

### LESSON 2

## JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST)

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power to Share God's Story

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** While celebrating the first Pentecost after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and boldly proclaim the good news that Jesus is Lord!

**WORD OF WONDER:** The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

- Arrival Activity Play Stations:
  - Holy Spirit Flame
  - Wind Mover
  - Pentecost Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Fan Power
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story: Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Word of Wonder: From Acts 1:8
- Circle Time: Make a Strong Wind
- Craft: Paint Blowing
- Game: Sharing God's Story
- Responding in Worship: Flames of the Spirit
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Pom-Pom Power





## LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Empowers Us to Share God's Story

**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Acts 1:8

Oh, to have been there ...

Read Acts 2:1–6, 14, 36–41 and imagine the scene: a mighty windstorm, tongues of fire, people suddenly speaking in languages they haven't learned, a crowd baffled by what they're seeing.

And convicted by what they hear.

The disciples wasted no time in taking their new languages out for a spin. They seized the opportunity the Holy Spirit put in front of them to share God's story with the growing crowd in the street.

Peter didn't mention that Jesus' disciples were fearful of arrest or complain about the high priest. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter went straight to sharing God's story and helping his audience see their part in it.

We—you, me, all believers—can do the same. We can share God's story not from our own strength but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Don't let your kids hear this week's story as ancient history. Tell them that the same Holy Spirit who empowered Peter to share is the Holy Spirit living in them if they are followers of Jesus. When opportunities arrive, they too can share the good news of Jesus.

- How do you feel about sharing God's story with others?
- What might happen if you asked the Holy Spirit to give you opportunities to share God's story?
- How will you thank God for letting His story reach you?

—Mikal Keefer

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 **FOR LEADERS**  
**JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST)**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

Jesus gave Peter a special role as His “rock,” His chosen leader of the disciples and the early church (Matthew 16:18). He spoke to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem, including Jews from many different regions and backgrounds who had traveled to celebrate the festival.

**WHAT?**

God’s Spirit empowers the disciples to communicate the gospel through miraculous means. As Galilean men, they would have been native speakers of Aramaic. But when filled with the Spirit, their language was heard as if in each person’s native tongue.

**WHERE?**

Jesus told the 11 disciples who remained after Judas’ death to wait in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit. Jerusalem contained the temple, the central location of the Jewish faith. From there, God spread the good news of Jesus throughout the wider world.

**WHEN?**

Pentecost is the Jewish festival that comes 50 days after Passover (in Greek, Pentecost literally means 50). This would be the first Pentecost feast following Jesus’ resurrection, since the resurrected Jesus remained with His followers for about 40 days.

**CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY:**

God promised Abraham that He would bless the whole world through his family (Genesis 12:1–3). In Acts 2, we see God fulfilling this promise when He sends the Holy Spirit to fill and empower His followers to share His story with people from many nations gathered in Jerusalem.

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power to Share God’s Story  
**SCRIPTURE:** Acts 2  
**WORD OF WONDER:** From Acts 1:8

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (2–3 sheets); red, yellow, and orange tissue paper; glue sticks; disposable straws (1 per kid); assorted sizes of pom-poms; painter’s tape; coloring utensils

**RESOURCES:** Flame Sheet (4-5 copies/SG), Pentecost Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we’re getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we’ll be learning today?**

#### Play Station: Holy Spirit Flame

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print several copies of the Flame Sheet on cardstock and set out red, yellow, and orange tissue paper and glue sticks.

**Play:** Invite the kids to tear the tissue paper into pieces and work together to glue them to the printed flames on the Flame Sheets.



#### Play Station: Wind Mover

**Set up:** Set out disposable straws and pom-poms. Use painter’s tape to create a simple path on the floor or table. The maze should include straight, wavy, and curved lines.

**Play:** Give each kid a disposable straw (and make sure they don’t share). Invite the kids to blow through their straws to move pom-poms along the path.

**Leader Tip:** If time allows, kids can use their straws to move other lightweight objects in the room.

#### Play Station: Pentecost Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids could also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a time when someone helped them.

