TEACHER’S GUIDE

Grades 1-2
Year 3 | Spring

Sunday School
I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)
Looking Back at Lesson 7

Jesus Ascends Into Heaven

Aim: What did Jesus do for his disciples before he ascended into heaven?

Truth: Jesus taught his disciples and promised to send the Holy Spirit.

Application: Jesus left this earth only after teaching and guiding the disciples who would begin his church.

Response: We trust that our risen and ascended Savior will always teach and guide us through his Word.

Lesson Summary: During the 40 days after Easter, Jesus often met with his disciples and instructed them in God’s Word. He promised to be with them and to send God the Holy Spirit to them. On the 40th day, Jesus met his disciples on a hill outside of Bethany. There he blessed them and ascended into heaven.

Memory Treasures: *Matthew 28:20b; *The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed


Why did the Holy Spirit come to Jesus’ disciples?

The Holy Spirit came to the disciples to give them the power to do the work Jesus wanted them to do.

Application: Faith and the ability to share that faith are gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Response: We ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and give us power to be witnesses for Jesus.

Lesson Summary: The disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Ten days after Jesus’ ascension, the Holy Spirit made his presence known with the sound of a strong wind and the appearance of what looked like a flame on the head of each believer. The Holy Spirit made the believers brave witnesses for the gospel and gave them the ability to speak in foreign languages.

* Romans 10:17
* 1 Corinthians 12:3b
* Revelation 2:10b

Wordwise

Pentecost—name given to the Jewish feast of harvest celebrated 50 days after the Passover to thank God for crops; today Christians observe Pentecost on the 50th day after Easter to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples

DIG Deeper


Dear Holy Spirit, you gave the disciples a miraculous beginning to their ministry. Help me remember that through your Word and my baptism, you have come into my heart in a way that is just as miraculous. Amen.
WORSHIP

Sing: Explain to the children that it is the Holy Spirit who puts faith in our hearts. Without that faith, we would be like someone who can’t find his way in the dark—that is, without faith, we couldn’t find our way to heaven. “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” (hymn 183:1) is a prayer that asks the Holy Spirit to give our hearts the light of faith in Jesus that we all need to find our way to heaven. If the hymn is new, sing one phrase at a time and have the children echo you.

Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for working faith in our hearts. Continue to make our faith stronger through God’s Word. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Show a globe or world map.

Ask volunteers to point out various countries. Explain that the world has many countries, and each one has many people. God wants all people everywhere to be saved, and he wants us to tell others about the Savior. We cannot do this work by ourselves. We need help, and so did Jesus’ disciples.

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Listen carefully to find out why the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ disciples.

Review Jesus’ ascension by asking:

- How did Jesus go to heaven? [Jesus ascended.]
- Whom did he promise to send to the disciples? [The Holy Spirit.]
- What other promises has God made? [Send a Savior; never again send a flood to destroy the whole world; be with us always.]

Today we’ll learn that Jesus kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit. Listen to find out why the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ disciples.
Note: You’ll need to use the story in the adjacent column.

Draw a man’s bearded face on a lunch-sized paper bag to make a puppet of Peter. Use the puppet to tell the story as if Peter himself were telling the children about what happened when the Holy Spirit came to the believers. Mention the amazement and joy that the believers would have felt. Conclude by having the puppet remind the children that God the Holy Spirit still comes to them today through Baptism and God’s Word. Note: Save the puppet for use in Lesson 10.

Give each child a piece of orange construction paper. Allow the children two minutes to cut out paper flames. You may need to demonstrate this for them. Write “Why did the Holy Spirit come to Jesus’ disciples?” on the board. Have the children attach their flames to the board around the question after you have told about the coming of the Holy Spirit. See an extension of this activity in Discuss. See the note in Learn.

After Jesus had gone back into heaven, the disciples stayed in the city of Jerusalem. They were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come to them as Jesus had promised. They did not have to wait long.

Ten days after Jesus went up into heaven, the Jewish festival of Pentecost took place. It was a special time when people from all over came to Jerusalem to worship and thank God in his temple. On that day the disciples and other believers had all come together in the same house to worship and pray.

Suddenly, some very unusual things happened. First, the believers heard a sound like a roaring wind, but the wind was not blowing outside! The sound filled the whole house in which they were meeting. Then, what looked like little flames of fire came to rest on the heads of the believers who were there. God the Holy Spirit had come upon them. In an instant they could speak in different languages, even though they had never learned these languages before!

