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The Holy Spirit Came

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 2:1-4,22-42

MAIN POINT: The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

**TELL
THE STORY**
(15-20 MINUTES)
PAGE 10



**EXPERIENCE
THE STORY**
(25-30 MINUTES)
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**REVIEW
THE STORY**
(10+ MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

When Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon them. So the disciples went back to Jerusalem, where they waited and prayed.

The time came for the Jewish festival called Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks. As with the Passover festival, Jews from all over the Roman Empire would be at the temple in Jerusalem.

During this festival, the Holy Spirit came to believers in Jerusalem. They heard a sound like a violent, rushing wind. When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they were able to speak in foreign languages. They went out into the city and began to preach, and the Jews from all over the world were amazed. These disciples were from Galilee, but they were speaking in languages the visitors could understand.

The disciples told people about God's plan. The Holy Spirit helped Peter teach: Jesus is the Messiah; Jesus was killed, but He is alive! (Acts 2:22-36) The Holy Spirit convicted the crowd and they asked, "Brothers, what must we do?" Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. (Acts 2:37-38) That day, three thousand people received salvation!

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could share the gospel with the entire world.

God gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that the Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.



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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

Check out the video "The Big Story" for a picture of this quarter's part in God's big story of redemption.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use sound effects:** Locate sound effects for a strong, rushing wind; other languages; and water splash (for people being baptized). Play the sound effects at appropriate moments in the Bible story.
- **Tell the Bible story in another language:** Invite a guest who speaks another language to tell the Bible story to your class. Ask the guest to tell the Bible story in English and then in the other language. Encourage them to use the same hand motions, tone, and facial expressions in each storytelling.

The Holy Spirit Came

Acts 2:1-4,22-42

People came from far away to the city of Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. **Jesus' friends were meeting together. All of a sudden, a sound like a strong, rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. The Holy Spirit filled the friends.** When they started talking, they sounded different. **They could speak in languages they didn't even know!**

Other Jews in Jerusalem came to see what was going on. The **people were from many nations**; they spoke different languages. But all of them **could understand what Jesus' friends were saying!**

Peter stood up to talk to the crowd. "You saw the miracles Jesus did," he said. "God planned for Jesus to die. Then God raised Jesus from the dead! Now, Jesus is sitting beside God in heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to us."

Then **Peter said, "Jesus is the Lord and Messiah! You killed Him on a cross!"**

The people knew Peter was telling the truth. "What should we do?" they asked.

"Turn away from your sins and be baptized," Peter said. "God will forgive your sins, and you will get the Holy Spirit too."

That day, three thousand people turned away from their sins and were baptized. **They all believed and became followers of Jesus.**

Christ Connection: God sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised. Now Jesus' friends had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work and changes us to be more like Jesus.

Tell THE STORY

SESSION TITLE: The Holy Spirit Came

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 2:1-4,22-42

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KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.

Welcome and worship with song

- “Into the World” song
- “The Story” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Into the World” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in “The Story.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Bible
- “The Holy Spirit Came” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Invite a few preschoolers to help you prepare for the Bible story by getting your Bible, holding the posters, or pointing to the timeline. Thank them for their help.

SAY • Does anyone know whom God sent to His people to be their Helper after Jesus went back to heaven? God sent the Holy Spirit to help His people! Let’s listen to the Bible story to learn what happened the day God sent the Holy Spirit.

Open your Bible to Acts 2. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- orange construction paper
- scissors
- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “Working in You” song

Cut out a flame shape from orange construction paper and place it at Philippians 2:13. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

Read the key passage together several times.

SAY • Our key passage explains that God is working in us. Do you know how God is working in us? He is working in us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to do God's work.

Sing the key passage song "Working in You" together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • Our big picture question is, *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.* God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers. Then they went out and told everyone that Jesus is the Messiah!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers.** God sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised. Now Jesus' friends had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work and changes us to be more like Jesus.

Sing "The Story" and "Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)" as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing "Wherever You Go." You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to Your people. We need help to follow You, to obey You, and to do Your work. Thank You for giving us the best Helper in the Holy Spirit. Use Him to work in our lives so that we can be more like You. Amen.