## Curiosity Activity: Fan Power

**SUPPLIES:** electric or battery-powered fan, lightweight objects (such as crepe paper streamers, bubbles, balloons, cotton balls, shredded paper)

Ahead of time, prepare some lightweight objects that can be blown by the fan, such as crepe paper streamers, bubbles, balloons, cotton balls, or shredded paper. (Be aware of any latex allergies if using balloons.) Put the objects into a pile near an outlet. Place an electric fan near the outlet but do not have it plugged into the outlet.

Point to the pile of lightweight objects. **Do you think I can move these things all over the place without touching them?** Allow the kids to respond. **I need the fan to do it! All I have to do is turn the fan on, and ...** Push the power button on the fan. When nothing happens, pretend to be confused. **What? Why won't it work?** Allow the kids to respond. **The fan doesn't have power. It needs to be connected to a source of power in order to work. Let's try plugging it in.** Plug the fan into the outlet, then turn it on and point it toward the pile of lightweight objects. **It worked!** Turn the fan off. **Now we have power to move the objects and share them with everyone!** Invite the kids to move closer to the fan. Point the fan toward the objects again while the kids catch and gather the objects (or pop the bubbles, if using bubbles).

**It reminds me of our story today. We're going to hear a story that has to do with two things from this activity: wind and power. We'll learn about when God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers. The wind reminds us of the sound when the Holy Spirit came to them. The power reminds us of the power from the Holy Spirit to help us share God's story with others. The fan needed power in order to move the objects. We'll learn today about how the Holy Spirit gives us power to share God's story.** Let the kids take turns collecting the items as the fan blows the lightweight objects.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, note cards (at least 1 per kid), markers, coloring utensils

### WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

In our story today, we learned that the Holy Spirit gives us power to share God's story.

**What part of God's story can you share with someone this week?** Allow the kids to respond. **We can tell others how much Jesus loves them. Draw a heart on your note card, then pass your picture to someone else in the room and tell that person, "Jesus loves you!"**

Invite the kids to draw hearts on their note cards with a marker and encourage them to share their cards with one another. Younger kids may need help drawing hearts.

**Our story today tells about when the Holy Spirit first came to all of Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit is still with us today when we follow Jesus! The Holy Spirit gives us power to share God's story and His love with others.**



Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does the Holy Spirit give us power?**
- **How can you share about God with others this week?**

## Craft: Paint Blowing // Read the Story

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (1 per kid), disposable straws (1 per kid), acrylic or watercolor paints, disposable spoon, smocks or aprons (1 per kid, optional), coloring utensils or chalk (optional)

**RESOURCES:** Bible Story Picture. (1/SG) House Sheet (1 per kid)

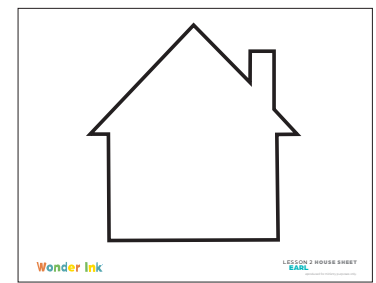
-back of coloring sheet

Ahead of time, print a House Sheet onto cardstock for each kid.

Give each kid a House Sheet and a straw. Set out acrylic or watercolor paints. To contain messes, you can give each kid a smock or apron, if available.

Use a disposable spoon to drop a small amount of paint in several drops

around the house on each kid's sheet. Invite the kids to use a straw to blow the paint until it spreads around the house on the paper. Instead of paint, the kids can use coloring utensils or chalk to color the houses and draw a picture of what they think the house looked like when the Holy Spirit came and filled the people.



