

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 urges people to receive God's salvation.

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

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)

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.

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PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: "God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all the same person, but they have different roles. All three have existed since the beginning of time, and all three are still at work today. During this unit, we will talk about the Holy Spirit."
- Direct kids to open their Bibles to the book of Acts.
- Encourage kids to fill in the A section on the "Outline of Acts."
- Teach that one of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to urge people to receive God's salvation.
- ~~Lead kids to sing "Shine on Me."~~

- › Pack Item
20: "Outline of Acts"—
Display the poster on a focal wall.
- › Music
- › Bibles
- › masking tape
- › marker
- › "Outline of Acts"
Section A Answers:
1. Pentecost, Holy;
2. 3,000



MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- ✱ Show the "Central Asian Peoples" video or tell the missions story.
- ✱ Use the "Central Asia Map," to show some of the countries in the video.
- 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 kids to write a Landay poem about Central Asia.
- Pray for missionaries in Central Asia as they find ways to tell the people about Jesus.

Teaching Tip: Save the "Outline of Acts" for use throughout the unit.

- › Videos
- › Printables:
"Unit 3 Missions:
Central Asian Peoples"
"Central Asia Map"
- › paper
- › pencils



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

- Distribute paper and dot stickers to kids.
- Ask kids to think of ways they learn about Jesus. (*read the Bible, pray, sing a worship song, talk about Jesus with friends, hear others teach*)
- Explain that each time these happen, we add to our knowledge of Jesus.
- Direct kids to tape their papers to their upper arms.
- Lead kids to think of a truth about Jesus, then tell others this truth as they walk around the room. Every time they tell this truth, they are to place a sticker on the person's paper on their arms to signify they were told. Allow kids to "spread" the truth of Jesus until all stickers are gone.
- ✱ Show the "Unit 3 Banner" and comment: "It is important to talk about Jesus. People can't believe unless they hear about Jesus!"

- › Pack Item
18: "Unit 3 Banner"
- › paper
- › dot stickers (1 sheet per person)
- › masking tape
- › Option: "Peter Preached at Pentecost" coloring page (Printables)



STUDY THE BIBLE

› Pack Items

18: “Unit 3 Banner”

19: “Unit 3 Verse”

› Teaching Picture 10

› Music

› Videos

› marker

› paper—Write each Review Question answer on a separate sheet. Place the papers on the floor throughout the room. **Option:** “Review Answers” (Printables)

1. BIBLE STORY

- Remind kids that all people need to hear that Jesus is the Savior.
- Lead kids to sing “Game Changer.”
- Guide kids to turn in their Bibles to Acts 2.
- ✳️ • Show the teaching picture and instruct kids to listen to the Bible story and think of some things that are mentioned about the Holy Spirit.
- Open your Bible to Acts 2 and tell the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY: PETER PREACHED AT PENTECOST

On a special day called Pentecost, Jesus’ followers were together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were staying. The Holy Spirit came to the believers like fiery flames and rested on them. When that happened, the believers were able to speak in different languages.

Travelers from all over were in the city of Jerusalem. They were faithful men from every nation under heaven. When they heard these sounds, a crowd gathered. The people were confused because each person heard the disciples speaking in his own language. “How can this be?” they asked.

Some people made fun of the disciples and laughed at them.

Peter stood up and said, “Pay attention! These people are doing what the prophets predicted. You allowed evil people to nail Jesus to a cross and kill Him, but God raised Jesus from the grave. We are all witnesses of this, for we have seen Him! So let all of Israel know that God has made Jesus—the One you crucified—both Lord and Messiah!”

When the people heard this, they became upset and were filled with guilt. They asked Peter and the disciples, “What should we do?”

Peter said, “Repent, turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Those who believed Peter’s message believed Jesus was the Savior and were baptized. That day about 3,000 people were added to the believers and formed the first church.

—BASED ON ACTS 2:1-15, 22-24, 36-41



2. REVIEW

- Explain that you will ask a Review Question. The kids will walk to and stand by the correct “Review Answer” for the question.
- Praise the kids’ efforts and correct any wrong guesses.
- * Show the “Scripture Sketches” video.

3. LIFE ACTION

- Challenge kids to explain the person of the Holy Spirit. (This is a hard concept!) Explain that the Holy Spirit is God, and God gives the Holy Spirit to all those who trust in Jesus as their Savior.
- State: “God sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sins and restore our relationship with God. It is the Holy Spirit’s job to help us be more like Jesus. For a Christian, it is the goal to be more like Christ every day.”
- Teach that the Holy Spirit gives us power to do God’s work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.
- Encourage kids to pray, thanking God that He sent Jesus to be our Savior and the Holy Spirit to guide us.
- * Show “The Adventures of Dab and Derek” video.

