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’ Ascension

Aim: How did Jesus guide and bless his disciples as he left the earth?

Truth: Jesus told his disciples to continue his work and promised to send the Holy Spirit to them.

Application: Our ascended Lord guides and blesses us as we continue his work.

Response: We recognize that we are part of Christ’s church and eagerly continue his work.

Lesson Summary: During the 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples many times and talked about the kingdom of God. He also promised they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses. As the disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven, two angels appeared with the message that Jesus would come again.

Memory Treasures: *Matthew 28:19,20; 1 John 2:1b,2; *The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed; Hymn 173:1

What important work did the Holy Spirit do on Pentecost?

The Holy Spirit strengthened the faith of Jesus’ disciples and enabled them to speak God’s Word to people of many nations.

Application: The Holy Spirit creates and strengthens faith through God’s Word.

Response: We celebrate Pentecost by praising the Holy Spirit for using his power through God’s Word to create and strengthen faith.

Lesson Summary: On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and enabled them to speak in various languages. When foreign Jews heard them speaking, they asked what this meant. Peter explained to them that God had sent the Holy Spirit to help believers share his saving Word.

* Mark 16:16
* Romans 10:17
1 Thessalonians 4:7
* Revelation 2:10b
* The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed
Hymn 183:1-4

proselytes/converts—people who change from one belief to another
prophesy—to speak God’s message


Holy Spirit, thank you for working through your Word to give me saving faith in Jesus. As I teach your Word, strengthen my faith and the faith of my students. Amen.
Sing: Explain that a bright flame is often used to remind people of the work of the Holy Spirit. Sing “Holy Spirit, Light Divine” (hymn 183:1-3), in which we ask the Holy Spirit to shine in our hearts and brighten them with peace through Jesus.

Pray: Holy Spirit, thank you for working through God’s Word to bring us to saving faith. Live in our hearts now and always. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

You will need pictures of a doctor, a firefighter, and a police officer.

Show the three pictures. If you had to choose between a doctor, a firefighter, and a police officer, how would you answer this question:

Who does the most important work? [Answers will vary.]

Sometimes when people think of the three persons of the Trinity, they are tempted to think of Jesus as the most important because of his saving work. But God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are equal to Jesus and also do very important work.

Today we’ll focus on the work of the Holy Spirit as we answer the question, **What important work did the Holy Spirit do on Pentecost?**

Alternate Lesson Plan

Sing: Sing “O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God” (hymn 186:1,3) to praise the Holy Spirit and ask him to strengthen our faith in the Savior.

Pray: Holy Spirit, strengthen our faith as we study your Word today. Then help our faith burn brightly as we share your saving Word with others. Amen.

Have the students name important occasions that Christians and non-Christians celebrate. [Birthdays, anniversaries, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Eve, Easter, and so on.] Ask why days such as Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Ascension are important celebrations for Christians. [They mark the birth, death, resurrection, and ascension of the Savior.]

Pentecost is an important celebration, but we don’t give gifts on that day. We celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit on that day. Today let’s answer the question, **What important work did the Holy Spirit do on Pentecost?**
Share the explanation of Pentecost found in God’s Word 1.

1. Have partners do God’s Word 1, item 1. Have volunteers share their answers.

2. Ask what was unique about:
   - the location of the violent/mighty/rushing wind sound. [It was inside the house where the people were.]
   - the things that looked like flames/tongues. [They did not burn anyone.]

Say or have a student say some words in another language. Ask how this is different from what happened on Pentecost. [You had to learn another language. The disciples spoke in languages they had not learned.]

3. Have students do God’s Word 1, item 3.

The Holy Spirit Works in Me

Before class, write on the board or project the paragraph that follows. Have the students read the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed and then use what they have learned to complete this paragraph:

I cannot choose to [believe] in Jesus as my Savior on my own. The Holy Spirit has [called] me by the gospel, enlightened me with his [gifts], and sanctified me. [enlightens or sanctifies] I

Acts 2:1-4

Explain that Pentecost means “fiftieth.” Pentecost was an Old Testament Jewish festival of thanksgiving to God that was celebrated 50 days after each Passover. During the year in which this Bible lesson took place, the Passover was celebrated near the time of Jesus’ resurrection, therefore we celebrate Pentecost on the 50th day after Easter.

1. Read Acts 1:4,5,14. Name three reasons the disciples were together in Jerusalem. [They were obeying Jesus’ command to stay together in Jerusalem, waiting for God the Father’s promised gift, and praying together.]

2. Write on the three numerals the three amazing things that showed the Holy Spirit was present on Pentecost. [Sound of a violent/mighty/rushing wind, something like flames/tongues of fire, believers speaking in different languages/tongues.]

3. Before Pentecost, the disciples sometimes showed a lack of understanding of God’s Word and a weakness of faith. Why were they so different on Pentecost? [The Holy Spirit filled them so that they could bravely speak about the Lord.]

