



ACTS

Of All the Apostles

You Will Be My Witnesses:

Running the Race

Lesson 4



The Holy Spirit Comes

Acts 2:1-13

Supplemental Scripture

John 14-16
1 Corinthians 6:19-20
Galatians 5:22-23

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with this story. Study the supplemental Scripture and make notes on, but do NOT read from, these pages. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

Memory Verse

What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. In fact, he will do even greater things. That is because I am going to the Father.
John 14:12 (NirV)

When you know something is going to happen and you don't know when, how do you normally feel about waiting? Maybe you feel a little excited at first, but what if you have to wait a whole day? What about two or three? How would you feel if you had to wait ten days for something?

Lesson Goals

- Understand that the disciples obeyed God
- Understand that God sent the Holy Spirit
- Understand that God keeps His promises

That is exactly what happened with the disciples. Sometimes we think special things should happen on special days. Sometimes they do, but sometimes they don't. In the case of the disciples, it did.

What do you remember about the time of Jesus death? What Jewish celebration did it coincide with? Jesus' death happened at the time of Passover, the celebration and remembering of when God rescued the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.

Well, it was now time for another celebration. This celebration was called Pentecost. Pentecost happened fifty days after the celebration of Passover, at the end of the wheat harvest. Pentecost was a celebration of thanksgiving to God for the harvest He had given.

When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were still in Jerusalem waiting, just as Jesus told them to do. Ten days had passed since they saw Jesus return to heaven. The disciples were all together in one place along with many others. Suddenly, they heard the sound of a very strong wind. The sound filled the house where they were. "They saw something that looked like tongues of fire. The flames separated and settled on each of them." (Acts 2:3 NirV) Then, what they had been waiting for happened. God kept His promise and they were filled with the Holy Spirit! "They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this." (Acts 2:4b NirV)

"God fearing men from 'every country under heaven'" were in Jerusalem at that time. (Acts 2:5 AMP) There were Romans, Elam-

Application
God's followers received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. They had been obedient; they waited in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. They received His power and were ready to be God's witnesses.

And you, are you His witness? Have you received the gift of the Holy Spirit and the power that comes with that gift? Maybe you're not sure. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes to us now when we accept Jesus as our Savior and turn control of our lives over to Him. Have you done that? If not, won't you do it now?

And if you have chosen to follow Christ with your life, you have the Holy Spirit living in you. Will you let Him be in control? If you will, you will be His witness and you will be an example to others by your love and your patience. You will exhibit self-control. You will be kind and joyful. So, how are you doing?

ites, Mesopotamians, Cretans, and many other people from many other places. When they heard the sound, they began to gather around. They were a little confused, though, because they heard people speaking in their own language. "The crowd was really amazed. They asked, 'Aren't all these people from Galilee? Why, then, do we each hear them speaking in our own native language? . . . We hear all these people speaking about God's wonders in our own languages!'" (Acts 2:7-8, 11b NIV) The people were amazed. They wondered what this could mean.

We know what it means. What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen when the Holy Spirit came upon them? They would receive power. They would also be His witnesses. They would start in Jerusalem—which is what they were doing, "speaking about God's wonders" in languages they had never learned to people from "every country under heaven." Not only would they witness in Jerusalem where they were, but in the whole region of Judea, then on to Samaria, and then from one country to another to the ends of the earth.

God had kept His promise. God's followers were filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, they were ready to be His witnesses! How about you, are you ready?

Review

1. What did the disciples do after Jesus returned to Heaven? (They waited in Jerusalem.)
2. How many days did they wait? (Ten.)
3. What was usually celebrated on that day? (Pentecost, the wheat harvest.)
4. What happened on the day of Pentecost? (God kept His promise. He sent the Holy Spirit.)

Next Week
Peter's Sermon
Acts 2:14-36

Preschool Lesson

When you know something is going to happen and you don't know when, how do you normally feel about waiting? Maybe you feel a little excited at first, but what if you have to wait a whole day? What about two or three? How would you feel if you had to wait ten days for something?

That is exactly what happened with the disciples.