4. UNIT VERSE

- * Show the “Unit 3 Verse” and lead kids to say the verse aloud.
- Explain that with any Bible verse, it is important to understand what the verse means. To do that, each word and phrase of the verse can be looked at separately and studied.
- Point out the first section of the verse (I am not ashamed of the gospel) and allow kids to share what words they feel are important.
- Mention that the word *I* means that this verse can be personalized. Each person can claim this as his own verse. *Ashamed* is “a feeling of guilt or embarrassment.” This verse says we are not to have those feelings about the gospel. *Gospel* is “the good news of Jesus.” It is Jesus’ story of what He did to save people from their sins. The gospel is Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.
- Direct kids to reword the phrase in their own words, using the definitions explained so far. It may sound something like this: “Sam is not embarrassed of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.”
- Remind kids we are not to rewrite God’s Word, but thinking about what Scripture says and how to break it down is very important to our understanding it.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › How did the Holy Spirit come to the believers at Pentecost? (*like fiery flames; rested on them*)
- › What special ability did the Holy Spirit give Jesus’ followers on Pentecost? (*the ability to speak in different languages*)
- › After the people heard Peter speak, what did they ask? (“*What should we do?*”)
- › What did Peter tell the people that they needed to do? (*Repent, turn away from your sins, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*)
- › How many people believed in Jesus after Peter preached? (*about 3,000 people*)
- › Name three activities the believers in the first church did when they met together. (*listened and learned all that the disciples taught, ate together, and prayed*)

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



LIVE IT OUT

CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Printables:
 - “Weekly Verses”—Print and display Acts 2:38 on a focal wall.
 - “Allergy Alert”—Verify any potential allergies to latex balloons before the activity.
- › colored pencils
- › plastic eggs (12 per team)
- › uninflated balloons (6 per team)—Place a balloon inside each plastic egg. Place the eggs in a basket.
- › baskets (1 per team)—Place each basket against a wall in a row.
- › masking tape—Mark a tape finish line on the floor. At the end of the game, all kids will be behind this line, so make sure it is away from the wall enough to do this.

CHOICE 2

- › Pack Item
 - 21: “Cross Template”—Make copies (1 cross per person) on heavyweight paper.
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › pencils
- › heavyweight paper
- › markers
- › scissors

CHOICE 1

STEP 1, STEP 2, STEP 3

- Form teams of six kids each and invite kids to play a game with steps.
- Explain the steps:
 - Step 1: A player from each team will go to her team’s basket, read the “Weekly Verse,” grab an egg and open it. If there is a balloon in it, she can take the balloon and return to the group. If it is empty, she will go back to the group with nothing. Continue until all six balloons are found, then move to Step 2.
 - Step 2: The teams will blow up their balloons. (Make sure they are not sharing balloons.) Once this step is complete, move to Step 3.
 - Step 3: Teams will tap their balloons in the air, without the balloons touching the floor, until all balloons are across the finish line. Steps 2 and 3 can be done with the entire group at once.
- Allow kids to play, moving from one step to another after each step.
- Debrief by asking about the steps: “Could you have done this game with the steps in a different order? Why?”
- Teach that salvation is the same way. It happens in steps that need to be in order as well. Acts 2:38 says that to be saved, we need to repent and believe. During this step is also baptism. (Explain that baptism is very special, and an outward sign of something that happened inside, but baptism does not save you. Repenting and believing are what make you a Christian.) This is Step 1. Step 2 is being filled with the Holy Spirit. All believers are filled with the Holy Spirit. Step 3 is when believers share what has happened to them with other people. They become missionaries and tell others about Jesus because all people need to hear that Jesus is the Savior.
- Guide kids to complete “Tell About Jesus Map” on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share what they drew.

CHOICE 2

THE FATHER, SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Remind kids that in today’s Bible story, they heard about each person of the Trinity. We heard about God, who is referred to as the Father; Jesus, who is God’s Son; and the Holy Spirit, who Jesus left on earth after He ascended. While each person of the Trinity has a role that is different from the others, they are all the same person. They are all God.
- Admit to kids that this can be confusing and difficult to fully understand.
- Distribute a “Cross Template” to each person. Set out markers and scissors, and instruct kids to choose three markers in different colors.
- Direct kids to color the top part of the cross with the first color. Liken this color to God the Father.



LIVE IT OUT

- Lead kids to color the middle part of the cross with the next color. This can represent God the Son/Jesus.
- Conclude by requesting kids to use the third color to color the bottom of the cross to represent the Holy Spirit, then cut out their crosses.
- Explain that each marker color is in a different part of the picture of the cross but helps to make up the entire cross.
- Mention that no explanation of the Trinity is perfect, but this reminds us that all three persons of the Trinity are one God. We worship one true God in three persons.
- Guide kids to complete “To the Other Side” on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share the answer.

CHOICE 3

MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE: ROLES

- Remind kids that sometimes things of God can be a little confusing. God is beyond what we can even understand! But God also allows us a glimpse into how amazing He is. One amazing thing about God that is sometimes hard to understand is that He is one God, but has three persons. These three persons are all God but have different roles.
- Lead kids to name the three persons of God. (*God the Father, God the Son/Jesus, and the Holy Spirit*)
- Explain that when we read about one of these three persons of God, we know they are all one, but they are written about in the Bible as having specific roles.
- Call attention to the “Roles” poster and gather kids into three teams.
- Assign each of the three teams one of the three persons of God (*God the Father, God the Son/Jesus, and the Holy Spirit*) to research. Each group is to look up the verses on the poster in its own group and read them aloud.
- Allow time for kids to find the verses.
- Give each group a turn to talk about its findings from the verses.
- State that all people need to hear that Jesus is the Savior, and God allows the Holy Spirit to help people receive God’s salvation.
- Guide kids to complete “Tell About Jesus Map” on their Kids Activity Pages and allow volunteers to share what they drew.

WRAP UP

- Pray, thanking God that we are never alone and that we always have the Holy Spirit to help us tell about Jesus and urge people to receive God’s gift of salvation.
- Remind kids to take home their One Conversation pages and review them with their families.

CHOICE 3

- › Pack Item 22: “Roles”—Display the poster on a focal wall.
- › Kids Activity Pages
- › colored pencils
- › masking tape