

God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Characters: Leader (you); Disciples James, John; Andrew, Simon Peter, Matthias; plus 1–16 people as the Disciple Group; 1 or more Sign Holders from the Disciple Group

Costumes: Use as many of the 20 Disciple Nametags (CD) as you like, including:

- 12 apostles: Simon Peter, John, James (son of Zebedee), Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Judas (son of James), Simon the Zealot, Matthias (replaced Judas Iscariot, Acts 1:26)
- 4 women: Mary (mother of Jesus), Mary Magdalene, Mary (mother of James), and Joanna
- Jesus' 4 half brothers: James, Joses, Judas, and Simon

Note: Many Bible scholars think the women disciples were present on Pentecost since Acts 1:13–14 lists the apostles plus “the women,” Jesus’ mother, and His half brothers as present in Jerusalem after Jesus’ ascension.

- Luke 24:10 names three women who witnessed Jesus’ resurrection, included in the nametags.
- Mark 6:3 names four of Jesus’ half brothers and mentions, but does not name, his half sisters. Some Bible scholars think these siblings were children Joseph had from an earlier marriage; others think they were later children of Mary and Joseph.

Get safety pins or yarn (optional); and/or costumes or identifiers such as belts, neckties, bandanas, or color-coded crepe-paper streamers (optional).

Keep the Simon Peter Nametag for Lessons 2, 3, 6–8, 10; and the John Nametag for Lessons 2–3. Keep Nametags for the other 10 apostles for Lesson 3. Keep the nametag of Jesus’ half brother James for Lesson 10.

Props: 3 Location Signs: Jerusalem, Judea, Herod’s Temple (CD); 16 People Signs (CD); red, yellow, or orange circle stickers; permanent marker; masking tape; chairs; highlighters

Keep the Jerusalem Sign for Lessons 2–5, 8, and 10; the Judea Sign for Lessons 2–3, 8, and 10; and the Herod’s Temple Sign for Lessons 2–3.

Prepare: Print Leader Notes, Script, and Review Questions for yourself. Highlight your parts.

Print 5 Scripts for 5 readers. Highlight parts on Scripts, or have students do it during preparation time.

Print and post the Location Signs.

Print and cut Nametags apart. Use safety pins to attach nametags to clothing; or punch two holes in the top of each nametag, run a length of yarn through the holes, and tie the yarn ends together.

Print and cut apart the 16 People Signs.

Draw small flames on red, yellow, or orange circle stickers with a permanent marker, making one sticker per person. Put these on Disciples during the skit.

Set chairs in a large circle or concentric circles.

Leader Notes

Note: Luke, the author of the Book of Acts, uses the Greek word *oikos* in verse 2 for the word translated into English as “house.” Bible scholars note that Luke usually uses *oikos* to refer to a private dwelling; however, he also used it to identify temple rooms, similar to meeting rooms in churches. (See *TLSB*, p. 1833.)

Since Simon Peter preached to thousands of people on Pentecost, most Bible scholars identify the crowded temple as the location. This skit uses Herod’s temple as the location. People from many faraway areas came to Jerusalem’s temple for the Feast of Pentecost, celebrated fifty days after Passover to remember the day that God revealed the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai and to thank God for the wheat harvest.

This drama activity lets all children participate; it is not a performance. Include preparation time as part of the activity so that everyone sees and hears the plans. Encourage children to relax and enjoy participating.

As Leader, you introduce the skit and direct the activity. Help students know where to move or what to do, as needed. You also attach stickers to all the heads of all the disciples.

You also ask students to repeat phrases and actions after you. Use different inflections, louder or softer volume, faster or slower pace, and other voice variations. Students usually repeat words just as you say them.

Use the Review Questions after the skit to help students understand the Scripture lesson.

Recruit people to play the parts of John, James, Andrew, Simon Peter, and Matthias. Give Scripts to each person. Hand out highlighters to mark parts if you did not do it. Hand out nametags and/or costumes.

Ask other students to be in the Disciple Group. Let them choose nametags to wear. Tell them you will ask them to repeat phrases after you.

Give the 16 People Signs to the Sign Holder(s) to show in numeric order when the specified group of people is mentioned. These visuals will help students hear these people groups better.

Ask everyone to take a seat in the circle(s).

Note: Important! Before beginning, explain that the term *Jew* refers to someone born from the family of Abraham or the sons of Israel (Jacob). *Gentile* refers to anyone who is not Jewish.

Proselytes were converts to Judaism who received circumcision and committed to follow the Jewish Law. Most also received a mikvah immersion, similar to Baptism.