Key Point

How did the Holy Spirit help Jesus’ disciples?

The Holy Spirit [filled] the disciples and enabled them to [speak] in many different languages.

God’s Word Today

Spiritual Gifts for Me

Depending upon the background knowledge of your students, you may need to explain words such as enlightens or sanctifies or have students look them up.

Read the explanation of the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed, one of your memory treasures. Then complete the following activities:

1. I can’t choose to believe in [Jesus] on my own, but the Holy Spirit has worked through God’s [Word] in the following ways. Match each word with its meaning.
calls
enlightens
sanctifies
forgives

a. removes my sins and my guilt for my sins
b. makes me aware of his saving truths
c. reaches into my heart with the gospel and chooses me as his own
d. makes me holy through Jesus’ holiness and helps me obey

2. Inside each gift box, write another gift of God mentioned in the Third Article. [Keeps me with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; will raise me from the dead; will give me eternal life.]

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**GOD’S WORD**

**Acts 2:5-21**

4. What proof is there that the other tongues/languages the disciples spoke were real languages and not just babbling? [Verses 6, 8, and 11 tell us that foreigners heard and understood them speaking in their own languages. Verses 9 and 10 list specific languages heard.]

5. Why was what happened on Pentecost important to people visiting Jerusalem? [The visitors heard the Word of God preached in their own language, believed its message, and took it home.]

6. The people mentioned in verses 9-11 were from Asia, Africa, and Europe. How is what happened on Pentecost a reversal of what happened in Babel many years before? [In Babel, God confused the languages of people who were glorifying themselves. In Jerusalem on Pentecost, God allowed many to understand in their own languages the glorious wonders of God.]

7. How did Satan try to turn this miraculous event against Jesus’ disciples? [Satan used unbelievers to falsely accuse the disciples of being drunk.]
8. Have students do God’s Word 2, item 8.


Praise, Pray, and Proclaim

Have the students explain why they praise Jesus on Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and Ascension.

Draw a circle with six or more lines extending from it. Write “Jerusalem” inside the circle. Have students write six (or more) foreigners (see verses 9-11) affected by the message of Pentecost. Then draw your church with lines extending from it. Have the students add ways to reach others with God’s Word. Together compose a prayer asking God to help you share God’s Word.

Explain that this was a ridiculous accusation because drunk people cannot speak in languages they have never studied. Instead, they usually have difficulty speaking their own languages.

8. Read Joel 2:28-32. What do these words and those of Acts 2:16-21 indicate? [God is amazing! Long ago he promised to send the Holy Spirit, and he kept his word. Peter knew God’s prophecies and recognized their fulfillment.]


All those who [call] on the name of the [Lord] will be [saved].

KEY POINT How did the Holy Spirit help people from many other nations?

The Holy Spirit helped them hear the wonders of [God] in their own [languages].

GOD’S WORD TODAY What’s Important

Certain events in history have eternal importance, and we praise God for them. On a separate sheet of paper, draw the shapes suggested for Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. Inside each shape, write why the event is important to you. For Pentecost, finish the words on the flame. Then, next to the traffic light, write what you can do with this important, life-changing news.

[Answers might include the following: Christmas—Jesus, true God, came to earth and became true man to be our Savior. Good Friday—Jesus gave his life and shed his blood as the sacrifice for my sins. Easter—Jesus rose from the dead, proving that God the Father had accepted his sacrifice for sin. My sins are forgiven.]

Christmas (tree)

Good Friday (cross)

Easter (large stone)

[We can go and tell others about Jesus so the Holy Spirit might bring them to faith also.]
Aim: What important work did the Holy Spirit do on Pentecost?

Truth: The Holy Spirit strengthened the [faith] of Jesus’ disciples and enabled them to speak God’s Word to people of many [nations].

Application: The Holy Spirit creates and strengthens [faith] through God’s [Word].

Response: We celebrate [Pentecost] by praising the Holy Spirit for using his power through God’s Word to create and [strengthen] faith.

With your parents, answer these questions:

- Why is Christmas important to believers?
- Why is Easter important to believers?
- Why is Pentecost important to believers?

To Do

[ ]

at Home

Student’s initials: _______  Parent’s initials: _______

CLOSE

Duplicate Copy Master 1 to make a prayer pentagon for each student or pair of students.

Ask the students to explain why we celebrate Pentecost. [It reminds us that the Holy Spirit uses his power to create and strengthen faith, and we praise him. We hear that God wants people from all lands, including us, to hear and believe his saving Word.]

Give each student a prayer pentagon. Ask how many sides a pentagon has. [Five.] Have individuals or partners write prayers of five words or five phrases (one along each side of the pentagon) to praise the Holy Spirit for his work or ask him for help. [Examples: Holy Spirit, keep us faithful. (5 words); Holy Spirit/work through your Word/to strengthen our faith/in Jesus our Savior/and keep us faithful forever. (5 phrases)]

Pray: Pray one or more of the prayers.
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.

