



**Growing  
in CHRISt®**

## **Middle School Teacher Guide**

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CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE • SAINT LOUIS

**The Holy Spirit  
Leads the Apostles**

**NEW TESTAMENT 5**



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# Introduction

This Middle School level provides resources for teaching sixth through eighth graders.

## Teacher Guide Features

- **Preparing the Lesson pages** give you background and theological information.
- **Four-step lessons** make preparation and teaching easy and effective.
- **Activity-based openings and activities** draw youth into the Scripture and topics.
- **Small-group/large-group activity options** dig into God's Word and share faith. Do activities in ways that make the most sense for your group.
- **YouTube videos** encourage critical thinking and discernment.
- **We Live activities** help young people identify personal life applications.
- **Liturgy Links** connect young people to the worship life of the Church.
- **Perforated pages** make team teaching or small groups/large groups easier.

## Teacher Tools Packet Contents

- **Timeline Poster and teaching posters** provide historical perspective and context.
- **Middle School Puzzle Book** teaches Bible verses (reproducible).
- **Bible Review Cards** work for review games in extra time or as people arrive.
- **Teacher CD** has hymns, select Bible Words/catechism songs, and printable lyrics.

## Student Pack Essentials

Student Packs feature a four-page **Folio** for each lesson and a **Bible Exploration Guide** with expanded cultural and biblical insights. Students look up and read the primary Scripture each week. Extra verses are usually printed on the Folio to make it easier to use and discuss.

## Your Role as Teacher

As a teacher, you challenge, coach, encourage creativity and curiosity, and nurture students' faith in Jesus. Building positive relationships with and between youth is very important. Get to know your students and their families.

Young people may feel wary of trying new things, fearing embarrassment. Provide a safe space for everyone to participate by not allowing put-downs, hurtful jokes, name-calling, or other improper suggestions. Model the behavior you want from students by participating yourself and enthusiastically introducing activities. Each time students participate, trust builds. Trust makes students more willing to read aloud, do activities, participate in small groups, pray together, and share opinions, feelings, and group work.

Make your classroom a place where students can talk openly. To foster trust, remind students to respect one another's privacy. Say you will not share their stories outside of class. However, if a student shares something potentially dangerous to him- or herself or others, you have the responsibility to bring it to your pastor for guidance.

## Other Supplies

Before class, do the tasks in the "Get Ready" section. Collect "Materials Needed." This list always includes Bibles and YouTube videos. Many lessons use newsprint, markers, and masking tape. A few additional materials are used from time to time.

Find additional teaching helps, including curriculum updates, training, links to podcasts, and other resources, at our Sunday School Web site, [cph.org/sundayschool](http://cph.org/sundayschool).

# YouTube Resources for New Testament 5

Go to the Playlist page for CPH Youth Sunday School Resources at [bit.ly/1knXwnU](https://bit.ly/1knXwnU). Choose the Playlist called “New Testament 5 Middle School Videos.”

To play a video, click its name. View or skip ads and cue the video. Channels may block or hinder play if you do not watch the ads.

YouTube settings change often. **If a video is not available, go to [cph.org/sundayschool](https://cph.org/sundayschool) and click “Sunday School Tools” on the main page. Click “Curriculum Updates” for another option.**

## **Lesson 1: God Sends the Holy Spirit**

“Photoshopping Real Women Into Cover Models,” BuzzFeedVideo channel (2:40)

## **Lesson 2: Peter and John Heal the Lame Man**

“Where are You Broken?” Your Time of Grace channel (2:48; stop 2:26)

## **Lesson 3: God’s Servant Stephen**

“Love Lesson | Life’s Big Questions Unscripted,” Jubilee Project channel (4:19; stop 4:03)

## **Lesson 4: Philip and the Ethiopian**

“Baptismal Regenabatman,” Worldview Everlasting channel (16:43; show 5:31–9:11)

## **Lesson 5: The Conversion of Paul**

“Mr. Accountability,” The Skit Guys channel (5:16)

## **Lesson 6: Dorcas**

“Skit Guys - Being Mom,” The Skit Guys channel (4:43)

## **Lesson 7: Peter and Cornelius**

“209 Seconds That Will Make You Question Your Entire Existence,” BuzzFeedBlue channel (3:31; stop 3:16)

## **Lesson 8: Peter’s Escape from Prison**

“Indonesian Christians Jailed for Preaching Gospel to Muslims,” ChristianPersecution channel (3:03)

