

New Testament 5: The Holy Spirit Leads the Apostles

Engage CD Cross Explorations®
Sunday School



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Cross Explorations® At-a-Glance

25 Minutes

Express

Drama
Music
Crafts
Activities
Service

20 Minutes

Explore

Level 1
(grades 1–3)

Level 2
(grades 4–6)

15 Minutes

Engage

(Large-Group
Opening)

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use _____

God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21



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.

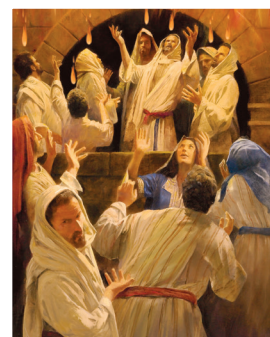
The coming of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the Gospel also reverse the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9). In Genesis 11, the people of the world had one language, but they arrogantly sought to make a name for themselves (Genesis 11:4). As a consequence, God confused their language and dispersed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



Painting by Robert Hunt © CPH

Preparing the Lesson

Date of Use _____

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Acts 3



Key Point

We are all lame beggars before God. Through the Means of Grace—God’s Word and Sacraments—God gives us faith to believe in Jesus as our Savior and grants us forgiveness, the cure for all sin.

Law/Gospel

Disability and illness are physical symptoms of sin in the world. **Through His Son, God gives me forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation—the cure for all sin.**

Context

In the days following Christ’s ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples remained in Jerusalem, making daily visits to the temple for prayer and to share the message of Christ with those who were there.

Commentary

As Peter and John were going to the temple, they encountered a lame man begging for alms at the gate of the temple. Alms are money or food for the poor; more generally, however, alms are acts of mercy. The lame man, therefore, though he had in mind money or food, was asking in a general way for an act of mercy.

When Peter and John heard this man’s cry for mercy, they responded with the only mercy worth giving, the only mercy they had. They gave him the power of God unto salvation. They preached Christ and Him crucified.

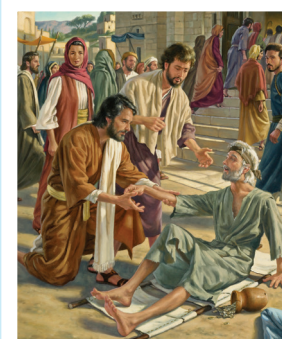
Thus, just as the paralytic was healed so that we may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins (Matthew 9:1–7), likewise this lame beggar was healed, receiving from Peter and John God’s own gift: mercy.

The church is a mercy place. It inhales God’s mercy in Christ’s death and resurrection through Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, the Lord’s Supper, and even the sermon. It exhales that selfsame mercy in love and service to one’s neighbor.

Before God, we are all lame beggars. On account of sin, our plea before God cannot be for justice, equity, or fair treatment by the Law. To ask for that is simply to ask for hell.

Our plea, like that of the lame man, is a cry for mercy. Our plea is a cry for undeserved love on account of Christ’s death and resurrection. Through the Means of Grace—through God’s Word preached and His Sacraments administered—we receive God’s mercy. Through those means, God bestows on us what Christ accomplished on the cross two thousand years ago—the forgiveness of our sin. “For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation” (Small Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar). On account of this, we are once again able to stand before God.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.



Painting by Greg Copeland © CPH

POWERPOINT TIPS

The slides on this CD work with PowerPoint versions from 2003 forward or with the free, downloadable PowerPoint Viewer.

The full PowerPoint program is available as part of Microsoft Office for PCs or Macs. A variety of programs on Apple computers convert and use PowerPoint files as well.

As an alternative, Microsoft offers PowerPoint Viewer as a free download. This program lets you view, project, or print slides, but not create or edit them. You need the complete PowerPoint program for those tasks.

To install PowerPoint Viewer, use the link on the automatic menu of this CD.

1. Put the CD in your computer's CD drive.
2. Click "Install." Follow the directions on the automatic menu. It will take you to this site: <http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=13>
3. You need to agree to the license terms. Once installation completes, restart your computer.

Troubleshooting

When working with these PowerPoint slides, some things may affect the look of your slides.

1. Different versions of PowerPoint may provide slides that look slightly different than the originals. You might see odd spacing or words that run out of a text box or off the page. You may see odd placement of Bible references.

The problem comes from different fonts on the computers that made the slides and the one you use. Even fonts with the same names may differ from one computer or system to another.

2. To help, we use fonts embedded in Microsoft Office programs and common to most computers. Using the Microsoft Office fonts should take care of most of the differences between the two operating systems.
3. We also prepare and check slides on PC and Mac computers to make sure they work with both systems.
4. If you find odd spacing with apostrophes and quotation marks, change a setting in your PowerPoint program. After doing so, you might need to retype the punctuation marks to get rid of the odd spacing.
 - For Macs, when in the PowerPoint program, click on the word "PowerPoint" along the top menu and choose "Preferences" from a pull-down menu.

Choose “Autoformat As You Type.” Click to check the box in front of “Straight quotes with smart quotes.”

- For PCs, go to File/Options/Proofing/Autocorrect Options. Choose “Autoformat as you type” and click to mark the choice that says “Straight Quotes with Smart Quotes.”

Editing slides

If you have 1997, 2003, 2007, or 2010 Microsoft Office with a full PowerPoint program, you can edit these slides or copy and paste them into different presentations. Some animations may not work in pre-2003 versions of PowerPoint.

