

LESSON 2

JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST)

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Empowers Us 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: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other. —Acts 1:8

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: What Language Is It?
 - OPTION 2 Multisensory Activity: Multilingual!
- Welcome Question: When have you had to speak in front of people? How did it make you feel?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Take You at Your Word, You Have Overcome
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Blessing Your Kids



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: 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.

LESSON 2 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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

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WORD OF WONDER: Acts 1:8

As kids arrive...

20 minutes before service begins, leaders are in place ready to welcome kids.

Display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Be intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: What Language Is It?

SUPPLIES: marker (prep only), paper (9 sheets), masking or painter's tape

Ahead of time, write each of the following words with a marker on a separate sheet of paper: Spanish, French, Swahili, Arabic, Russian, Italian, Mandarin (Chinese), German, and Afrikaans. Tape these sheets up all around the room, making sure to leave some space in between each sheet.



Display the [What Language Is It? Slide](#) and gather the kids. **Let's do an activity called What Language Is It? In this activity, we'll watch a video that shows people speaking a phrase in different languages. Each time you hear the phrase in a new language, your job is to decide which language you think it is and move to stand next to the correct sign. For example, if you think the phrase in German, you'll go to the German sign.** Point to and read all nine language signs around the room.

Begin the activity by playing the [What Language Is It? Video](#) until the first phrase is spoken. Then pause to give kids a chance to move to the sign they think is correct. Play the video to reveal the correct answer. Continue this way through all nine languages. (The phrases are in the following language order: French, Spanish, Swahili, Mandarin [Chinese], Afrikaans, Russian, Arabic, German, Italian.) The very last clip will repeat the phrase in English—Jesus is Lord!

Display the Pentecost Wonder Truth Slide. It's amazing to hear so many languages declaring that Jesus is Lord! Today we're going to hear how God helped people learn about Him in their own languages as we discover our Wonder Truth: **THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO SHARE GOD'S STORY.**



Leader Tip: Make this activity even more active by assigning kids certain ways to move to the language signs each time, such as jumping, walking in slow motion, and walking on tiptoes.

Make It Inclusive: If any kids or leaders know sign language, invite them to demonstrate how to sign "Jesus is Lord." If anyone uses a voice output device/augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), show how "Jesus is Lord" can be communicated in that way. Then celebrate that there are so many ways people can declare that Jesus is Lord!

OPTION 2 Multisensory Activity: Multilingual!

SUPPLIES: cardstock, scissors (prep only), paper clips or resealable baggies (1 per 2–4 kids; optional: 1 per kid)

RESOURCES: Multilingual Cards (1 set per 2–4 kids, optional: 1 set per kid) *By Request

Ahead of time, print the Multilingual Cards on cardstock, using two-sided printing with the flip on the long edge. You'll need one set for every 2–4 kids. (Print a set for each kid if you plan on sending them home with the kids.) Cut apart the cards, shuffle each set, and use a paper clip or resealable baggie to keep each set separate.



Display the Multilingual! Slide and gather the kids. **There are about 7,000 different languages spoken in the world today! Do any of you speak a different language? Invite responses. Do you know any words or phrases in a different language, like "Hello" or "Thank you"? Allow kids to share. There are people all over the world worshiping Jesus today in thousands of languages! Let's do an activity called Multilingual! The word multilingual means speaking in multiple languages, and today we're going to learn an important phrase in multiple languages!**



Help kids form groups of 2–4 and give each group a set of Multilingual Cards. Instruct them to lay their cards out in front of them with only the side that lists a language showing.

In this activity, we'll watch a video that shows people speaking a phrase in different languages. Each time you hear the phrase in a new language, your job is to work with your group to decide which language you think it is, find that card, and flip it over to see if the phrase listed on the back matches the one on the video. Once you know which language it is, try repeating the phrase!

Begin the activity by playing the [What Language Is It? Video](#) until the first phrase is spoken. Then pause to give kids a chance to find and flip over the card they think is correct and repeat the phrase. Then play the video to reveal the correct answer. Continue this way through all nine languages.