## **Lesson 9: Paul’s First Missionary Journey**

“Roman Roads: Paths to Empire (ANCIENT ROME HISTORY DOCUMENTARY),” Ancient Rome channel (42:53; show 36:00–37:49)

## **Lesson 10: Paul and Timothy**

“Little girl gives 82-year-old widower new lease on life,” CBS Evening News channel (3:34)

## **Lesson 11: Lydia**

“One Life,” Central Films channel (1:54)

## **Lesson 12: Paul and Silas in Prison**

“Stories Of Freedom,” IgniterMedia channel (3:00; stop 2:43)

## **Lesson 13: Paul Sails for Rome**

“This Changes Everything,” Central Films channel (2:31)

# Preparing the Lesson

## God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Date of Use

### Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

### Law/Gospel

I sin when I believe that I can understand and trust in God on my own. **By the power and work of the Holy Spirit through His Word, the Spirit grants me faith in Jesus and empowers me to will and do that which is good and God pleasing.**

### Context

Pentecost, which means “fiftieth,” occurred fifty days after Jesus’ glorious resurrection on Easter. Forty days after He rose again, Jesus ascended to God’s right hand, and now, ten days later, He fulfills His promise to send the Holy Spirit, who will “bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

### Commentary

In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit introduces Himself in “a mighty rushing wind” (v. 2) and “divided tongues as of fire” (v. 3). However, Acts 2:11 reveals the great miracle of Pentecost. Those who hear the apostles say, “We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter stands and proclaims God’s mighty works of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Peter cites Joel 2:28–32 as his sermon text, and then he proclaims that Joel’s prophecy is fulfilled on Pentecost. Peter’s sermon draws our attention to Jesus Christ and His suffering, dying, and rising. The Holy Spirit comes to us and works through the preaching of Christ and Him crucified and risen for the forgiveness of our sins.

The coming of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel also reverse the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9). In Genesis 11, the people of the world had one language, but they arrogantly sought to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). As a consequence, God confused their language and dispersed them (Genesis 11:7–8).

The coming of the Holy Spirit reverses God’s judgment at Babel. While people around the world may still speak different languages, the Holy Spirit unites them in the Gospel—that is, the preaching of Christ crucified and risen.

In John 14:23–31, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to His disciples as He gets ready to suffer, die, rise again, and then leave them. Jesus talks about demonstrating our love for Him by keeping His Word (John 14:23). He promises the Holy Spirit, “whom the Father will send in My name” (John 14:26). Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all work together as one to give comfort and peace in the message of the Gospel (John 14:27).

When Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit, He explains the Holy Spirit’s “job description” as well: “He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). Jesus also said, “[The Holy Spirit] will bear witness about Me” (John 15:26), and “[The Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit comes not through uncertain dreams, visions, or feelings, but through the certain and comforting message of peace and forgiveness of sins won by Jesus Christ.

**To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit [cph.org/podcast](http://cph.org/podcast) and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.**

## Lesson 1

# God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

### Connections

#### Bible Words

And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38, Track 11

#### Catechism

The Apostles’ Creed: Third Article, Track 18

#### Hymn

“Pentecost Song,”  
Track 4

### Get Ready

**Before class:** Get supplies. Hang Posters A, B, C, and D in your space. Print lyrics sheets from the Teacher CD if you use them.

**Opening:** Preview the Lesson 1 YouTube video in the New Testament 5 Middle School Playlist at [bit.ly/1knXwnU](https://bit.ly/1knXwnU). To use it, get equipment ready (e.g., computer, tablet, Internet connection). Skip ads; cue video.

**We Live:** Copy Bible Words Puzzle 1 for students.

## 1 Opening (10 minutes)

### Perfection

**Say** Whom would you like to be more like? Why? Ask each person to respond.

**Name something or someone you consider to be perfect.** Let students share ideas, which might include people, places, foods, ideas, or subjects. If they struggle, ask them to name perfect things in one or more of these categories. If they say nothing and no one is perfect except Jesus, ask them to think about where we try to find perfection in our lives.

If you do not use the video, continue with third “Ask” question.

**Say** Impossible perfection often sets a standard for beauty, life, or performance. This video shows one example.

Show the Lesson 1 YouTube video, “Photoshopping Real Women into Cover Models” (2:40), in the New Testament 5 Middle School Playlist at [bit.ly/1knXwnU](https://bit.ly/1knXwnU).