• Main Point Poster
• "The Story" song
• "Mighty Fortress (Our God Is Faithful)" song
• "Wherever You Go" song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

Experience THE STORY

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Speak a different language

Invite children to come up with their own language for the main point. Ask the children to say the main point in their made-up language. Then say it in English all together.

SAY • When each of you spoke in your own language, no one else was able to understand you. When **the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers**, they were able to tell people about Jesus no matter what language they spoke. Many people believed the good news!

Look for wind

Invite preschoolers to look out the window or take them outside to look at trees. Ask them to look for signs of the wind. Explain that leaves blow in the wind and trees will sometimes move with the wind. Blow bubbles and watch them move with the wind.

SAY • We can't see the wind, but we can see what it moves. You cannot see the Holy Spirit, but you can see how the Holy Spirit helps us. *What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.*

Sing about God's power

Invite the preschoolers to sing along and perform hand

- bubbles (optional)
- walking rope (optional)

- "Into the World" song (optional)
- "Working in You" song (optional)

motions to “My God Is So Big” or other songs about God’s power. If you are unfamiliar with the song or hand motions, check them out online before class. You may also sing the key passage or theme song.

SAY • There is nothing our God cannot do! He sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth and die on the cross to save His people from sin. Then He sent the Holy Spirit to come and help His people! **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers** to help them obey our God who can do anything!

Make a kite

Direct preschoolers to decorate a paper bag with markers. Open the bag and hole punch the bottom center of the bag. Tie a 3-foot piece of yarn to a craft stick. Place the craft stick in the bag and run the yarn through the hole. Glue streamers to the open end of the bags. Show the preschoolers how to hold the yarn and make the bag a kite.

SAY • You can use your kite in the wind! Jesus’ friends heard a sound like a strong, rushing wind. Then **the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers**, and they told others about Jesus. The people they told about Jesus turned away from their sins and were baptized!

- lunch-size paper bag
- markers
- hole punch
- craft stick
- yarn
- scissors
- streamers
- glue

Look at books in other languages

Set out books in different languages for preschoolers to browse. If possible, provide the same book in different languages. Read the books as preschoolers show interest.

SAY • **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers** and helped them speak in languages they did not know. God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God’s work.

- books in different languages

Tip: If you do not have books on hand, check out some from your local library.

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

Review THE STORY

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Review

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle as you review today's Bible story. Ask the following review questions:

1. What did Jesus' followers hear when they were praying? (*a sound like a loud, rushing wind*)
2. When the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' friends, what language did they speak? (*They were speaking different languages, even ones they didn't know!*)
3. Whom did Peter tell the people about? (*Jesus*)
4. How did people respond when Peter told them to turn away from their sins and be baptized? (*Three thousand people turned away from their sin and trusted in Jesus!*)
5. ***What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians.***

SAY • **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers** to be their Helper. Now Jesus' friends had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work and changes us to be more like Jesus.

Sing the unit theme song or key passage song.

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "The Story" song
- "Working in You" song

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for Your Son, Jesus, whom You sent to rescue us from our sin so that we can be with You forever. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to us so that we can have a Helper until we get to be with You forever. We love You! Amen.

Missions story

If your preschool ministry is planning a missions activity, introduce the activity and the reasons for it. If you are not participating in a missions activity, talk about how we can share the gospel with confidence knowing that the Holy Spirit will help us. You may also show the “Worth It All” video.

SAY • Jeremy, Robert, and their friends live in Africa with people from a different culture and who look different than they do. They live there because God loves all people and wants them to hear the good news of Jesus! Let’s pray for Jeremy, Robert, and their friends and ask the Holy Spirit to continue to help them tell the good news.

- “Worth It All” video
- “Missions Prayer Cards” printable, 1 per child

Draw things about church

Explain to preschoolers that the first church began in today’s Bible story. Ask the preschoolers if they know the name of your church. Invite them to draw pictures of their favorite things to do at church.

SAY • A church is not just a building. A church is a group of Jesus’ followers. **The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ followers.** God gives the Holy Spirit to those of us who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit grows God’s church by helping God’s people tell others the good news so they will turn from their sin and believe.

- paper
- crayons