

# THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



**Date: 5.04.25 | Title: The Holy Spirit Came and the Believers Responded**  
**Scripture: Acts 2**

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

- God is eternal and has existed for eternity past and will exist for eternity into the future.
- Each person who comes to faith in Christ receives the Holy Spirit and is given a spiritual gift.
- Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to minister to God's people in a special way.
- The Holy Spirit intercedes before the Father on our behalf.
- The Holy Spirit inspired and guided people to write the Bible.

### High School Students:

- God is eternal, and although He is not bound by time, He chooses to operate in it to relate to us.
- Each person who comes to faith in Christ receives the Holy Spirit and is endowed with a spiritual gift to be used to serve in the church.
- Jesus promised that God would send the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit has come to convict, teach, comfort, lead, strengthen, and seal us, as well as to produce fruit within and through us.
- The Holy Spirit intercedes before the Father on our behalf when we do not know how to or what to pray.
- The Holy Spirit inspired and guided people to write the Bible and used the personalities and voices of men to communicate the very words of God.



### MEMORY VERSE

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. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." - Acts 2:38-39

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

**Introductory Activity: “Can You Understand Me?”**

**Goal:** Give students a small taste of the confusion—and surprise—of hearing many languages at once in Acts 2.

**Instructions:**

**1. Set the Stage: Say:**

“In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit shows up, and people start speaking in all kinds of languages. It was chaotic, powerful, and confusing, but it got everyone’s attention. Let’s experience a little of that.”

**2. Group Prompt: Tell everyone:**

“In a moment, I’m going to give you a topic. I want everyone to talk at the same time for 15 seconds about that topic—but do it in your own funny accent, or pretend you’re speaking a different language (like gibberish).”

**Example topic:** “Describe your favorite food.”

(You can change this to something relevant or silly.)

**3. Go! Let them all talk at once for 15 seconds. It’ll get loud and goofy.**

**4. Debrief: Ask:**

- “What did that feel like?”
- “Could you understand anyone?”
- “What would you do if someone actually understood all of that?”

**5. Transition to Acts 2: Say:**

“That’s a little like what happened in Acts 2. It sounded chaotic, but God was behind it. And the craziest part? Everyone understood what was being said in their own language. Let’s read what happened.”

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## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After Jesus was resurrected, He spent 40 days with His followers, showing them He was alive and teaching them about God's kingdom (Acts 1:3). Before He ascended back to heaven, He told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for a special gift—the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would give them power to tell people everywhere about Him, starting in Jerusalem and spreading all over the world (Acts 1:8).

Many faithful Jews traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, a yearly harvest festival where they thanked God for providing for them. Originally, Pentecost (which means “fiftieth”) was one of three harvest festivals, and took place 50 days after Passover. During this time, people also remembered how God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and made them His special people (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12; Leviticus 23:15-22; Numbers 28:26-31). Later on, Pentecost also became a time to celebrate when God gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai—also 50 days after the Exodus. Because it was a significant festival, people from around the world came to Jerusalem, so the city was packed with visitors.

In Acts chapter 2, on the day of Pentecost—about six weeks after Jesus rose from the dead and just days after He returned to heaven—the disciples were all together in one place (Acts 2:1–4). Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came just like Jesus had promised, in a very powerful way. There was a sound like a mighty wind, and something like flames of fire appeared over each person. In the Bible, wind and fire often show that God's powerful presence is near (Ezekiel 37; Exodus 3; Exodus 19). The wind shows God's power (1 Kings 19:11), and the fire shows His presence (1 Kings 19:12; Exodus 3:2).

Then, the disciples began speaking in different languages—real, known languages that people from other countries could understand (Acts 2:6, 8, 11). This was a miracle so that all the visiting Jews in Jerusalem could hear the message about Jesus in their own language. This use of “tongues” differs from the spiritual gift Paul later describes in 1 Corinthians 12–14, which seems more for personal prayer and praise to God.

Most who observed what was happening to these believers were amazed and curious, while others mocked and ridiculed them (Acts 2:12-13). Some were amazed because they

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heard them speaking in their own language. Others, unable to grasp what had happened, wrongly assumed that the disciples were drunk.