(PowerPoint 1997 does not copy and paste slides easily. Please consult your software manual for help.)

When editing and creating slides, you may have difficulties when you cut and paste elements from one slide or presentation to another. However, this is very easy to do if you know a few secrets.

PowerPoint defaults to the design template of the presentation you pasted slides **into** and does not automatically carry over design elements from the slide you copied. This means you can lose art, photos, and other elements of the original slide. However, a few easy steps can retain the design of the original slide.

1. Make sure you are in NORMAL view.
2. Copy slides from the source (right click to bring up the menu and choose COPY), and then put your cursor below or between the slides in the new presentation to insert the copied slides.
3. Paste slides into the new presentation (right click to bring up menu and choose PASTE).
4. When you do, a small clipboard icon appears at the bottom right hand corner or somewhere near the new slides. (If it does not appear, undo and reinsert.) Click on the clipboard. Two choices appear in a menu below the clipboard: (1) Keep source formatting, OR (2) use design template formatting. To retain the design elements of the copied slide, choose 1. To take on attributes of the new presentation, choose 2.

Playing Slides with Linked Music

Open the PPT file. The music slides will automatically play when you click to the first page of lyrics. Do not click again until the song finishes.





Lesson 1

God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Opening B

Leader: Let us pray for the gift of the
Holy Spirit, that He may always
open our eyes to the truth that
Jesus is our living Lord and Savior,
and that we may always walk in
the light of His truth.

People: Lord God, grant us Your
Holy Spirit, through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Leader: Lord God, send Your Holy Spirit
into the hearts of all people, that
the whole world may be brought
out of the darkness of sin into the
light that only Christ can give, so
that they, too, may receive
forgiveness of sins and life
everlasting.

People: O God, send Your Spirit to
turn many from darkness to
light.

Leader: Lord God, give us the blessings
of Your Spirit: wisdom and
knowledge, grace and prayer,
power and strength,
sanctification and the fear of
God.

People: Grant us the blessings of Your
Spirit, O God.

Leader: Lord God, produce in us the fruit
of the Spirit: love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-
control.

Girls: If we live by the Spirit,

Boys: let us also keep in step with
the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22–23,
25)

All: Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name, Thy
kingdom come, Thy will be done on
earth as it is in heaven; give us this
day our daily bread; and forgive us
our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us; and lead us
not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.

Song

Lesson 2 Handout

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Acts 3

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Song

Opening Sentences

Opening A

Leader: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
(Romans 1:7)

People: Amen.

Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.
(Psalm 118:24)

Leader: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the LORD is to be praised! (Psalm 113:3)

Leader: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

People: let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

Leader: They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;

People: they shall mount up with wings like eagles;

Leader: they shall run and not be weary;

People: they shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40:31)

Song

Presentation

Offering and Prayers

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Song

Bible Challenge Questions

Engage Openings, New Testament 5

Lesson 1

What church holiday is called “the birthday of the Christian Church” and why?

Pentecost. This is the day God gave the Holy Spirit to believers in Jerusalem, just as Jesus promised.

Lesson 2

Name three or more of Jesus’ original twelve disciples. Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot (Mathew 10:2–4).

Lesson 3

After Jesus ascended, were the twelve disciples the only ones to lead the Early Church? No, seven more men were called to serve with the disciples.

Lesson 4

True or false? People in the New Testament read God’s Word out of a book like we read the Bible. False. Papyrus scrolls were used to write individual sections of God’s Word.

Lesson 5

What is the Hebrew name of the apostle Paul, whom God sent to preach to Gentiles throughout the Roman world? Saul

Lesson 6

What did Jesus say to do with our light? What did He mean? Let it shine! See Matthew 5:16. Jesus meant we should let our good works show so that others might give glory to God.

Lesson 7

Name someone who was a leader in the Church after Jesus ascended. Peter, James the brother of Jesus, James the fisherman, and John were prominent. Others include the

other apostles and other people who became Christians.

Lesson 8

Name someone in the Bible whom God helped escape from prison. Joseph, the apostles together, Peter another time by himself, Paul, and Silas.

Lesson 9

What is a missionary? A missionary is someone sent by a church to an area to tell other people about Jesus. A missionary might also provide medical care, education, or other needs for people.

Lesson 10

Paul had several traveling partners on his missionary journeys. Which of these people traveled with him?

- A. Titus
 - B. Timothy
 - C. Silas
 - D. All of them
 - E. None of them
- D. All of them

Lesson 11

True or false? Everywhere Paul traveled, all of the people loved him and his message about Jesus. False. Sometimes, people rejected Paul and the Gospel. His health and life were often in danger.

Lesson 12

Which disciple went to jail with Paul in the city of Philippi? Silas

Lesson 13

Name some ways people traveled in Bible times. Walking, sailing, riding a donkey or camel, or riding in a chariot.

New Testament 5

The Holy Spirit Leads the Apostles

Lesson	Title	Date of Use
1	God Sends the Holy Spirit	_____
2	Peter and John Heal the Lame Man	_____
3	God's Servant Stephen	_____
4	Philip and the Ethiopian	_____
5	The Conversion of Paul	_____
6	Dorcas	_____
7	Peter and Cornelius	_____
8	Peter's Escape from Prison	_____
9	Paul's First Missionary Journey	_____
10	Paul and Timothy	_____
11	Lydia	_____
12	Paul and Silas in Prison	_____
13	Paul Sails for Rome	_____