

## Family Sunday School Helps

Sunday, May 3rd, 2020

### Enduring Faith: Unit 3 - Lesson 9

"A Telling Truth" - Pentecost is the Bible lesson for this week. 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" (Acts 2:4), 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. Discuss, "How did Pentecost change the Church forever?"

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

**Bible Reading:** Acts 2:1-24 (ESV) (See below)

**Arch book:** "The Coming of the Holy Spirit" (YouTube link)

**Song:** "On This Day" (tune: "Jesus Loves Me")

*On this day of Pentecost*

*Came God's Spirit from above.*

*Spirit, come today we pray,*

*Fill our hearts with love and faith.*

*Come, Holy Spirit,*

*Come, Holy Spirit,*

*Come, Holy Spirit,*

*Come fill our hearts we pray.*

**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 overhead.) 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.

**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 has our lives changed because we know the Gospel and have the gift of the Holy Spirit?

**KEY DISCUSSION 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 children 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.

**Craft Time:** Tongues of Fire Headband (See below)

**Closing:** Jesus gave us a wonderful gift. He sent God the Holy Spirit to be our helper.

**Closing Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to be our helper. We are glad to be your children. Help us show Your love for others and tell them about you, too. Amen.

## **Bible Reading: Acts 2:1-24**

### **The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

2 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, 11 both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." 12 And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

### **Peter's Sermon at Pentecost**

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; 18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. 19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; 20 the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. 1 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you

yourselves know— 23 this Jesus,[c] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

**Craft: Tongues of Fire Headband instructions**

**Materials needed:**

Construction paper

Stapler

Crayons/markers/paint

scissors

**Directions:**

Cut rectangular strips of paper and staple together to make a headband.

Color/paint some paper flames.

Cut flames out

Glue/staple flames to headband.