

LIFE POINT

All people need to hear that Jesus is the Savior.

PETER PREACHED AT PENTECOST



LEADER BIBLE STUDY



LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Holy Spirit is given to a person when he trusts Jesus as his Savior and Lord.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Acts 2:1-15, 22-24, 36-41

UNIT VERSE

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16 (CSB)

WEEKLY VERSE

“Repent and be baptized, each 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 (CSB)

SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

May 3

CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION

Before His death, Jesus promised His disciples, “The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you” (John 14:26). After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples several times. Jesus told them to remain in Jerusalem, adding this promise, “for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days” (Acts 1:5).

Shortly after Jesus’ ascension, Jews from all over the world gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost, also known as *Shavuot* or the “Feast of Weeks,” is celebrated in commemoration of the day God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

The disciples huddled together in one room for several days, where they remained in prayer together. (Acts 1:14) Suddenly, the sound of a violent wind and a tongue of fire over each disciple signaled the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Moses’ meeting with God on Mount Sinai included the sound of trumpets, fire, and a powerful earthquake. (Exodus 19:18-19) The arrival of the Holy Spirit included the sound of a mighty wind, tongues of fire, and boldness. On this occasion, Pentecost did not represent the giving of the Law but rather the giving of the Holy Spirit.

Soon a confused crowd gathered around the disciples, wondering how each could hear the message in his own language. The Holy Spirit, which appeared as a “tongue” of fire over each disciple, enabled the men to speak in the “tongues,” or languages, of people from all over the world.

Peter, the man who had three times denied knowing Jesus (Mark 14:66-72), now boldly proclaimed the gospel. He preached, “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” Through the power of Peter’s message, three thousand people accepted the gospel message and were baptized that day!

How was Peter able to preach with such power? The Holy Spirit transformed the disciples from having a spirit of fear to a spirit of boldness, and the Holy Spirit today enables believers to share the gospel with that same boldness.

As you pray this week, ask the Lord to give you the courage to share the gospel message with someone new. Ask Him to bring specific people to mind so that you might pray for the Holy Spirit to move in his or her heart. When those gospel conversations occur, speak boldly as you tell how Jesus transforms lives.



FREE weekly Bible Studies for Life Kids audio training

<http://www.ministrygrid.com/bible-studies-for-life-kids-audio-training>



PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Guide preteens to discuss their current Bible reading habits. How often do they read? Do they read a paper or digital copy? Do they talk about what they have read?
- Distribute and explain the “Bingo Board.” Preteens will receive a copy each week. It is designed to provide ideas to encourage them to read the Bible daily.
- Show the “Weekly Reading Suggestions” for Week 1. If preteens are not sure what to read this week, this guide will help them get started.
- Express your excitement for preteens to share what they read when you meet again.

› Pack Item
21: “Bingo Board”—Make copies (1 per preteen).

› Printables:
“Weekly Reading Suggestions”—Print copies (1 per preteen) of Week 1.

Teaching Tip: Each session, make copies (1 per preteen) of the “Bingo Board” and the Printables: “Weekly Reading Suggestions” for the session front/back on the same sheet of paper.



MISSIONS EMPHASIS



- Show the “Central Asian Peoples” video or tell the missions story.
- Use the “Central Asia Map” to point to some countries in Central Asia.
- Lead kids to name facts they learned about Central Asia from the video. (*Answers will vary, but might include: Only 1 of every 10,000 people is a follower of Jesus, Christian leaders are being trained to tell people about Jesus, recently over 68,000 people heard about Jesus.*)
- Distribute paper and pencils as you explain that Landay poems are a popular kind of poetry in Afghanistan. They can be as short as a couplet of 2 lines; 9 syllables in the first line and 13 syllables in the second line. Themes usually deal with love, grief, homeland, war, and separation.
- Encourage preteens to write a Landay poem about Central Asia.
- Pray for missionaries in Central Asia as they find ways to tell the people about Jesus.

› Videos

› Printables:
“Unit 3 Missions:
Central Asian Peoples”
“Central Asia Map”

› paper

› pencils



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- Form four groups and give each group chart paper and markers.
- Instruct groups to begin by having preteens share their names and something they have a hard time waiting for.
- Call for attention. Tell preteens you will give each group a scenario of waiting. The group is to draw what waiting for that could look like.
- Give each group a waiting scenario: for a friend to arrive, for grades to be posted, to see what teams made the championship, or for it to be a favorite holiday. Allow time for preteens to discuss and create drawings.
- Invite each group to share its scenario and picture.
- Thank preteens for their creativity. Read Acts 1:4-5. Say: “Jesus told the apostles to wait for the Holy Spirit. Today we will learn about what happened when He came.”