When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were still in Jerusalem waiting, just as Jesus told them to. Ten days had passed since they saw Jesus return to heaven. The disciples were all together in one place along with many others. Suddenly, they heard the sound of a very strong wind. The sound filled the house where they were. "They saw something that looked like tongues of fire. The flames separated and settled on each of them." (Acts 2:3 NIV) But it wasn't a fire that burned them. Then, what they had been waiting for happened. God kept His promise and they were filled with the Holy Spirit! "They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this." (Acts 2:4b NIV)

During that time, there were believers from everywhere in Jerusalem. There were Romans, Elamites, Mesopotamians, Cretans, and many other people from many other places. When they heard the sound, they began to gather around. They were a little confused, though, because they heard people speaking in their own language. The people were amazed. They wondered what this could mean.

We know what it means. Jesus told His disciples what would happen when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They would receive power. They would also be His witnesses. They would start in Jerusalem—which is what they were doing, "speaking about God's wonders" in languages they had never learned to people from everywhere. Not only would they tell about Jesus in Jerusalem where they were, but in the whole region of Judea, then on to Samaria, and then from one country to another to the ends of the earth.

God had kept His promise. God's followers were filled with the Holy Spirit. Now, they were ready to be His witnesses! How about you, are you ready?

Activities

Memory Verse Activity - Create a rap, chant, or poem of the memory verse. Practice it until your students can say it on their own. For example: “What I'm telling you is true. Anyone who has faith in me will do what I do. In fact, he will do even greater things, because to the Father I am going.”

When the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples, “They began to speak in languages they had not known before.” (Acts 2:4b NIV) Learn how to say each fruit of the Spirit in a foreign language, for example, **Amore** (*love* in Italian), **Joyeux** (*joy* in French), **Pax** (*peace* in Latin), **Paciencia** (*patience* in Spanish), etc.

Sing the Fruit of the Spirit song. Sing songs about each of the characteristics - love, joy, peace, etc.

Pentecost was a celebration of thanksgiving for the harvest God had blessed them with. Encourage your students to share things they are thankful for.

Read John 14-16. Make a list of things that would happen with the advent of the Holy Spirit. Talk about the difference between walking and talking with Jesus and having the Holy Spirit dwell in us.

Discuss Acts 2:1-12. The word *tongue(s)* is used three times. (The word *language*, or *dialektos*, is also used.) The original Greek word for *tongue*, is a word that is used to mean either the actual tongue in one's mouth or speech or language, known or unknown. Spiros Zodhiates, in The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary-New Testament, explains that when the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they “began to speak with other tongues” (Acts 2:4) that these were tongues (languages) different from their own. They were speaking languages they had never learned before. And in Acts 2:11, when the crowd speaks of having heard “them in our own tongues speaking the mighty deeds of God,” they heard a particular language or dialect spoken by a particular people. Discuss how the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to speak foreign languages so that others could understand. Learn words or phrases from other languages and teach them to your students.



What I'm about to tell you
is true.
Anyone who has faith in Me
will do
what I have been doing.
In fact, he will do
even greater things.
That is because
I am going to the Father.

John 14:12

Word Search

b e j w y u s l m e w v o l
i n u w a i t w a f a s r h
b u s e l p i c s i d e b t
l p e t t e r o e f k e n g
e r s f i l i e w t n n j n
s a s o a t p t o y o r l e
t d e r p s s h r i t u a r
u r n t e u y o i a f i n t
d a t h r r l i c u s e g s
y r i e w e o t o e k l u w
v k w l o j h l t i t n a e
s o n o t g e t t i r n g n
p y r t n u o c y r e v e r
s t u d y r i t d y c l s p

Pentecost

fifty

Holy Spirit

disciples

languages

every country

wait

witnesses

power

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l p e t t e r o e f k e n g
e r s f i l i e w t n n j n
s a s o a t p t o y o r l e
t d e r p s s h r i t u a r
u r n t e u y o i a f i n t
d a t h r r l i c u s e g s
y r i e w e o t o e k l u w
v k w l o j h l t i t n a e
s o n o t g e t t i r n g n
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