**Hymn 183:1-4**

For hymn texts, use the hymnal or the electronic memory treasure files for your grade level.

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**Memory Treasures Exercises**

Write the reference of the memory treasure passage that best matches each truth.

- The Holy Spirit brings me to faith through God’s Word. [*Romans 10:17.*]
- The Holy Spirit keeps me in faith, and when I die, I will enter eternal life in heaven. [*Revelation 2:10b.*]
- The Holy Spirit enables me to live my life according to God’s will. [*1 Thessalonians 4:7.*]
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Pentecost Puzzle

*Purpose:* Students will review lesson facts and write sentences about them.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 2. The answers are as follows:

1. PENTECOST, 2. FIRE, 3. WIND, 4. TONGUES, 5. LANGUAGES, 6. CROWD, 7. WONDERS, 8. ASKED, 9. HOLY SPIRIT; Sentences 1-9: Accept any sentences that relate to the lesson.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

*Purpose:* Students will read an antiphonal reading about the lesson and its meaning today.

*Procedure:* Make one copy of Copy Master 3 for each student. Divide the class into two groups to perform an antiphonal reading.

2. Application

Agree or Disagree?

*Purpose:* Students will evaluate and discuss statements about God’s Word and the Holy Spirit.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 4. The answers are as follows:

Part One: 1. Disagree. The Bible tells me how I can live in a way that shows love for God. 2. Disagree. God wants all believers to share the news they’ve heard. 3. Agree. 4. Agree. 5. Disagree. All Scripture is for our learning. The Old Testament leads to and supports the message of the New Testament. 6. Disagree. We cannot come to faith on our own; it is the gift of God. 7. Disagree. We continue to hear and learn God’s Word to strengthen our faith. 8. Agree.

Part Two: Flame 1: The visitors got to hear the saving message of Jesus and take it home.

Flame 2: I learn how important it is to hear God’s Word, which the Holy Spirit uses to strengthen my faith.

3. Music

Live by the Spirit

*Purpose:* Students will sing a song that tells about the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

*Procedure:* Teach “Live by the Spirit” found on Copy Masters 5.1 and 5.2. The song reminds the students that faith and a faith-filled life are gifts of the Holy Spirit. It also encourages the children to live their faith by obeying God and helping others.

4. Art

Shine With the Spirit Banner

*Purpose:* Students will make glow-in-the-dark flaming banners to remind them of the Holy Spirit’s work.

*Procedure:* Cut a 10” x 12” piece of white or tan burlap for each project. Fold over 2 inches at one end to make a 10-inch square. Iron each 2-inch flap so it stays down. Each child needs a 12-inch length of 3/8-inch thick wooden dowel and some jute or ribbon for hanging the banner. Make a banner according to the following directions, show it to the students, and then have them make their own banners.

- Carefully pull off two (one at a time) threads from each edge of the banner to make a fringe.
- Glue down the edge of the ironed flap to make a channel through which a dowel will go.
- Use the pentagon pattern on Copy Master 1 to make one black felt pentagon. Draw a flame about 4 inches high and 2½ inches wide on orange felt. Cut it out. Glue the pentagon to the center of the banner. Glue the flame at the center of the pentagon.
• Use a permanent black marker to print a five-word prayer around the pentagon, one word by each side. Example: HolySpirit, keep me faithful.

• Push the dowel through the channel.

• Cut a 24-inch length of jute or ribbon. Tie one end to one end of the dowel. If you wish, string a few pony beads on the jute or ribbon. Then tie the other end of the ribbon to the other end of the dowel.

• Paint lines or swirls on the flame with glow-in-the-dark paint.

• Have the students hang the banner at home to remind them to pray to the Holy Spirit for strength.

5. Writing

Publish the News

Purpose: Students will compose news articles about the lesson.

Procedure: Have individuals or groups prepare news articles, photos, and cartoons telling what happened on Pentecost. They can choose from the viewpoints suggested here. Students can design their work as traditional newspaper articles or as online news articles.

The Christian Chronicle—written by Christians to encourage fellow Christians and share the good news of Jesus with the world.

The Jewish Journal—covers the anti-Jesus, anti-Christian viewpoint of the Jewish religious leaders.

The Roman Sentinel—written with a political slant by heathen Romans.

6. Language Study

Gospel for All

Purpose: Students will see the gospel message in other languages.

Procedure: Do either or both of the following.

• Go online to find the words of John 3:16 in various languages. Show them to the students.

• Look up the song “Jesus Loves Me” in Let All the People Praise You (Northwestern Publishing House). The song is written in English and seven other languages. Sing the song in one or more languages different from yours. Explain that the message of Jesus is the most important message in any language.