**Today's story comes from the Bible and happens after Jesus went back to heaven. Jesus' friends were together in a house, waiting for the Helper He promised. They trusted Jesus, even though they did not know exactly what would happen next.**

**Suddenly, something amazing happened. There was a sound like a strong wind filling the whole house.**

**Use your straw to blow the paint across your paper like wind.**

**The Holy Spirit came and filled the people in the house. It looked like little flames above their heads, and God's power was with them.**

**Say this with me: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.** *Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.*

**The disciples began to speak in different languages, and people from many places heard about Jesus. God was helping them share His story.**

**Keep blowing the paint and watching it spread around the house.**

**Say this with me: The Holy Spirit gives us power.** *The Holy Spirit gives us power.*

**Peter told the people about Jesus, and many people believed and chose to follow Him.**



**Say this with me: Follow Jesus.** *Follow Jesus.*

**How does the Holy Spirit help us?** Allow a few responses.

**The Holy Spirit helps us be brave and tell others about Jesus.**

**Say this with me: The Holy Spirit helps me.** *The Holy Spirit helps me.*

**As your paint moves all around your house, remember how the Holy Spirit filled the whole house that day.**

**Say this with me: **The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power to Share God's Story!****

## Circle Time: Make a Strong Wind

**SUPPLIES:** disposable straws (1 per kid), table tennis ball

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Give each kid a disposable straw (make sure they don't put their mouths on each other's straws). Invite them to blow into their straws to make "wind." **What sound did Jesus' followers hear when the Holy Spirit came to them?** Allow the kids to respond. **They heard what sounded like a strong wind. What does wind sound like?** Pause to allow the kids to respond. **We're going to use our straws to blow "strong wind" to make this ball** (point to the table tennis ball) **move around the circle. As we do, we can remember when God sent the Holy Spirit to help His people. The Holy Spirit empowers us to share God's story!**

Invite the kids to blow through their straws toward the table tennis ball to make it move around the circle (this can also be done without straws if you don't have straws available). When you say, "Freeze," whoever is closest to the ball will answer a question. Play several rounds until all the questions have been answered.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What holiday was being celebrated when the Holy Spirit came?** (*Pentecost*)
- **What sound filled the room when the Holy Spirit came?** (*blowing wind*)
- **How did the people talk when the Holy Spirit came to them?** (*in other languages that they didn't know*)
- **What do you think the Holy Spirit gives us power to do?** (*share God's story with others*)
- **What did Peter tell the people to do for the Holy Spirit to fill them and live in them?** (*ask God to forgive them, trust in Jesus*)
- **How do you need the Holy Spirit's help and power this week?**
- **What could you tell someone about Jesus?**

**The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise presence. God sent the Holy Spirit to His followers long ago, and God gives the Holy Spirit to us too. The Holy Spirit lives in us when we follow Jesus, and the Holy Spirit gives us the power to share about Jesus. We can tell God, "Thank You" for the Holy Spirit.**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us. God hears all our prayers!

## Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

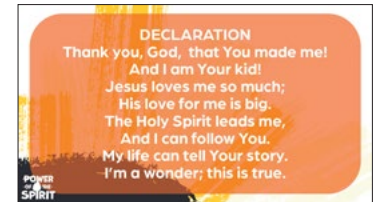
March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (*Kids repeat words and motions.*)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that You know us and want us to know You. Help us learn from You today so we can know You and love others. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit, who leads us, so we can share Your story with others. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

**Today we'll learn about when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers and how the Holy Spirit helps us. Let's sing and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit!**

Play songs Take You at Your Word, Happy Day and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible, and what do I see?** (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (*Point to yourself.*)

**Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Acts in the Bible, in the New Testament.**

Read the Experience It Script on the following page.

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), Bible

**RESOURCES:** [Fire and Wind Pictures \(1/SG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Fire and Wind Pictures and cut apart the pictures. Hold Bible up for kids to see. Explain that this is a true story from God's Word.

