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)
How did the Holy Spirit show that he had come to the disciples?

The Holy Spirit used the sound of wind, the appearance of flames, and the ability to speak in many languages to show that he had come.

Application: Through God's Word, the Holy Spirit comes to us and gives us faith in Jesus as our Savior.

Response: We value the gift of faith that the Holy Spirit has given us.

Lesson Summary: Ten days after Jesus’ ascension, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in Jerusalem. He showed his presence by a sound like a mighty wind, by flames like fire, and by giving the believers the ability to speak in different languages.

* Mark 16:16
* Romans 10:17
* Revelation 2:10b
* The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed (with explanation)

Pentecost—the Jewish festival of thanksgiving to God for the early harvest, celebrated 50 days after the Passover

apostles—the men sent by Jesus to preach God’s Word


Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the gift of faith through your Holy Spirit. Let it be evident, especially to the children I teach, that mine is a living faith. May your Spirit use your Word to strengthen our faith in Jesus. Amen.
WORSHIP  
Sing: Sing “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” (hymn 183). As we sing this hymn, we are asking the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts.

Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for giving us faith to believe all the wonderful things God has done. Continue to live in our hearts and keep our faith alive. Amen.

Explain that Jesus had told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem after he went up to heaven. On the board draw a picture of a house to represent a building in Jerusalem. Put two windows in the house. Say that the disciples were waiting for something. Draw a picture of a dove in one window. Ask what the dove is often used to represent. [The Holy Spirit.] Ask what the Holy Spirit would give the disciples the power and ability to do. [Tell people that Jesus was the Savior.] Draw a cross in the other window.

In today’s lesson you’ll hear how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples waiting in Jerusalem. Listen carefully to learn the answer to the question, How did the Holy Spirit show that he had come to the disciples?

Note: Remember there are To Do at Home activity options in a separate file on the Teacher’s Guide CD.
After Jesus had ascended into heaven, his disciples returned to Jerusalem because Jesus had told them to wait there until the Holy Spirit came to them. They didn’t have to wait long.

Ten days later, on the day of the Jewish festival called Pentecost, the believers had gathered together to worship and pray. Suddenly some very unusual things began to happen. First there was a sound like the roar of a mighty wind. The sound filled the whole building in which they were meeting. But there was no wind—only the sound of a wind.

Then what looked like little flames of fire appeared. The flames separated and came to rest on each of the believers who were there. These things were signs that the Holy Spirit had come into their hearts. The Holy Spirit also made the believers able to speak in many different languages—languages they had never learned before! They began to talk about Jesus in these different languages.

Because it was the festival of Pentecost, the streets of Jerusalem were crowded with people. Some of them lived in the city, but many others were Jews from all different parts of the world. They had come to celebrate the festival by worshiping in the temple.

When the people heard the loud wind noise, many of them came running to find out what was happening. How amazed they were to hear the disciples preaching in many different languages! They said to one another, “Aren’t all these men from Galilee? How can it be that each of us hears them speaking the language of his own country? We have come here from countries all over the world, but we all hear these men speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done.”

Amazed and puzzled by what was happening, they kept asking one another, “What’s going on here? What does all this mean?” Then the apostles had the chance to preach God’s Word to all the people who had gathered.
Each child will need a student lesson.

Do Ask the children to find and underline in their student lessons the three miraculous ways that the Holy Spirit showed he had come to the believers on Pentecost. [Answers:

• “First there was a sound like the roar of a mighty wind.”

• “Then what looked like little flames of fire appeared. These flames separated and came to rest on each of the believers who were there.”

• “The Holy Spirit also made the believers able to speak in many different languages—languages they had never learned before!”]

Say Tell whether this sentence is true or false: “The Holy Spirit used these three miraculous signs to give the people faith.” [False. The Holy Spirit used these miracles to show that he was there and to get people’s attention, but not to give faith.]

Do Ask the children what they think of this statement: “I became a believer when I asked the Holy Spirit to enter my heart.” Lead the children to see that we cannot choose to have the Holy Spirit enter our hearts. Use the example of a dead person. Someone who is dead cannot do or decide anything. In the same way, we were once dead in our sins; we were enemies of God who could not choose Jesus to be our Savior. (Refer to Ephesians 2:1.) But God chose us to be his children and sent his Holy Spirit to put faith into our hearts. Stress that faith is not a choice that we make; it is a gift from God.

Ask What did the Holy Spirit make the disciples able to do? [Speak in languages they had never learned.]

Why did the Holy Spirit do this? [So that the disciples could use those languages to tell people about Jesus.]

What do our missionaries need to do today when they go to foreign countries to preach about Jesus? [They need to learn the languages of those countries.]