**Ask** Where do we see ideal or perfect images that make us think we’ll never measure up? Magazines and other forms of media

### MATERIALS NEEDED

#### 1 Opening

##### Other Supplies

YouTube video; tablet, computer, or screen; Internet connection

#### 2 God Speaks

##### Teacher Tools

Timeline Poster, Poster B

##### Student Pack

Lesson 1 Folios

##### Other Supplies

Bibles  
Newsprint, markers, masking tape

#### 3 We Live

##### Teacher Tools

Bible Words Puzzle 1 copies

##### Student Pack

Lesson 1 Folios  
Bible Exploration Guides

##### Other Supplies

Pens or pencils

#### 4 Closing

##### Teacher Tools (optional)

Lesson 1 Bible Review Cards  
Teacher CD  
Lyrics sheets, Teacher CD

**What did the women say after they saw their perfect photos?** The photos did not show their real selves. Surprisingly, they felt misrepresented. They said we should just be our best selves and not aspire to be something else. It's natural to be uncomfortable or awkward, but the ideal woman doesn't exist.

**What causes imperfection in our lives?** Original sin, which each person is born with, and its effect on our thoughts, actions, behaviors, and world

**What did God do to take away our sins and imperfections?** He sent His only Son, our Savior Jesus, to take our sins on Himself on the cross. Jesus died to pay for our sins; we receive forgiveness of sins in His name. God raised Him from the dead, giving Him and all who believe in Him new life, today and forever.

**Pray** Lord Jesus, sin paralyzes us and separates us from You. It keeps us from serving You. Forgive us for Your sake. Send the Holy Spirit to empower us to live for You and serve You. In Your name we pray. Amen.

## 2 God Speaks (32 minutes)

### Holy Fire

**Say** Jesus' disciples experienced a roller coaster of emotions in a short time. They came to Jerusalem for Passover. Instead of celebrating, their leader was arrested, tortured, and crucified. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead. Their grief turned to confusion and then joy.

After forty days, Jesus ascended to heaven and left them, physically. He said to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit.

**What do you think the disciples thought and felt then?** Answers vary and might include confusion, a sense of loss, grief, guilt, sadness, hope, and anticipation.

Show the Timeline Poster and Poster B to place this event in context.

Hand out Bibles and Lesson 1 Folios.

Divide into groups of two to five people. Let groups choose to do Section One or Two. If you stay in one group, do both sections together.

Read aloud directions on the Folio page 2: **Read Acts 2 verses. Discuss questions. Follow directions.**

Point out the newsprint and markers. Give groups twenty minutes to work. As they do, help as needed and review questions for Debriefing.

### SECTION ONE: Verses 1–24

**1–4** What did the disciples hear and see when the Holy Spirit arrived? They heard the sound of a strong, fast wind. They saw tongues of fire rest on each disciple.

**What did the Spirit-filled disciples begin to do?** They spoke in languages they had not studied.

**5–13** Pilgrims from foreign countries traveled long distances to Jerusalem for Passover. Many stayed for the important festival of Pentecost, fifty days later. This feast gave thanks to God for the harvest. How did these foreigners respond when they heard their own languages? Bewildered,

### Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

### Pronunciations

Cappadocia:

kap uh DOKE ee uh

Cretans: KREET uns

Cyrene: sigh REE neh

Elamites: EE la mights

Galileans:

gal uh LEE uns

Judea : joo DEE uh

Medes: MEEDS

Mesopotamia:

mess oh poh TAME

ih uh

Pamphylia:

pam FIL ih uh

Parthians:

PAHR thee uns

Phrygia: FRIJ ee uh

Pontus: PONN tus

**Digs into  
God's Word**

## Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

*Goes to the Heart*

a large crowd gathered. They felt amazed and astonished that uneducated Galileans knew their languages, and they decided they were drunk.

**About what did the apostles speak** (v. 11)? The mighty works of God

**14–24 Peter said they were not drunk and explained that Joel’s prophecy about the Holy Spirit was fulfilled** (vv. 17–21). **List or draw what Joel foretold on newsprint.** God would pour out His Spirit in the last days. Sons and daughters would prophesy. Young men would see visions; old men would dream dreams. God’s male and female servants would prophesy. Before the Last Day, we will see wonders in the heavens and signs on the earth. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**Remember, many in the audience witnessed Jesus’ death at Passover earlier that year. Write what Peter told this crowd about Jesus on your newsprint.**

Jesus of Nazareth, a man you credited with mighty works, wonders, and signs that God did through Him, was delivered up according to God’s plan and foreknowledge. You crucified and killed Him at the hands of lawless men. But God raised Him up because it was not possible for death to hold Him.