From that moment on, the Holy Spirit began helping believers in amazing ways—giving them courage to tell others about Jesus, perform miracles, start new churches, and understand what God wanted them to do. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was only given to certain people at certain temporary times (like with Samson in Judges 14:19 and 16:20, or with King Saul in 1 Samuel 10:10 and 16:14). But in the New Testament, Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to live with believers forever (John 14:16). Now, every follower of Jesus has the Holy Spirit as a constant helper and guide. Jesus had told them, “It is to your advantage that I go away” (John 16:7), and now it made sense—through the Holy Spirit, God could work through every believer, everywhere. The Holy Spirit is mentioned more than 50 times in the book of Acts, and the book could be titled “Acts of the Holy Spirit,” since it is through that power that everything in Acts was completed.

On the day when Jews were celebrating how God had provided for them under the old covenant, Pentecost took on a whole new meaning. It marked the beginning of the new covenant, made possible through faith in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Some believe God chose this day on purpose to show a significant change: in the Old Testament, the law was given to help people do right from the outside, but now, through the Holy Spirit, God gives believers power from the inside to live the right way.

For Christians, Pentecost became more than just a yearly Jewish holiday. It became the day when God’s Spirit lived inside each believer, forever. This showed that Jesus had kept His promise to send a helper and comforter—the Holy Spirit—who would be with His followers in a real and personal way.

Peter’s life transformation is on display throughout the book of Acts as he followed the leading of Christ’s promised Helper, the Holy Spirit. Though Peter had personally journeyed for three years alongside the Savior, Peter struggled with fear, hesitancy, and uncertainty. He was the man who sank from doubt while walking on water and denied Jesus’ lordship three times. At that time, Peter could hardly grasp the truth of Jesus, much less share it with others. The Peter we read about in Acts seems to have overcome his weak faith through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in his life.



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**Simon Peter now stands up to explain what happened. The Holy Spirit has just been poured out on God's people, as predicted by the prophet Joel (2:28-32). The coming of the Spirit marks the beginning of the "last days," stretching from the first coming of Christ and the outpouring of the Spirit to the return of Christ. The prophet Joel said that God would pour out his Spirit on all people (family members and servants, men and women, young and old). These people would prophesy or declare the wonders of God. In essence, every believer would become one who declares the wonders of God. This is just what happened to the 120 believers.**

**Luke describes the new community formed by the Spirit (2:42-47). The people are committed to the word of God (2:42-43), are loving and generous (2:42, 44-45), are worshipful (2:46-47a), and are growing in number (2:47).**



## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Remind your group that we are studying the New Testament. The book of Acts is about God sending the Holy Spirit to permanently dwell within Jesus' disciples and other believers after He ascended back to heaven. With the help of the Holy Spirit, those who followed Christ told many people about Jesus, helped others, and started the first churches. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the message of Jesus began to spread worldwide.

TELL  
THE  
STORY



Tell the story:

Right before Jesus returned to heaven, He promised to send a Helper- the Holy Spirit- to His followers. Today, we will see how God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit filled the disciples.

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

People from far away came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish harvest festival. Jesus' followers were gathered together when suddenly, a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong rushing wind, filling the whole house where Jesus' followers stayed. Then, tongues appeared like flames of fire, resting on each of the disciples. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, which gave them each the ability to speak in languages they had never spoken before!

Now, Jews who had come from every nation were in the city. They heard the disciples' sounds and gathered in a crowd. They were confused because they heard the disciples' voices in their languages.



The listeners were amazed. "Aren't these men from Galilee? How are they speaking our language?" they wondered. Jesus' friends were telling people of all languages about the magnificent things God had done. How could these men speak so many languages? But some hearers doubted and made fun of them, saying, "They've just had too much wine."

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

Peter stood up and said, "I'll tell you what's happening." He reminded the people of something the prophet Joel had said long ago: "God **6**

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says, ‘I will pour out My Spirit on all people...I will show you wonders in the heavens and signs on the earth below... Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Peter said, “You saw the miracles, wonders, and signs God did through Jesus. Even though God planned for Jesus to die, you used lawless people to nail Him to a cross and kill Him. But death did not keep hold of Jesus; God raised Jesus back to life from the dead.”

Then Peter said, “You have seen the truth: Jesus is alive! He went up to heaven to be with God the Father. Do not doubt this.” Peter continued, “When you killed Jesus, you killed the Messiah!”

When the people heard Peter’s words, they felt very sorry. They asked Peter and the other apostles, “What should we do?”

Peter told the people to repent, turn away from their sins, and turn to God. “God will forgive your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Be baptized in the name of Jesus,” he said.