(The phrases are in the following language order: French, Spanish, Swahili, Mandarin [Chinese], Afrikaans, Russian, Arabic, German, Italian.) The very last clip will repeat the phrase in English—Jesus is Lord!

Display the Pentecost Wonder Truth Slide. **It's amazing to hear so many languages declaring that Jesus is Lord! Today we're going to hear how God helped people learn about Him in their own languages as we discover our Wonder Truth: THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO SHARE GOD'S STORY.**



If you prepared a set of the Multilingual Cards for each kid, hand them out and invite kids to take them home and teach the phrase “Jesus is Lord” in nine languages to their friends and family.

Leader Tip: Add more physical activity by having each group choose which language they think is being spoken and take turns running that card up to the front.

Make It Inclusive: If any kids or leaders know sign language, invite them to demonstrate how to sign “Jesus is Lord.” If anyone uses a voice output device/augmentative and alternative communication (AAC), show how “Jesus is Lord” can be communicated in that way. Then celebrate that there are so many ways people can declare that Jesus is Lord!

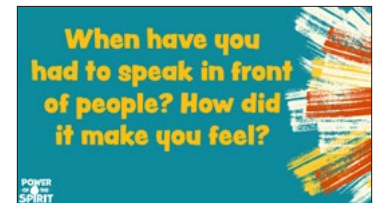
Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

At service start time, draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question. Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

Sometimes it's hard to speak in front of others. Today we're going to learn about how God sent His Spirit to help His followers share His big story with others. But first, it's time for small group!



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the [Pentecost Declaration Slide](#). Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

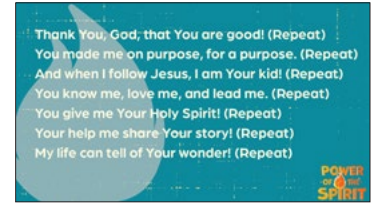
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You give me Your Holy Spirit! (Kids repeat.)

You help me share Your story! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, You are amazing! We invite Your Holy Spirit to lead us and teach us Your ways. Help us listen to Your voice. Help us understand how precious we are to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll hear about how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His followers and empowered them to share God's story. Let's praise and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit! Play songs [Take You at Your Word](#), [You Have Overcome](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise

God's Big Story

Display the [Pentecost Title Slide](#).

Today we are learning about the moment Jesus kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit. As you watch, think about how the disciples changed after the Holy Spirit came and why so many people responded to Peter's message.

Watch the [God's Big Story Video](#).



LESSON 2 JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT (PENTECOST) EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: flameless tealights (1 per kid actor), painter's tape

RESOURCES: *Wonder Truth Stickers* (1 sticker/kid)

As you tell part of God's big story today, several kids will play the role of early believers receiving Jesus' message. If your group and stage area are large, you'll call about 8–10 kids up to act. If your group and stage area are small, you'll call about 3–5 kids up. You'll need a flameless tealight for each kid actor. Keep the tealights off to the side until indicated.

Ahead of time, print the Wonder Truth Stickers out and cut, one per kid. At the end of the Experience It! Script, give a sticker to each kid and a roll of tape to each leader to help them tape to their shirt.



Tell them where you first heard God's story, when you first trusted Jesus and followed Him, and how the Holy Spirit has helped you share God's story with others. Encourage kids with the truth that the Holy Spirit will empower them to share God's story too! If time allows, give kids an opportunity to share their stories of when they first began following Jesus.

Today I'll need your help telling this part of God's big story.

Choose several kids to stand on stage in a group and act as the disciples. As you say the scripted words below, encourage the kids on stage to react as they imagine the disciples would have.

After Jesus died and came back to life, He gathered all His disciples together and gave them a special mission. Jesus would soon go up to heaven with God, and He wanted them to share the things He had done and taught with everyone all around the world. Most importantly, Jesus commanded them to tell everyone how He had died and come back to life to heal the broken relationship between people and God. Everyone who trusted in Jesus would become part of God's family.

Direct the kids on stage to look uncertain.

The disciples were a little nervous about this mission. They weren't necessarily well educated or good at speaking to crowds. And they knew there would be people who didn't want to hear the message they had to share.

Good thing Jesus had a plan! Jesus promised that He would 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 His disciples to go wait in Jerusalem until they received the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus rose up off the ground and into the air until He disappeared in the clouds.

The disciples returned to Jerusalem and waited for Jesus to send the Holy Spirit, just as He had told them to do.

Direct the kids to gather on one side of the stage and sit down. They can act as though they are waiting for something.

On the holiday called Pentecost, Jesus' followers were gathered in a large room. Pentecost was a time when people celebrated the first crops that sprang up during the harvest season. Little did the disciples know that on this particular holiday, Jesus would keep His promise and send the Holy Spirit to the first people who believed in Him!

Hand each actor on stage a flameless tealight, directing them to hold it behind their backs, out of sight of the audience. So, there they were, the disciples waiting together in this room, when the whole house filled with a sound like strong wind blowing!

(To the kids in the audience) **Everyone, cup your hands around your mouth and blow or whistle to make the sound of a strong wind!**

Allow the sounds to grow for a few moments, then shout above the noise. Signal for the disciples to turn on their tealights and hold them over their heads.

Something that looked like flames came and rested on top of each person there. At that moment, the Holy Spirit filled each of them.

Just like Jesus promised, the Spirit empowered the disciples to tell Jesus' story. The disciples were so courageous after the Spirit filled them that they immediately went outside and started to share Jesus' message with others who had come to Jerusalem for the holiday.

With the Spirit inside of them, the disciples even started to speak in languages they had never learned before!

Signal to the crowd to stop the wind sounds. Direct the disciples on stage to lower their candles and pretend to talk in other languages. (If they speak another language or know a foreign word or phrase, such as "Jesus is Lord" from the Curiosity activity, encourage them to speak it.)

Direct the disciples to step off the stage area and into the audience, bending to talk with the kids as if sharing the story of Jesus.

The other Jewish people visiting from far away were amazed to hear the story of Jesus in the languages of their own lands.

Direct the audience to look like they're amazed!

The story isn't quite finished yet, but let's thank our volunteers as they take a seat.

Collect the flameless tealights as you direct the disciples to return to their seats in the audience.

Then Peter got up in front of all the people and told them that the Holy Spirit had filled him and the other disciples with power to speak in other languages. Peter said that long ago God had given a message about the coming of the Holy Spirit, and now Jesus had fulfilled that message by dying and rising again.

When Peter finished, the people asked, "What should we do?" Invite the audience to repeat the question. Peter told them to ask God for forgiveness for the wrong things they had done, to be baptized—cleansed with water as a symbol of God washing them clean of their sins—and to commit to being followers of Jesus. Then they too would receive the Holy Spirit! That day, three thousand people trusted in Jesus because of the message Peter and the other disciples shared.

God chose Pentecost—the holiday celebrating the first crops of the season—to give the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ first followers. He empowered men and women with the Holy Spirit to share His story and bring all those people into a new relationship with Him. But Peter said that the Holy Spirit was not only for the disciples then but also for everyone who would trust Jesus and become His disciples. Just as He did long ago on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowers us to share God’s story.

If you have Wonder Truth Stickers for each kid, hand them out now as you tell kids your own story of trusting and following Jesus.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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



During the time of the Old Testament, God promised Abraham that He would bless the whole world through his family (Genesis 12:1–3). Many, many years later, after Jesus died, came back to life, and went up to heaven, something amazing happened. God kept His promise by sending the Holy Spirit to fill and help His followers tell people gathered in Jerusalem from many different nations about Jesus.

In Awe of God’s Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God’s story.

What part of today’s story is the easiest for you to imagine? Invite kids to close their eyes and imagine the story. **What do you notice? What emotions do you feel?** Invite kids to share freely.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson. ***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

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 has not left us alone; He's given us the Holy Spirit to comfort, guide, and strengthen us. May you go this week, filled with the Spirit and empowered to share His story with others.