Do Illustrate the challenge missionaries face by using the copy master, which shows how to speak some phrases about God in the language used in Northern Zambia. Go through the pronunciation key with the children, and help them sound out the first phrase. Then let them work in pairs to practice the rest
of the sentences. To help the children place the accents on the correct syllables, use the pronunciation guides that follow:

- Sumineni muli Yesu Kristu ukuti mukapusuke. (suummee-NAY-nee MOO-lee YAY-soo KREEES-too oo-KOO-tee moo-kah-poo-SOO-kay)
- Yesu e mulubushi wesu. (YAY-soo ay moo-loo-BOO-shee WAY-soo)
- Icipingo e amashiwi yakwa Lesa. (ee-chee-PEEN-go ay ah-mah-shee-wee YAHK-wah LAY-sah)
- Yesu e mulubushi wesu uwabumi. (YAY-soo ay moo-loo-BOO-shee WAY-soo oo-wah-BOO-mee)
- Twaapepa Lesa wacine—Tata, Mwana, no Mupashi wa Mushilo. (twah-PAY-pah LAY-sah wah-CHEE-nay—TAH-tah, MWAH-nah, no moo-PAH-shee wah moo-SHEE-lo)

**Say** Many people who were in Jerusalem for the Pentecost festival came running when they heard the sound like a roaring wind. These people were amazed when they heard the believers speaking in many different languages.

**Ask** Why would this amaze them? [Usually you would not see a large group of people from one country speaking in many different languages. And no matter what languages the people spoke, they could hear the disciples speaking the languages of their own countries.]

**Say** The people remembered that most of Jesus’ disciples were from Galilee.

**Ask** How could they have known this? [Many of the disciples probably spoke with a Galilean accent; the people may also have heard about Jesus and his disciples.]

**Say** The disciples were speaking about the wonderful things God had done.

**Ask** What are some of the wonderful things God had done? [Sent Jesus into the world to suffer, die, and rise again, etc.]

**Say** The apostles now had a chance to preach God’s Word to many people.

**Ask** Whom do we mean by “the apostles”? [The men who were sent by Jesus himself to do his work.]

**Do** Ask the children to tell how the Holy Spirit works differently now than he did on Pentecost and how he works in the same
Say The Holy Spirit has put in our hearts the faith to believe these things, even though we can’t imagine or understand all of them. What a blessing we have from the Holy Spirit—the gift of faith!

Do Clap your hands suddenly and loudly.

Say That got your attention, didn’t it? But the Holy Spirit got people’s attention in much better ways on Pentecost.

Ask How did the Holy Spirit show that he had come to the disciples? [The Holy Spirit used the sound of wind, the appearance of flames, and the ability to speak in many languages to show that he had come.]

Say Through God’s Word, the Holy Spirit comes to us and gives us faith in Jesus as our Savior. We value the gift of faith that the Holy Spirit has given us.

Do Sing “Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God” (hymn 272). In this hymn we ask God to keep his Holy Spirit in our hearts.

way now. [Differently: The Holy Spirit doesn’t use miraculous signs to show his presence anymore, and he doesn’t make missionaries instantly able to speak other languages. Same way: Through God’s Word, he still does the work of coming into our hearts and giving us faith.]

Say We thank the Holy Spirit for giving us this wonderful gift of faith.

CLOSE

Ask Why did the disciples return to Jerusalem after Jesus ascended? [They were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come to them.]

How did the Holy Spirit show that he had come to the disciples? [The Holy Spirit used the sound of wind, the appearance of flames, and the ability to speak in many languages to show that he had come.]

What does the Holy Spirit do for us through God’s Word? [Through God’s Word, the Holy Spirit comes to us and gives us faith in Jesus as our Savior.]

Say We value the gift of faith that the Holy Spirit has given us.

Do Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for coming into our hearts and giving us the gift of faith in Jesus as our Savior. Make us eager to study God’s Word so that our faith may grow stronger. Amen.
Note to Teacher: Explain that this passage reminds us how valuable the gift of faith from the Holy Spirit is. Without this gift we could not believe in Jesus as our Savior and we would be condemned to eternal death in hell.

* Romans 10:17

* Revelation 2:10b

* The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

The Third Article tells us about the work of the Holy Spirit. Through the gospel, he calls all believers to faith in Jesus as the Savior.

* Optional mid-week Lesson

• Read responsively or sing Psalm 51b (hymnal, page 87). With this psalm we ask the Holy Spirit to come into our hearts.

• Use Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the story.

• Use Activity 2 (“Let’s Be Poets” and/or “The Holy Spirit’s Tool”) to focus more on the work of the Holy Spirit.

• Sing “Spirit of God” (Copy Masters 2.1 and 2.2) as a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Mixed-Up Sentences

Purpose: To review the lesson by having the children put the lesson events in sequence.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 3, glue it to poster board if you wish, and cut apart the strips that relate the lesson events. If there are more strips than children in your class, leave several of them together as one. Then mix up the strips and distribute them to the children. Ask what happened first in the lesson, and have the child with the first lesson event stand in front of the class. The child with the second event should stand next to the first child and so on. When all the events are in order, have the children read their sections of the lesson in sequence.