Script

God Sends the Holy Spirit; Acts 2:1–21

LEADER defines Jew and Gentile and briefly explains what converts to Judaism (proselytes) did. See Leader Notes.

JAMES: Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, ten days after He ascended into heaven, we were all gathered in one place.

JOHN: Jesus told us to wait in Jerusalem.

ANDREW: He said we soon would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

MATTHIAS: We stayed continually in the temple, praising God (Luke 24:53).

JAMES: Even though we ran into the chief priests and religious leaders who killed Jesus there.

SIMON PETER: God helped us choose Matthias to replace Judas as an apostle, so we have twelve apostles again.

JOHN: Now, many visitors have returned to Jerusalem for the Pentecost, our festival when we thank God for the harvest.

JAMES: Suddenly, there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind. It filled the whole room.

LEADER invites ALL DISCIPLES to make the sounds of a loud wind, then continue.

MATTHIAS: And divided tongues as of fire appeared and rested on each one of us.

LEADER goes around the circle and gives a round sticker to ALL DISCIPLES.

ANDREW: And we were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit empowered us.

MATTHIAS: A large group of people came together.

JAMES: They felt confused because each heard their own language.

ANDREW: (*Stands, speaks Italian, then sits*) **Gesù è salito dai morti.** (Ja-zoo eh za-lee-toe day mor-tee)

JOHN: (*Stands, speaks German, then sits*) **Jesus stieg von den Toten auf.** (Yah-za steek von den Toe-ten owf)

MATTHIAS: (*Stands, speaks Spanish, then sits*) **Jesús resucitó de entre los muertos.** (hay-SOOS reh-soo-see-TOH day EN-tray los MWER-tos)

SIMON PETER: (*Stands, speaks French, then sits*) **Jésus est ressuscité de la mort.**
(Shay-su e rez-zu-see-tay day la more)

JAMES: (*Stands, speaks Indonesian, then sits*) **Yesus bangkit dari kematian.**
(Yay-zuz bang-kit day-ri kem-ah-tee-an)

JOHN: (*Stands, speaks Swahili, then sits*) **Yesu kufufuka katika wafu.** (Yay-zu
koo-foo-foo-kah kah-ti-kah wah-fu)

ANDREW: (*Stands, speaks English, then sits*) **Jesus rose from the dead!**

LEADER: (*Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to stand and repeat phases*) **Whoosh!**
Whoosh! / The wind-sound roared. / Look! Look! / The fire tongues
soared! / Filled up with God's Holy Spirit; / speaking so each one can
hear it. (*LEADER motions for ALL DISCIPLES to sit. Tell those holding signs to*
get ready to show them.)

And those who heard the apostles speak God's Word were Parthians
(*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 1: Parthians*), **Medes** (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign*
2: Medes), **Elamites** (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 3: Elamites*)

and people from Mesopotamia (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 4:*
Mesopotamia), **Judea** (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 5: Judea*), **Cappadocia**
(*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 6: Cappadocia*), **Pontus** (*SIGN HOLDER shows*
Sign 7: Pontus), **Asia** (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 8: Asia*),

Phrygia (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 9: Phrygia*), **Pamphylia** (*SIGN HOLDER*
shows Sign 10: Pamphylia), **Egypt** (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 11: Egypt*), **and**
the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 12:*
Libya), **and visitors from Rome** (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 13: Rome*),

both Jews and proselytes (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 14: Jews/proselytes*),
Cretans (*SIGN HOLDER shows Sign 15: Cretans*) **and Arabians** (*SIGN*
HOLDER shows Sign 16: Arabians).

MATTHIAS: **It was amazing!**

LEADER: (*Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to stand and repeat phases after you*) **Talk!**
Talk! / They spoke God's Word. / Hear! Hear! / Each language heard. /
When God's Holy Spirit came, / He gave power in Jesus' name.

ANDREW: **Some people couldn't believe it. They thought we were drunk.**

SIMON PETER: (*Stands*) **People, listen to me! These people are not drunk! It's**
nine o'clock in the morning! Remember what the prophet Joel said?
"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My
Spirit on all flesh. . . . Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord
shall be saved" (Acts 2:17, 21).

LEADER: *(Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to repeat after you)* **Pour! Pour! / God's Spirit came! / Call! Call! / Upon God's name!**

SIMON PETER: 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.

LEADER: *(Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to repeat phases after you)* **Jesus! Jesus! / did mighty acts, / wonders and signs. / These are the facts!**

SIMON PETER: This Jesus . . . you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. God has raised this Jesus to life!

LEADER: *(Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to repeat after you)* **You crucified / the Lord, it's true. / But God raised Him / for me and you. / God has raised this Jesus to life! / God has raised this Jesus to life!**

SIMON PETER: *(Points to ALL DISCIPLES)* **We are all witnesses of the fact! Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.**

LEADER: **And people in the crowd asked,** *(Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to repeat phases after you)* **"Brothers, / what shall we do? / What shall we do?"**

SIMON PETER: 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. This promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.

JOHN: And so, many received God's Word through Simon Peter and were baptized. Three thousand people became followers of Jesus that day.

LEADER: *(Stands, asks ALL DISCIPLES to stand and repeat phases after you)* **It's true! It's true! / Jesus is God's Son! / It's true! It's true! / He died and rose for you. / Yes, yes! / Lord Jesus came alive! / Yes, yes! / God's Spirit has arrived!**

Review Questions

Understand the Bible account and make life applications

God Sends the Holy Spirit; Acts 2:1–21

Ask questions to check children's understanding of the skit and Bible account.

What gift did Jesus send His disciples? The Holy Spirit.

What did the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do? They spoke God's Word in different languages so that people attending the Pentecost festival from different countries could understand. The Holy Spirit worked powerfully through them, and three thousand people were baptized and became Christians that day.

Think about this. Just fifty-three days earlier, the priests, Pharisees, and other religious leaders crucified Jesus. Fifty-three days ago, the disciples abandoned Jesus and hid, afraid they would be killed too. These same religious leaders still ruled over and controlled the temple. But Simon Peter stood in the middle of the temple and preached about Jesus. He said, "This Jesus . . . you crucified and killed." What changed? What made Simon Peter so brave? Many things had changed. Jesus had risen and ascended, and God gave them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit made them bold and fearless and empowered them to preach God's Word. They were ready to die for Jesus.

When the people asked what they needed to do, we hear God's love and grace. What did Simon Peter say? "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).

We repent when we turn away from sin and toward God to ask for forgiveness. God marked us as His people in our Baptism and gave us faith in Him. We received the gift of the Holy Spirit too. Now what? What are we supposed to do? We live as God's people, knowing He is with us and forgives our sins. We immerse ourselves in God's Word and respond to His grace with thankful hearts and the desire to serve Him. Help children give specific situations where they can forgive, learn God's Word, worship, and serve.

Where do we hear God's love and grace in this story? God showed His grace and mercy in Christ Jesus, who died to pay for our sins and rose from the dead. In Him, we have forgiveness of sins!

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

Acts 3

Characters: Leader (you); 2 Readers; Simon Peter; John; Lame Man; Crowd (everyone else).

Costumes: Nametags for Simon Peter and John (CD; or reuse from Lesson 1); safety pins or yarn (optional); and/or costumes or identifiers such as belts, neckties, bandanas, or color-coded crepe-paper streamers (optional); ragged shirt or cane for Lame Man

Save Simon Peter Nametag for Lessons 3, 6–8, and 10. Save the John Nametag for Lesson 3.

Props: 3 Location Signs: Jerusalem, Judea, and Herod's Temple (CD; or reuse from Lesson 1); mat or small rug; cup; coins; masking tape; chairs (optional); highlighters

Keep the Jerusalem Sign for Lessons 3–5, 8, and 10; keep the Herod's Temple Sign for Lesson 3.

Prepare: Print Leader Notes, Script, and Review Questions for yourself. Highlight your parts.

Print 5 Scripts for Reader 1, Reader 2, Simon Peter, John, and the Lame Man. Highlight parts on Scripts or have students do it during preparation time.

Print and cut Nametags apart. Use safety pins to attach nametags to kids' clothing; or punch two holes in the top of each nametag, run a length of yarn through the holes, and tie the yarn ends together.

Reuse or print the 3 Location Signs. Hang them up.

Collect props and costume pieces you will use.

Leader Notes

This drama activity lets all children participate; it is not a performance. Include preparation time as part of the activity so that everyone sees and hears the plans. Encourage children to relax and enjoy participating.

As Leader, you introduce the skit and direct the activity. Help students know where to move or what to do, as needed. Walk around your space to keep students' attention.

You ask students to repeat phrases after you. When you do, use different vocal speeds, accents, or volumes to bring the words to life. Encourage actors to do the same.

Use the Review Questions after the skit to help students understand the Scripture lesson.

Recruit children to play the parts of 2 Readers, Simon Peter, John, and the Lame Man. Give them Scripts and highlighters to mark parts if you did not do it. Hand out nametags and/or costumes.

Give the mat, cup, and coins to the Lame Man. Set the Lame Man in a space near the Herod's Temple Sign.

Ask everyone else to serve as the Crowd of Israelite People. Sit near the Lame Man, and ask the Crowd to sit around you. Ask the Crowd to repeat your words during the skit.