## SECTION TWO: Verses 22–41

**22–24 Jews from other nations who traveled to celebrate Passover often stayed in Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival, fifty days later. Many in this audience knew about or had witnessed Jesus’ death at Passover earlier that year. What did Peter tell this crowd about Jesus?** They credited Jesus of Nazareth with mighty works, wonders, and signs that God did through Him. Delivered up according to God’s plan and foreknowledge, they crucified and killed Jesus at the hands of lawless men. But God raised Jesus because it was not possible for death to hold Him.

**25–32 What point did Peter make about King David from Psalm 16** (vv. 25–29)? David said that God would not abandon his soul to Hades or let His Holy One see corruption. Peter says David died and was buried. His body decayed.

**What did Peter say David foretold about Jesus in Psalm 16** (vv. 30–32)? As a prophet, David spoke about the resurrection of Jesus. Christ’s body did not decay or suffer corruption. God raised Him from the dead.

**Why do you think Peter focused on Jesus’ resurrection** (vv. 31–32)? **Read 1 Corinthians 15:17** (on Folio). **Write this on your newsprint.** Christianity rises and falls on the resurrection of Christ. If Jesus did not rise, our faith is futile and we are still in our sin. The men to whom Peter spoke witnessed Jesus’ trial and crucifixion. They did not witness His resurrection since the risen Jesus appeared to believers, not the whole community. Peter and the disciples with Him witnessed that they saw Jesus after He rose.

**33–36 What did Peter say these people witnessed** (v. 33)? The Lord poured out the Holy Spirit, as they saw and heard.

**Write what the Israelites should know for certain about Jesus on your newsprint** (v. 36). Jesus is Lord (God) and Christ (the promised Messiah).

**37–41 Write how people responded to Peter’s sermon on your newsprint.** The people asked what they should do. Peter said to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and they would receive the Holy Spirit. Three thousand people received God’s Word and were baptized.

*Goes to the Heart*

## Debriefing

When time elapses, come back together. Ask groups to hang up their newsprints and tell about their findings.

- **SECTION ONE** groups list or draw what Joel prophesied and what Peter said about Jesus.
- **SECTION TWO** groups tell why Jesus' resurrection is important and what resulted from Peter's sermon.

Then discuss this question (not on Folios).

**Ask** **How did the Spirit bring a rich harvest to the Church during this harvest festival of Pentecost?** The Spirit worked through Peter and the other disciples to share God's Word, which convicted people and brought them to Jesus. Three thousand people believed in Jesus and were baptized.

*Goes to  
the Heart*

## 3 We Live (15 minutes)

### The Work of the Holy Spirit

**Say** **Let's review what we learned about the Holy Spirit by looking at the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed.**

Read or sing "The Third Article, Sanctification" (CD Track 18; Folio, p. 4). The recording does not include the meaning, but read it too.

**Ask** **How were the people in Jerusalem on Pentecost not able to believe in Jesus Christ by their own reason or strength?** They knew Jesus was crucified and buried. They probably heard rumors about His resurrection. But without the work of the Holy Spirit, they could not believe in Jesus or come to Him.

**How does the Holy Spirit help us believe in Jesus?** Like the people in our narrative, we cannot believe in Jesus without the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3).

**When do we receive the Holy Spirit?** We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit within us at Baptism (1 Corinthians 6:19); and as we hear God's Word of truth (Ephesians 1:13).

As time permits, let students choose to do Bible Words Puzzle 1 or read "The Holy Spirit Leads Christ's Church" and "Pentecost" on pages 3–5 of the Bible Exploration Guide.

After a few minutes, ask those who did the puzzle to read aloud **Acts 2:38**: "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" If you like, teach this verse with the recording (CD Track 11).

Ask Bible Exploration Guide readers to share what they learned.

### Faith in Action

Remind students to remember they are baptized children of God when they hear the words of Absolution and receive forgiveness of sins in worship; when they witness a Baptism; and when they say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." (Teach them to make the sign of the cross when they say these words.)

## Lesson 1

### Key Point

At Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit to His Church. Through Word and Sacrament, God gives us His Holy Spirit to create and sustain saving faith in Jesus.

## 4 Closing (3 minutes)

**Say** What new concept did you learn about the Holy Spirit? Thank students who share.

Or review the lesson using the Lesson 1 Bible Review Cards.

As a closing prayer, read or sing “Pentecost Song” (CD Track 4; lyrics on CD); or pray the following prayer.

**Pray** Lord God, thank You for keeping Your promise to send the Holy Spirit to us. Help us to live in the forgiveness of our Baptism and keep us in the one true faith through the Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.