› 4 pieces of chart paper

› 4 sets of markers



STUDY THE BIBLE

1. GETTING TO THE POINT

- ✱ • Display the “Unit 3 Banner” and invite preteens to read it with you.
- Guide preteens to the New Testament of their Bibles. Explain that the first four books are accounts of Jesus’ time on earth.
- Turn to Acts. Explain that this book tells the acts of the apostles and shares how the early church was formed. Jews had a long tradition of festivals and customs from what we call the Old Testament. Christ’s life on earth, death, burial, and resurrection fulfilled prophecies from the Old Testament, and He became our Passover Lamb. The festivals and laws Jews were accustomed to pointed to Jesus.
- ✱ • Show the teaching picture and explain that today’s passage mentions the day of Pentecost and indicates that Jews from several places were in the same city. Many Jews were likely in Jerusalem for a festival, and they were able to witness a marvelous gift from God.
- ✱ • Show the “Scripture Sketches” video.

2. LOOK IN THE BOOK

› Pack Items

19: “Unit 3 Banner”

20: “Unit 3 Verse”

22: “Pentecost

Pictures”—Place the cards 1–3 in the Acts 2:1-15 bag, cards 4–5 in the Acts 2:22-24 bag, and the cards 6–7 in the Acts 2:36-41 bag. Place tissue paper on top to look like gifts. Place the bags at the front of the room.

› Teaching Picture 10

› Music

› Videos

› scissors

› marker, 3 small gift bags—Write a passage on the outside of each bag: Acts 2:1-15; Acts 2:22-24; Acts 2:36-41.

› tissue paper

- Point out the three gift bags at the front of the room.
- Explain that preteens will read about a gift being given to those who believe in Jesus.
- Read Acts 2:1-15. Invite a preteen to open the gift bag for that passage.
- Display the three “Pentecost Pictures” in order of the passage. Do NOT read the questions yet. Save those for the Review Challenge. Explain that the apostles were waiting in Jerusalem as instructed by Jesus. In this case, the Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak other languages. This allowed Jews from other nations (who spoke other languages) to hear the message of Jesus in a language they understood. This is represented in the picture with the exclamation points and question marks. The third picture of the apostles with arms raised reminds the group that the crowd was amazed.
- Read Acts 2:22-24. Invite a preteen to open the corresponding gift bag. Display the pictures of the cross and empty tomb, reminding preteens of what Jesus did on earth. As Peter addressed the crowd, he reminded them who Jesus is and what the people had done to Him.
- Read Acts 2:36-41. Invite a volunteer to open the corresponding gift bag. Display the picture of the U-turn arrow. As Peter spoke, people in the crowd began to realize the truth about Jesus. Peter directed them to repent and be baptized. *Repent* means “to turn away from sin.” They needed to change directions and follow Jesus’ teachings. Those who followed Jesus would be given the gift of the Holy Spirit. Display the coordinating Holy Spirit card.



3. REVIEW CHALLENGE

- Shuffle the “Pentecost Pictures.” Distribute the cards around the room and lead preteens to gather as groups around a card near them.
- Give preteens time to read the question on their cards with their groups and come up with an answer.
- Ask preteens for the picture that represents what happened first in today’s reading. Collect that card and ask the review question on the back. There are numbers with the review questions, so you can confirm the order.
- Repeat until all questions have been asked and answered.
- ~~Lead preteens to sing “Game Changer.”~~

4. UNIT VERSE CHALLENGE

- * Direct attention to the “Unit 3 Verse” and read it with preteens.
- Ask preteens to share what they know about this verse. Have they heard it before? What does it make them think of?
- Connect the unit verse to today’s passage. Acts 2:38-39 describes how the Holy Spirit would be given to believers and that the promise was for all people. God gives salvation through Jesus to Jews as well as other people groups who believe in Him. The Holy Spirit is given to all believers.
- Encourage preteens to memorize Romans 1:16.

5. APPLY THE BIBLE AND PRAY

- * Show “The Adventures of Dab and Derek” video.
- Remind the group that Peter instructed the crowd to repent and be baptized. Repentance is turning away from sin and going the other direction, toward Jesus. Baptism is an action taken to obey Scripture and profess Christ.
- Acknowledge that preteens may have different responses to today’s lesson. Some may repent and become believers. Some may ask questions about baptism. Some may be encouraged to share the message of Jesus with others.
- Pray, thanking God that through repentance, people can come to Him. Thank Him for salvation through Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers.
- Dismiss preteens to Live It Out groups.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › What did the apostles hear? (*a sound like a mighty wind*)
- › How did the apostles learn new languages? (*The Holy Spirit gave them the ability.*)
- › How did the crowd respond? (*amazed, others mocked*)
- › What is some evidence of Jesus’ authority? (*miracles, wonders, signs*)
- › Why was Jesus’ tomb empty? (*God raised Him.*)
- › What directions did Peter give the crowd? (*Repent and be baptized.*)
- › What is the relationship between the Holy Spirit and people? (*The Holy Spirit is given to a person when he trusts Jesus as his Savior and Lord.*)

Option: Memorize the Weekly Bible Verse: Acts 2:38.



