wrote this key passage as part of his letter to believers. He

wanted them to know that the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to live for God.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• “This is Where the Mission Begins” song

**LEADER** • Jesus left earth, but He did not leave us alone. We have the Holy Spirit in our lives to help us love and obey God. We are on mission for God! Sing together “This is Where the Mission Begins.”

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Father, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit. Help us to listen to His voice and obey You in all we do. Give us courage to live on mission for You. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Work together with your group to develop hand motions to go with the verse. Consider researching some sign language words to help. Ensure the whole group knows the motions, then say the verse with the motions multiple times. You may use the suggested motions and word cues.

- Power—Motion as though grabbing your left bicep with your right hand.
- Life—Make an L-shape with the thumb and forefinger of each hand. Place your hands below your chest, with your forefingers pointed at each other. Move your hands up over your chest toward your collar.
- Knowledge—Use your left hand to point to your temple with four fingers.
- Glory—Clap your hands together before moving them apart, one upwards and the other down.

**SAY** • Peter wanted believers to know that God's power is enough for us. He gives us everything we need!

• Bibles, 1 per kid  
• Story Point Poster  
• Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find Acts 2.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did the disciples hear as the Holy Spirit came upon them? (*a sound like a rushing wind, Acts 2:2*)
2. What languages did the disciples preach the gospel in? (*many languages; each listener heard his own language, Acts 2:6*)
3. Which prophet did Peter quote to explain the miraculous events the Holy Spirit was causing? (*Joel, Acts 2:16-21*)
4. How can we receive the Holy Spirit? *Guide kids to think about the gospel and what it means to believe the gospel to be saved. Remind them that works cannot save us, and we must come to Jesus in faith. Help them see that all who repent and believe the gospel receive the Holy Spirit.*
5. How has the Holy Spirit affected your life? *Guide kids to talk about ways they have seen the Spirit working in their lives or the lives of their family members who are saved. Help them think through the kinds of traits God said would mark a believer, such as love, kindness, faithfulness, and so forth.*
6. Who can we tell about Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit? *Explain that with the Spirit's power, we can tell everyone the gospel. Guide kids to think about specific people they can share the gospel with. Help them plan a time and a way to talk about Jesus, and encourage them to trust the Spirit for boldness.*

**SAY • God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.**

God keeps all His promises. When we believe the gospel and have faith in Jesus, we are saved and the Holy Spirit fills us. He helps us live on mission for God.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

• “Chinese Characters”  
printable  
• paper  
• pencils

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

**LOW  
PREP**

## Activity choice (10 minutes)



### OPTION 1: Chinese characters

Display the “Chinese Characters” printable. Provide each kid with paper and a pencil. Encourage the kids to imagine they are in one of Lottie Moon’s classes by practicing their writing and copying the Mandarin Chinese characters to their papers.

**SAY** • Lottie Moon lived in China from 1873 until her death in 1912. She worked as a missionary and teacher there. When she first arrived, few girls went to school, so she opened a school for them. She taught them many things, like writing and math, but most important of all, she taught them about Jesus. Who can we teach about Jesus in our lives?

### OPTION 2: Gospel sharing practice

Use “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (found on page 17) to guide kids through the gospel. Encourage them to practice sharing the gospel with one another to prepare for any opportunity they may have to share with a person who doesn’t yet know Jesus. Consider using the following motions to help kids learn the phrases.

- God rules—Motion as though setting a crown on your head.
- We sinned—Use your forearms to make a large *X* over your chest.
- God provided—Rotate the *X* slightly so it looks like a cross.
- Jesus gives—Move cupped hands outward from belly as though giving a gift.
- We respond—Raise both hands into the air as in praise.

**SAY** • The gospel is the good news that Jesus died for our sin and rose again to defeat death. Everyone who responds to the gospel in faith will gain everlasting life. The gospel is too good to keep secret. When we love God and understand what He has done for us, the desire to tell others will grow inside us until we can't stay silent! With the Holy Spirit's power, we can tell the world about Jesus.

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

· pencils and crayons  
· paper  
· Bible Story Coloring  
Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.