**Jesus died and came back to life. Then He gave His disciples (or followers) a special mission. Jesus told them to share the things He did and taught with everyone all around the world. Jesus told the disciples to tell everyone how He died and came back to life so people could be close with God. Everyone who trusts in Jesus can become part of God's family.**



**This mission was a little scary for the disciples. They weren't trained to talk with lots of people. And the disciples knew that some people did not want to hear the message about Jesus. But the disciples didn't have to do this mission without God's help. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide them and give them power to share His story. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. Jesus told the disciples to go wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came. Then Jesus rose up into the air and disappeared in the clouds.**

**The disciples went back to Jerusalem and waited. On the holiday called Pentecost, a lot of Jesus' followers were in a large room. There was a loud sound like strong wind blowing in!**

Hold up the wind picture and wave it around like it is blowing in the wind.

**Then something that looked like flames went on top of each person there.**

Hold up the fire picture above your head.

**The Holy Spirit filled each of them. Then the Holy Spirit lived inside them!**

**Just like Jesus promised, the Spirit gave the disciples power to tell Jesus' story. The disciples were so brave after the Spirit filled them. Right away, they went outside to tell others about Jesus.**

**With the Spirit inside of them, the disciples even started to speak in languages they didn't know. The other Jewish people visiting from far away were amazed to hear the story of Jesus in their own language.**

Look at your friend and show your amazed face.

**Then Peter got up in front of all the people and told them that the Holy Spirit filled him and the others with power. Peter told them that long ago God said that the Holy Spirit was going to come. Peter told all the people to ask God to forgive them for the wrong things they had done. He told them to become followers of Jesus. Then the Holy Spirit would fill them too. The people did those things. That day, three thousand people trusted in Jesus because of what Peter and the other disciples shared.**

**God chose to give the Holy Spirit to Jesus' first followers on Pentecost. He sent the Holy Spirit to give people power to share His story so people could be close with Him. Peter said that the Holy Spirit was not only for the first disciples but also for everyone who trusts Jesus and follows Him. Just as He did long ago on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit gives us power to share God's story.**

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO SHARE GOD'S STORY. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**Many years before Jesus was born, in the Old Testament, a messenger of God named Joel gave a message from God that one day, God would send His Spirit to His people (Joel 2:28–29). Jesus promised to send a helper to His followers (Acts 1:8). Both of those things happened at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came to the followers of Jesus.**

## Prayer and Blessing

After finishing the story, pray with them, and thank God for the Holy Spirit.

**Hold your hands up and wave them side to side as I say, “Holy Spirit” and show your muscles when I say, “power.” Let’s pray and talk to God.**

**God, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit (hands up, waving) to give us power (show muscles) to share about Jesus. Thank You for hearing our prayers and caring about us. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** God gives us the Holy Spirit to comfort us, help us, and give us power. May you walk in the power of the Holy Spirit this week, sharing the story of Jesus with your family and friends.

## Closing Game: Pom-Pom Power

**SUPPLIES:** small parachute, blanket, or towel; bucket or bowl; pom-poms in a variety of colors and sizes

Spread a parachute (or blanket or towel) on the floor. Invite the kids to sit around it. Set out a bucket or bowl filled with pom-poms.

**Today we learned from God’s big story that the Holy Spirit gives us power to share the story of Jesus. Let’s play a game where we’ll need power to throw pom-poms in the air and catch them with a parachute. The Holy Spirit gives us ... (invite kids to shout with you) power!**

Invite the kids to throw pom-poms in the middle of the parachute (or blanket or towel). **We’ll hold on to the parachute and walk in a circle. When I say, “up,” we’ll all lift the parachute high above our heads. When it’s above our heads, we’ll quickly pull it down together onto the floor. That will send the pom-poms in the air. We’ll try to catch all of the pom-poms back on the parachute after they fly up in the air. We can all work together to help one another have power as we toss the pom-poms and remember how the Holy Spirit helps us have power to share God’s story with others.**

Encourage the kids to hold onto the parachute to lift it off the floor. Have them walk in a circle while holding the parachute. When you tell them to stop, they can lift the parachute and then pull it quickly down to the ground to make the pom-poms fly into the air. If the pom-poms fly all over the room, have a race to see who can get the most back into the bucket or bowl.

## **VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO**

While you wait for parents to arrive, bring out the Play Stations and play the God's Big Story video for review.

