

LESSON 44

Pentecost

ACTS 2:1-13



BIBLE TRUTH

THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT IS POURED OUT

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Optional: whiteboard, dry erase marker

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 1)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT lesson 44—one for each child; markers or crayons

What Did He Say?

SUPPLIES: bring in a guest who can read a Bible passage in a foreign language—preferably someone whose native tongue is foreign

Pantomime

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn about the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples.

For this opening activity you will need a world map (photocopied or printed off the Internet) and red and blue markers.

As the children arrive, ask their parents what background nationality they are (German, Nigerian, Indian, etc). Keep a list as you find out. You will use this later in the class.

Tell the children you want to review a story from the Old Testament to remind them of something that happened a long time ago. Then read about the Tower of Babel (story 7 in the *Gospel Story Bible*) with the children, telling how the Lord confused the people with different languages and sent them to different parts of the earth.

Pull out the map, and draw a red dot to show where your church is located. Then show the children one by one where their ancestors are from and mark a blue dot in each location.

Ask the children if they know why their families that came from places all around the world brought them to church? (The answer is to learn about Jesus. You may need to simplify the question by asking "What does your mom and dad want you to learn about in class today?")

Once Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sin and rose again, many things started to change. One new thing was God bringing back together people from all the nations. People from every nation can believe in Jesus.

Take time to pray and thank God for bringing people from all over the world together to learn about Jesus. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 122, "Pentecost," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Why were all the disciples gathered together?**
(Jesus told them to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high [Luke 24:49].)

- **How did God use the people gathered together for the Feast of Pentecost for his plan?**
(God gathered people from all over the known world to Jerusalem to hear the disciples and see this event. Jesus is still gathering people from every nation and tribe. It all began on that day!)

- **What did the mockers think?**
(The mockers thought the disciples had been drinking wine and were drunk.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

In the Old Testament, the feast of Pentecost was called the Feast of Harvest or day of the firstfruits (Exodus 23:16; Numbers 28:26–30). On this day, bulls, lambs, and a goat were sacrificed, in addition to the regular offering, to make atonement.

Now that Jesus has been sacrificed upon the cross and salvation has come to the people of Israel, there is no longer need to kill the goat of atonement. In addition, the promised blessing to Abraham has been fulfilled. With the arrival of the Spirit of God, the disciples were free to begin the advance of the gospel to people of every tribe, language, and nation.

- How did the people react to the miracle that each foreigner heard the disciples speaking in his own language?
(The people were astonished.)
- What most surprises you about the way God works?
(Draw the children out on this question.)
- What do we learn about God from this story?
(God keeps his promises. God is all-powerful and cannot be hindered by the language barriers of man. God's plan will move forward.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 44—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- What happened when the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles?
(A great wind blew through the place and tongues of fire appeared over the disciples, and they spoke in other languages.)
- Does the Holy Spirit still fill people today who believe?
(Yes, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside every believer.)
- Does the Spirit come on people today in tongues of fire?
(No, but the Spirit still comes upon people to empower them to be witnesses for Christ and spread the gospel.)

What Did He Say?**SUPPLIES:**

bring in a guest who can read a Bible passage in a foreign language—preferably someone whose native tongue is foreign

Tell the children you brought this person in to tell a story, and have him read Acts 2:1–6 from the Bible in his native language.

Do not warn the children. After the reading ask the class what it felt like not to understand what the guest was saying. Then reread the account of Pentecost, when the people were amazed to hear what the disciples were saying in their native languages.

Have the guest teach the children how to say “Praise the Lord” in their language.

Pantomime

Lead the class in pantomiming parts of the story. Come up with your own pantomimes or use these suggestions:

- Mighty rushing wind—wave arms wildly in different directions
- Tongues of fire—wiggle fingers over one’s head
- Filled with the Holy Spirit—make two fists and flex muscles to show that God’s power has filled you
- Speaking in other languages—cup your hands around your mouth as though you are shouting praises about God to people in distant lands
- Bewildered and astonished, amazed and perplexed—put your left hand on your hip and scratch your head confused!

Teach the pantomimes to the children and then read the story a few times having them act out the pantomimes as you speak them from the text. This is just a simple exercise to help them remember this story.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