The Holy Spirit had come into the hearts and minds of his believers. He had given them the power to do the work Jesus wanted them to do. Now the believers were more eager and brave to tell others about Jesus, their Savior. They began to use all the different languages they now knew to speak boldly about Jesus.

Outside, people from nearly every country in the world crowded the streets of Jerusalem. They had come there to worship in the temple during the Pentecost festival. They too heard the loud, roaring noise like a strong wind. Many of these people came running to the house where the believers were. They wanted to find out what was happening.

How amazed the people were when they heard the believers preaching the Word of God in many different languages!
They said to one another, “Aren’t these men from Galilee? Then how is it that each of us hears them speaking in the language of his own country? We are from all over the world. Yet we all hear these men speaking in our own languages about the great things God has done!” The people were puzzled and kept asking one another, “What does this strange happening mean?”

**Discuss**

Use the question and flames visual if you made it as described in the second option under Learn (Alternate), or do the activity now before starting the following discussion. You will write on the board.

**Ask** Whom were the disciples and other believers waiting for in Jerusalem? [The Holy Spirit.]

**Do** Have a student demonstrate the sound the believers heard. [Student makes the sound of wind.]

**Ask** Why was this sound unusual? [The wind was not blowing.]

**Do** Draw a face on the board. Have a student draw the unusual thing that God the Holy Spirit put on each believer’s head. [Student draws a flame.]

**Say** The roaring wind sound and the flames of fire showed that the Holy Spirit had come to the believers to give them power. Then he gave them the ability to speak in different languages.

*Mein Hut, der hat drei Ecken* (pronounced “Mine Hoot, dare hot dry Ecken”; German for “My hat, it has three corners”).

**Do** Explain that you are speaking in German, and then tell the meaning of the words. Explain that the believers could suddenly speak in languages they had never learned.

**Ask** Why were people in Jerusalem happy to hear their own languages being spoken? [They could hear the saving Word of God in words they could understand.]

**Do** Direct the children’s attention to the question on the board. If you have not had the children attach their flames to the board around the question, have them do so now. Then answer the question by writing “The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to tell others about Jesus.” After that, rearrange the paper flames to make a “P” and then print “OWER” after the flame P. This represents the Holy Spirit coming to

You will write on the board. Before class prepare a visual aid for each child: fold the corners of an 8½-inch square of construction paper into the center so they meet. Throughout this option, the children will complete the project as shown.

**Ask** As the believers waited in Jerusalem, what sound did they hear? [They heard the sound of a roaring wind.] What was strange about this sound? [The wind was not blowing.] What strange thing did the believers see? [Little flames of fire on their heads.] What special ability did the Holy Spirit give the believers so that they could share God’s Word with people from different lands? [He gave them the ability to preach in different languages that they had not learned before.]
Do Write “Schule” on the board, and read the word (shoo'-leh). Tell the children that this is a German word for something they know. Then draw a school, and write “school” under it. Explain that by giving the disciples the ability to speak in many languages, the Holy Spirit reached many people with God’s Word on Pentecost.

Say We might not hear sounds of the wind when there is no wind, see flames on heads, or suddenly speak in languages we never learned. But God the Holy Spirit has put faith in our hearts through God’s Word.

Do Have a student draw a Bible on the board. Then draw a heart next to the Bible, and draw an arrow from the Bible to the heart. Draw a cross inside the heart.

Say The Holy Spirit uses the Bible to bring people to faith and to strengthen that faith.

Do Draw rays coming from the heart. Then help the children finish their folded paper visual aids by following these steps:
- open the folded corners
- write “Jesus” in the center and fold the corners back down
- draw and color a picture of a Bible on the outside, folded-down area that covers “Jesus.”

Say We thank the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith, for strengthening our faith, and for the ability to share that faith with others.

the disciples to give them the power to do the work Jesus wanted them to do.

Say Today we don’t hear the sound of a wind when there is no wind or see flames of fire on believers’ heads. But the Holy Spirit still comes to us.

Ask How does the Holy Spirit come to little babies?
[Through God’s Word, he gives them faith at their baptisms.]

What does the Holy Spirit work through to give us faith and strengthen our faith? [God’s Word.]

What did the Holy Spirit give the disciples power to do?
[The Holy Spirit gave them the power to preach about Jesus.]

Say The Holy Spirit may not give us the miraculous ability to speak in different languages. But he does give us different types of gifts so we are able to do the work he wants us to do.

Do Draw a gift on the board. Have the children name abilities that the Holy Spirit gives people to help them share the Word. [Examples: ability to speak well, to draw Christian art, to sing Christian songs, to listen to others and help them, to preach or teach, to be church leaders.] Write their responses (draw pictures for nonreaders) on the gift.

Say We thank the Holy Spirit for the gift of faith, for strengthening our faith, and for the ability to share that faith with others.
CLOSE

Write the 1 Corinthians 12:3b memory treasure on the board, leaving out “Jesus” and “Holy Spirit.” Put blanks where the words would go.

Ask: Why did the Holy Spirit come to Jesus’ disciples?
   [To give them power to do the work Jesus wanted them to do—to preach about him.]

Say: Look at the memory treasure on the board.

Ask: Who do we say is our Lord and Savior? [Jesus.]

Do: Write “Jesus” in the first blank.

Ask: Who works through God’s Word to give us faith and strengthen our faith? [The Holy Spirit.]

Do: Write “Holy Spirit” in the other blanks. Say the passage with the children.

Say: The Holy Spirit has given us the gifts of faith and the ability to share our faith.

Do: Lead the children in the actions as you pray:

   Holy Spirit, fill my heart (put hand over heart)
   So that I never will depart (shake head “no”)
   From God’s Word so pure and true. (form an open book with hands)
   Oh, God, please keep me close to you. Amen. (give self a hug)

Say: As you fold the corners down, you see the Bible. Then, as you open the corners, you are reminded that the Holy Spirit uses the Bible to bring you to faith in Jesus and to strengthen you in that faith. The Holy Spirit also gives you the ability to share your faith with others.

Draw a gift on the board.

Ask: Why did the Holy Spirit come to Jesus’ disciples? [To give them power to do the work Jesus gave them—to tell others about him.]

Say: The Holy Spirit has given us gifts.

Do: Draw an arrow pointing out from the gift. Draw a heart with a cross inside next to the arrow.

Ask: What has the Holy Spirit worked in our hearts through God’s Word? [Faith.]

Do: Draw a speaking face.

Ask: What does the Holy Spirit help us do with God’s Word? [Share it with others.]

Do: Pray: Holy Spirit, thank you for teaching me about Jesus through the Bible and for giving me faith. Help me be a witness for Jesus, the Savior of the world. Amen.
Parent Idea: After reading “The Coming of the Holy Spirit” with your child, review the five senses and use the first activity on the student lesson to see which two senses the Holy Spirit had the believers use on Pentecost.

To Do

at Home

Student Idea: Which two memory treasures remind you that it is the Holy Spirit who gives the gift of faith and the power to share that faith with others? Draw a dove (to represent the Holy Spirit) by the two memory treasures on your student lesson.

* Romans 10:17

1 Corinthians 12:3b

* Revelation 2:10b

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**OPTIONAL mid-week Lesson**

- Use either option of Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the story.

- Fill a clear pitcher with tinted water, set four clear plastic glasses in a pan (two upright and two upside down), and print “God’s Word” on the side of a funnel.

Write the Romans 10:17 and 1 Corinthians 12:3b memory treasures on the board, and lead the class in reading or reciting them. Point to the glasses, and explain that before the Holy Spirit worked faith in our hearts, we were like empty glasses. Then tell the children that through God’s Word, the Holy Spirit came to us and filled us with faith. Hold up the funnel, and explain that it will be used to represent God’s Word.

Lead the children in reading or reciting Romans 10:17. Hold the funnel above one glass and pour water from the pitcher, through the funnel, into the glass. Explain that the Holy Spirit put faith in our hearts through God’s Word. Pour water into another glass in the same manner. Again, explain that the Holy Spirit worked through God’s Word to put faith in our hearts.

Lead the children in reading or reciting 1 Corinthians 12:3b. Explain that sometimes people reject God’s Word and refuse the faith that the Holy Spirit wants in their hearts. Pour water through the funnel onto one overturned glass. No water is able to go into the glass.
Then point to the last glass and say, “Have faith. Believe on your own.” Then hold the funnel above the glass and say, “Have faith. Believe on your own.” Ask whether this “person” can have faith in Jesus without the work of the Holy Spirit. [No.] Then turn over the glass and fill it in the same manner as the first two glasses.

Use the funnel to add a little more water to each “believing” glass to demonstrate that the Holy Spirit also strengthens our faith through God’s Word.

Review the memory treasures. Explain that a pitcher may run out of water, but the Holy Spirit will never run out of the gift of faith.

• Lead the children in the actions as you pray:

  Holy Spirit, fill my heart (put hand over heart)
  So that I never will depart (shake head “no”) From God’s Word so pure and true.
  (form an open book with hands)
  Oh, God, please keep me close to you. Amen.
  (give self a hug)

• Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.

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**Lesson Activities**

### 1. Review

**See and Hear**

*Purpose:* To write about or draw pictures of things the disciples and other believers saw and heard as they gathered on Pentecost.

*Procedure:* Ask the children to pretend that they walked by the house where the disciples and other believers were gathered on Pentecost. Ask them to write about or draw a picture of what they saw (flames) and heard (loud wind and the disciples speaking different languages). Then divide the class into groups to share what is happening in their pictures. *Suggestion:* Provide orange and yellow tissue paper for making flames.

**Act It Out**

*Purpose:* To act out the Bible story.

*Procedure:* Tell the story. Have volunteers portray the believers waiting for the Holy Spirit. Have one volunteer make the sound of a wind. Have others twist orange and yellow tissue paper together to make flames and hold them on their heads. Have others demonstrate speaking in other languages by saying the following words:

- *Guten Tag!* (German for “Good day!”; pronounced “goot’ en tag”)
- *Konichiwa!* (Japanese for “How are you?”; pronounced “ko nee’ chee wah”)

### 2. Application

**Find, Circle, and Color**

*Purpose:* To review how faith is created.

*Procedure:* Duplicate *Copy Master 1* for the children to complete. When the copy master is completed correctly, the shape of a cross is revealed.

### 3. Music

**Songs to Sing**

*Purpose:* To sing songs that reinforce the lesson application.

*Procedure:* Teach and sing one or more of the following songs:
• “Go and Tell” 🎶 (Copy Master 2, Lesson 5) is an upbeat song in which the children encourage one another to share Jesus with others.

• “Let Us Sing for Joy!” (Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House) is a song in which the children ask someone else if they have heard the “news” about Jesus.

• “I Love to Tell the Story” (hymn 562:1) gives the children the opportunity to sing about the joy of telling others about Jesus.

• The refrain to “Lift High the Cross” (hymn 579) reminds us to proclaim the love of Christ to all the world.

• “Spirit of God” (Everyone Sing and Sign, Northwestern Publishing House) reviews the work of the Holy Spirit.

• “The Spirit Works in Me” (Everyone Sing and Sign, Northwestern Publishing House) is a simple, repetitive song about how the Holy Spirit works faith through the Word of God.

4. Art

Heart Poster

Purpose: To make a poster that reinforces the truth that the Holy Spirit has put saving faith in our hearts.

Procedure: Give each child a 4¼” x 5½” sheet of white drawing paper and a 3-inch heart cut out of poster board. Have each child:

• carefully hold the heart in place on the white paper (or place rolled tape under the heart to gently hold it in place)
• press a crayon near the edge of the heart, and color across it onto the paper; do this all around the edge
• remove the heart to reveal the heart shape on the paper
• draw a picture of Jesus, write “Jesus,” or place a sticker of Jesus inside the heart
• write “______’s (child’s name) heart” below the heart.

5. Review and Apply

Nonreader

Purpose: To identify lesson sentences as true or false; to draw pictures of things about Jesus to share with others.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 2 for the children to complete.

Answers: Sentences 2, 4, 5, and 8 are true. The pictures will vary but could include pictures about Jesus’ birth, miracles, suffering, death, resurrection, or ascension.

Reader

Purpose: To review the lesson by putting lesson events in the correct order, and to complete a puzzle about the work of the Holy Spirit.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 3 for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: The events should be numbered 4, 2, 5, 1, and 3.

God’s Word in My Life: 1 = T; 2 = A; 3 = H; 4 = I; 5 = F; FAITH

Challenge: Encourage the children to make a picture code message to share with classmates.
Challenge

Purpose: To review lesson facts by deciding whether sentences are true or false, and to match opposites about the work of Satan and that of the Holy Spirit.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 4 for the children to complete.

God’s Word in the Lesson: Sentences 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 10 are true.

God’s Word in My Life: 1. c, 2. b, 3. a, 4. d

6. Other Ideas

Bible Translations

Purpose: To introduce the children to the Bible written in different languages.

Procedure: Have Bible translations in several languages available for the children to look at. Your local library or your pastor may have Hebrew, Greek, and German translations, as well as others. Explain that the message in these Bibles is the same as in our English Bible, but it is written so that people in different parts of the world can read and understand it. The Holy Spirit works through these translations of God’s Word to put faith in the hearts of people.

Suggestions: (1) Contact Multi-Language Publications for teaching materials printed in various languages other than English. (2) Allow children who know other languages to speak or sing in the languages they know and explain the words to the other children.