2. Application

Let’s Be Poets

Purpose: To have the children write cinquains (SIN-canes) about the Holy Spirit.

Procedure: Cinquains are poems that follow a certain pattern. To have the children write cinquains about the Holy Spirit, follow these steps:

• If necessary, review the following parts of speech: nouns, adjectives, verbs. Then write out the following cinquain pattern on the board:

Line 1: one noun (gives the topic—could be two words)

Line 2: two adjectives (describe the topic)

Line 3: three words (describe actions of the topic)

Line 4: a four-word phrase or sentence

Line 5: a synonym or descriptive word

• Read or write the following example of a cinquain:

God,
Almighty, all-knowing,
Creating, guiding, protecting,
He cares for me.
Love.

• Then help the children write a cinquain together as a class. Use Jesus or Savior as the topic.

• Finally, have the children write their own cinquains, using Holy Spirit as the topic. Have them write their poems in the form shown above.

• Have them write the final drafts of their poems inside construction paper shapes of flames or doves. Display the poems for others to read.

The Holy Spirit’s Tool

Purpose: To have the children study what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit.

Procedure: Have the children work in groups or individually to complete Copy Master 4. The answers to the first question in each column follow (in this order): Peter; Philip; Peter, Holy Spirit. All second questions and the question at the bottom should be answered with “God’s Word,” “the gospel,” or “the message about Christ.”

3. Music

“Spirit of God”

Purpose: To review the work of the Holy Spirit and pray to him in song.

Procedure: Teach the children to sing “Spirit of God” (Copy Masters 2.1 and 2.2), which is a prayer to the Holy Spirit.
4. Art

Chalk Pastel Art

*Purpose:* To make chalk pastel artwork that will remind the children of the Holy Spirit’s work.

*Procedure:* Have the children make chalk pastel designs, following the directions given. Materials they will need are underlined. (See the diagram for an example of the finished project.)

- Cut a flame about 3 inches high out of *poster board.*
- Put the flame on a piece of *scrap paper or newspaper.* Use a *red, orange, or yellow chalk pastel* to color heavily around the edge of the flame.
- Then carefully place the flame on a 9” x 12” piece of *black construction paper.* Put the fingers of one hand in the center of the flame to hold it in place. With the other hand, use a *facial tissue* to wipe the chalk off the flame onto the paper all the way around. Always wipe from the center out.
- Carefully lift the poster board flame off the black paper. You will have the shape of the flame outlined by streaks of color. Continue coloring around the poster board flame on scrap paper and then wiping the chalk onto the black paper. Do this five or six times. You may use a combination of red, orange, and yellow on one picture. The colors may overlap each other.
- Then cut the shape of a dove out of an 8-inch square of *white paper.* Glue the dove onto the middle of the black piece of paper. (Note: You could provide a pattern by assembling the puzzle on *Copy Master 6*, tracing it on poster board, and cutting it out.)
- Along the top or bottom of the picture, use a *white crayon or oil pastel* to write “Holy Spirit, give us faith.”

5. Review and Apply

The Holy Spirit Comes

*Purpose:* To identify true statements about the lesson and to find a hidden message summarizing the lesson application.

*Procedure:* Have each child complete *Copy Master 5.* The answers are as follows:

Part One: These sentences should be marked: 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10.

Part Two: The message is “THANK THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE GIFT OF FAITH.”

Symbol of the Spirit (Challenge)

*Purpose:* To summarize the lesson events and read Bible passages that remind us that we come to faith through the work of the Holy Spirit.

*Procedure:* Give each child a sheet of construction paper and a sheet of notebook paper. On the notebook paper, each child should write a brief summary (four or five sentences) of the lesson events, cut out the summary, and glue it at the top of the construction paper. Then each child should complete *Copy Master 6* and glue the completed puzzle under the summary.

The following Scripture references should be on the pieces of the completed puzzle: John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:9,10; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Corinthians 12:3. The pieces fit together to form the shape of a dove.
6. Other Ideas

Fire, Wind, and the Holy Spirit

*Purpose:* To consider why wind and fire are sometimes symbols for the Holy Spirit.

*Procedure:* Ask the children in what ways wind and fire could be like the Holy Spirit. Possible answers are given.

**Wind**
- You can’t see wind, but you know it’s there, just like the Holy Spirit.
- Wind can be very powerful, just like the Holy Spirit.

**Fire**
- Fire chases away darkness with its light, just as the Holy Spirit chases the darkness of unbelief out of our hearts.
- The heat of fire can change things, like batter into a cake or water into steam. The Holy Spirit gives faith, which changes enemies of God into children of God.
NOTES: