

Lesson: The Feast of Pentecost – Part 1

Summarized Content:

Review: On the day of Pentecost in history, God gave us two things: the 10 Commandments and the Holy Spirit (God's power).

Review: Review the 10 Commandments given by God through Moses.

Count It! Exactly 50 days after the Sabbath during Passover week, God gave us Pentecost. 50 days after Jesus ascended into heaven, his disciples and other followers of Christ (120) were waiting in the upper room for the promised power from God to be with them.

When God's spirit came to fill the room, tongues of fire rested on every person's head and everyone heard God's Word spoken in his native language.

This day signified a change – believers meeting during a Holy Day somewhere other than the temple. The new covenant came with Christ. It was “transferred” from the temple to within individual followers' hearts. People no longer needed to go to the temple to talk with God.

Those who were waiting to receive from God were greatly blessed. 3,000 believers were added on that day.

The whole world serves God as either Good Servants or Wicked Servants until the return of Christ.

The disciples left there and began performing and explaining to the people that they had killed the Christ, the Son of God. (Acts 3) This was the beginning of God's church, His spiritual Israelites.

Since that day, God's Spirit is given to Christ's followers, those who follow His commandments, by the laying on of hands of other true followers of Christ at baptism.

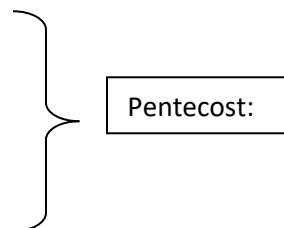
Scriptures:

Acts 2: 1-8 (account of the coming of God's spirit)

Acts 2: 14-26 (Peter's speech)

Acts 2: 37-41

Acts 2: 42-47 (description of the first ekklesia)



Activities:

Exploring God's Word:

- At the beginning of the lesson, explain to the children that you will be giving them a special gift later on during the lesson.
- Read the account of Pentecost as a group with different readers. Assign someone Peter's speech ahead of time to practice and read with dramatic flair.
- Give each child present a small token gift. Ask them how it felt to wait patiently for the promised gift.

Understanding God's Word (choose from the activities below):



God's Spirit Makes Us God's Kids: Talk about the difference between believers and followers. God's Spirit is what "plugs us in" to His power. Have children illustrate this on paper with foam shapes and glitter. Encourage appropriate sayings as part of the picture, such as "Plugged in for Him!" Pictures can be mounted together to fashion a quilt-like picture on the wall.



Pentecost Truth or Myth: Divide children into teams. Use the Pentecost truth or myth statements to check for understanding and help them distinguish between false teachings and what they read in God's Word about Pentecost. Every correct answer/team receives a point.



2 Gifts Worksheet (see handout): Have children complete the 2 gifts worksheet to help them to remember the full meaning of Pentecost. Add symbols for each of the 2 gifts given to mankind on this special day.



Light Bulb Foldable: Have children cut out a light bulb shape from yellow foam. Fold a black piece of construction paper in half (hamburger). On the left side, trace the light bulb with a white crayon. On the right side, glue the "lit" bulb. Use gold glitter to create letters with a catchy phrase such as "Brightening the Darkness with His Power!", "Plugged into His Power", or something similar.



God's Church: Explain that another word for God's church is Ekklesia. Explain that an ekklesia is a groups of people God calls His church, not a church building. Create a T-Chart that lists characteristics of a church of the world as opposed to the ekklesia or God's church. Plan characteristics of both in advance & create laminated magnets for a white board or felt for a flannel board so children can add to the discussion by helping to create the T-chart as a group. Ask children to draw a picture of an ekklesia. They should be creating a picture of people worshipping together rather than a building.