Ask Readers to sit in chairs nearby. Ask Simon Peter and John to stand near you.

Script

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man; Acts 3

READER 1: Jesus' apostles stayed in Jerusalem after Pentecost. They continued to preach and teach about Jesus.

READER 2: Jerusalem was also home to a man who had been lame since birth.

READER 1: People carried the man to sit by the Beautiful Gate in the temple every day so he could beg for money.

READER 2: In New Testament times, they did not have wheelchairs or medical equipment to help people who could not walk.

READER 1: Without these helps, people could not get around, and that restricted their ability to work.

READER 2: To get food, sick or disabled people had to beg and ask other people to give them money.

LAME MAN: (*Shakes cup with coins in it*) **Help! Please help a poor man!**

LEADER: (*Asks CROWD to repeat phases after you.*) **We know this beggar man. / We see him every day. / Sometimes we put money in his can. / Sometimes we just go and pray.**

READER 1: One afternoon, Peter and John went to the temple to pray.

PETER and JOHN walk toward temple. MAN sees PETER and JOHN, shakes the cup in their direction, and calls out.

LAME MAN: Please, sirs, do you have any spare coins to help a poor man?
(*Holds out cup.*)

PETER and JOHN walk over to MAN.

SIMON PETER: Look at us!

LAME MAN looks directly at PETER and JOHN.

SIMON PETER: I don't have silver or gold, but I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!

SIMON PETER takes the hand of the LAME MAN and helps him up.

LAME MAN takes a few steps and then stops and looks at his feet in awe, then walks and leaps and praises God.

LEADER beckons for the CROWD to rise and stand around PETER, JOHN, and MAN.

SIMON PETER: *(To CROWD)* **People, what are you looking at? Why does this surprise you? Do you really think it was our own power or goodness that made this man walk?**

LEADER: *(Asks CROWD to repeat phases after you)* **Do you think we're dim? / Of course we came to gawk. / What did you do to him? / How does this lame man walk?**

SIMON PETER: **The God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and our parents glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered to Pilate. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be released instead. You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses to these things.**

But faith in Jesus' name made this man strong and gave him perfect health!

LAME MAN: **Praise the Lord!**

SIMON PETER: *(To CROWD)* **You acted in ignorance, but now is the time to repent. Turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, that He may send the Christ to bless you.**

LEADER: *(Asks CROWD to repeat phases after you)* **Is this God's plan? / Could it be true? / Could Jesus heal the man? / And make him whole and new?**

LAME MAN: **Praise the Lord!**

LEADER asks ALL to sit down.

READER 2: *(Quietly)* **Before anything else could happen, the captain of the temple guard arrested all three men. The religious leaders were greatly annoyed that Jesus' disciples taught that He rose from the dead.**

READER 1: **The next day, religious leaders gathered to interrogate the men.**

JOHN: **They wanted to know how we healed the man.**

LAME MAN: **Peter said that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, this man stands before you well.**

SIMON PETER: **There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).**

JOHN: The leaders didn't know what to say, so they threatened us and let us go.

SIMON PETER: They said not to teach or speak at all in the name of Jesus.

JOHN: But Peter said they would have to decide whether it was right in the sight of God to listen to them instead of God.

SIMON PETER: As for us, we had to speak about what we saw and heard.

JOHN: We had to tell about our Lord and Savior!

LEADER: (*Asks CROWD to repeat phases after you*) **Hoping the men would fade away, / the leaders let them go. / But we praised God every day, / because He loves us so.**

Review Questions

Understand the Bible account and make life applications

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man; Acts 3

Why do you suppose the lame man lay outside the temple gates each day?

Since he was lame and unable to work, he needed to beg for money to live on. There was a lot of traffic in and out of the temple as people went in to make sacrifices, give offerings, pray, or participate in worship. The gate was a logical place to beg because of the number of people who passed. The people went in to give thanks to God for His gifts and this may have made them more open to helping a poor lame man.

Why did Simon Peter and John go to the temple? They went at “the hour of prayer,” so it is logical to assume that they were going to pray. At the same time, it would also give them opportunity to share the message of Jesus Christ with fellow Jews.

What initial response did Simon Peter and John give to the lame beggar?

They told him they had no money to give him.

What did they give instead? In the name of Jesus, they commanded him to get up and walk. Through Jesus, the man was healed of his infirmity.

What was the man’s reaction? He began walking, leaping, and praising God for His mercy.

Where do we hear God’s love and grace in this story? God healed the lame man through Simon Peter and John. Simon Peter had a wonderful opportunity to preach about the forgiveness of sins Jesus offers and His power to save. God heals us from our sin through the blood of Jesus.