LIVE IT OUT

CHOICE 1

- › activity supplies (1 set per 4 preteens):
 - ¼ cup baking soda
 - ¾ cup vinegar
 - 1 balloon
 - 1 empty water bottle
 - 1 funnel
- › plastic tablecloth—Cover the activity area.
- › Set up an experiment station for each group of 4 preteens.

CHOICE 2

- › masking tape—Use the tape to create multiple lines across the length of the room. Create zig zags and swirls instead of straight lines. Leave enough room between the lines so preteens can move around them.
- › bandanas or blindfolds (optional)

CHOICE 1

CONDUCT AN EXPERIMENT

- Ask preteens to look at the materials. What do they think they will do? Remind preteens to follow directions regarding what to do with each of the materials to prevent unnecessary spills.
- Form groups of four.
- Direct preteens to determine whose middle name comes first alphabetically. This person is Number 1 for that group. Numbers 2–4 are determined by the alphabetical order of the remaining names.
- Tell the Number 1s to stretch out the balloon, then hold the neck of the balloon, with the funnel inside the balloon.
- Direct Number 2s to pour the baking soda into the balloon. They will need to pour slowly enough to monitor the funnel. Gently shaking the funnel can help clumps go down. The balloon will be very full.
- Instruct Number 3s to use the funnel to pour the vinegar into the empty water bottle. It will help if someone holds the water bottle still for them.
- Guide Number 4s to attach the balloon to the mouth of the water bottle, then flip the balloon up so that the baking soda falls into the vinegar. The reaction will begin promptly, so they need to hold the balloon onto the bottle firmly to prevent spills.
- Allow a moment for preteens to observe the reaction. They should see the balloon inflating from the gas produced by the chemical reaction.
- Explain that in today's Bible story, the disciples were gathered and waiting. They heard a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and the Holy Spirit came as promised. The Holy Spirit changed them. In this case, they were able to speak new languages. The balloons in today's activity were changed and inflated. When people are changed and become believers, they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

CHOICE 2

COMPLETE THE COURSE

- Show preteens the tape lines on the floor. Explain that they will work in pairs, with one preteen acting as a guide giving directions while the other is the walker who must follow the lines without looking.
- Pair preteens and have them tell their partner the title of their favorite book or movie. Whoever chooses the title that comes first alphabetically will start as the guide.
- Direct the walkers to stand at the end of a tape line. They may use the bandana to blindfold themselves or use their hands to cover their eyes. Direct the guides to stand near their walkers.
- Allow time for the guides to talk to their partners, using directional words to keep them walking on the tape line. This activity is not about time or having to start over. Focus on the preteens listening to each other's



LIVE IT OUT

directions and guidance.

- Invite each pair to switch roles. They can also move to a different tape line if desired. Allow time for the new guides to help their partners.
- Direct the group to sit down when everyone has had a chance to be a guide and a walker.
- Ask volunteers to share what it was like to be the guide and what it was like to be the walker. Having a guide certainly helps when you cannot see the way to go!
- Remind preteens of today's Bible story. They learned that the Holy Spirit is given to a person when he trusts Jesus as his Savior and Lord. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak new languages to tell others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit guides believers, helping them to live a Christlike life and tell others about Jesus.

CHOICE 3

SOLVE THE PUZZLE

- Play "Not Ashamed" and allow a few minutes for preteens to complete the "Crossword Summary" on their Kids Activity Pages.
- Read each clue aloud, inviting preteens to say the answers.
- Ask: "Who receives the Holy Spirit?"
- Remind preteens that Acts 2:39 says the promise, the Holy Spirit, is for all who believe. This unit will explore passages from the book of Acts, when Jesus' death and resurrection had changed everything. The Messiah that Jews were waiting for had come. Now, Jesus had sent the Holy Spirit as promised. This promise was extended to all who believe, not just the Jews. God was inviting everyone into His family. Challenge preteens to look for this idea throughout the unit.
- Encourage preteens to consider this idea of God's promise extending to all. (Acts 2:39) Is there someone they know who needs to hear about salvation through Jesus? Can they think of someone who needs to know she is included, and that Jesus can be her Savior, too?
- Set out paper and markers.
- Invite preteens to write a letter or create a comic strip telling about Jesus. Challenge them to share it with someone this week.

WRAP UP

- Remind preteens to read the Bible each day this week and ensure they have a copy of the "Bingo Board" and "Weekly Reading Suggestions."
- Pray, thanking God for His gift of the Holy Spirit to those who trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord.
- Remind preteens to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.

CHOICE 3

- › Kids Activity Pages:
"Crossword Summary"
- › Music
- › pencils
- › paper
- › markers