Everyone who believed Peter’s message was baptized. That day, about three thousand people joined Jesus’ followers. They learned what Jesus’ disciples taught and met with other believers daily. They broke bread together and prayed. All the believers shared what they had whenever anyone had need, and they praised God. And every day, more and more people were saved.

**Re-tell the Bible Story:** Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

**Share the GOSPEL:**

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit’s help, Jesus’ disciples could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

When Peter preached to the crowd, it showed how powerful the Holy Spirit is. God used Peter to talk about Jesus, and thousands of people believed and had their lives changed. When someone believes in Jesus, they are never the same—the Holy Spirit changes their heart.

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**The Bible tells us good news! We learn how Jesus came to save us from sin and death through God's Word. When people trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit works in their hearts and minds to show them their sin and that they need to be saved.**

**While Jesus was on earth, He promised to send a Helper to always be with His disciples. Jesus explained that the Helper would be the gift of the Holy Spirit, and He would give the disciples power to share the gospel throughout the world. Jesus' promise came true, and the Holy Spirit filled the disciples. Now, they could complete Jesus's mission and be His witnesses. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples remember Jesus' words and gave them boldness to share the gospel with thousands of people.**



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## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus said He was leaving them? Why did Jesus say it was better that He go? What did He promise them?**

**What happened when the disciples received the Holy Spirit? Read Acts 2:4.** When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they began to speak in different languages. As they talked, people from other nations realized that the disciples spoke in a language they could understand. The people knew the disciples were from Galilee, so they were surprised when they began speaking many different languages.

**While many were amazed at the disciple's ability to speak different languages, how did some people react? Read Acts 2:13.** Some people mocked or laughed at the disciples. The truth of the Spirit's power was evident as the people could hear and understand God's truth in their languages. This was just the beginning of how the Holy Spirit would empower the disciples to share the gospel worldwide.

**How did Peter respond to the people who didn't understand what was happening? Read Acts 2:16-18.** Peter quoted the prophet Joel and told the people that their ability to speak in many languages was proof that God's Spirit had come. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to declare God's mighty acts.

**When Peter shared the gospel with the crowd, he spoke clearly about Jesus' death and resurrection. How did the Holy Spirit's power change people? Read Acts 2:37.** The Holy Spirit helped the people realize what Peter said was true and that they needed to be saved. They were "cut to the heart". The Bible tells us that God's Word is living and active (Hebrews 4:12). It reveals what is in our hearts. God's Word and the Spirit work together to reveal our sin.

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## **How did the disciples' ability to speak in different languages point people to God?**

People wondered how the disciples were speaking languages they had never spoken before and how they were hearing of the works of God in their own native languages. Many people realized this ability was through the power of God.

**How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?** The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory.

**After the people recognized they needed to be saved from their sin, Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus, and about 3,000 people were saved. How did these new believers show that they now lived differently? Read Acts 2:42-47.** The believers wanted to be taught God's Word, give what they had to meet people's needs, praise God, and continue to meet together. The Holy Spirit had changed their hearts and made them desire to follow God with their lives.

**According to our memory verse, who receives the Holy Spirit and how?**

**How can we know if we have the Holy Spirit?** God gives every believer the Holy Spirit when we trust in Jesus. We know we have the Spirit if we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

**How does the Holy Spirit change those who trust in Jesus?** The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and minds to desire to live for God, not ourselves. He helps us live in obedience to God's Word.

**What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?**

**What does the story teach me about myself?**

**Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?**

**Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?**

**How does this story help me live on mission?**

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## **PRAYER PROMPT:**

Thank You, Lord, for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for changing and transforming us through its power. Help us be on mission, sharing the gospel with the world. Amen.

## **BIBLE SKILLS PRACTICE:**

Practice naming the 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Remind the kids that these books are in the NT and tell of Jesus' time on earth. Practice finding these books in the Bible.

Practice naming some of the disciples. During Wednesday night Bible study childcare, the kids learned a hokey song to remember all of the disciples. Play it a couple of times with your group and have them try to sing along.

You can find the song [here](#).

## **MISSIONS EMPHASIS:**

For the months of May and June, our Creek Families will collect money in the funnel for United Christian Ministries.

## **REVIEW UNIT VERSE:**

**Acts 2:38-39**

**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. **39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

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## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



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## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.

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## Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD >>>

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD >>>

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?