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)
What happened ten days after Jesus went back to heaven?

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen the disciples’ faith and help them share it with others.

**Application:** Faith is a gift from God the Holy Spirit.

**Response:** We ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and help us share it with others.

**Lesson Summary:** Ten days after Jesus’ ascension, the disciples gathered in a room, waiting for the Holy Spirit. A sound like the blowing of a mighty wind, little flames like fire on the disciples’ heads, and the disciples’ speaking in foreign languages were miracles that showed the Holy Spirit had come, just as Jesus had promised. That day many people heard God’s Word and were brought to faith by the Holy Spirit.

**Isaiah 41:10**


Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for giving me the gift of faith in Jesus the Savior. Strengthen my faith as I hear your Word, and help me tell others the good news of salvation. Also strengthen the faith of my students and lead them to share it with others. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.
Begin by singing the refrain of Psalm 23 (hymnal, page 72).

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Show a calendar.

Point to the date of Easter. Ask what happened on Easter. [Jesus rose from the dead.] Draw an empty tomb on that date. Lead the children in counting as you point to 40 consecutive days. Point to Ascension Day (a Thursday), and ask what Jesus did 40 days after Easter. [Went back to heaven.] Draw a cloud on that date. Have the children count to ten as you point to the next ten days. Draw a flame on the tenth day (the Sunday of Pentecost).

I marked special days we celebrate. Today we’ll learn how a flame reminds us of another special day.

WORSHIP

Remind the children that Jesus cares for them as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Then sing “I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” (hymn 432:1).

I am Jesus’ little lamb;
Ever glad at heart I am,
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my needs and well provides me,
Loves me ev’ry day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

You need a plastic two-piece egg, a paper cloud, and a candle. Variation: In place of the egg and the cloud, use student lesson pictures from the Easter and ascension accounts.

Have a child open the egg to show that it is empty. Say that the empty egg reminds us of something that was empty on Easter morning. Ask what it was and why it was empty. [Jesus’ grave; he had risen.] Show the cloud. Ask why it reminds us of something Jesus did 40 days after Easter. [A cloud covered him as he went back to heaven.] Show a candle. Explain that when we light a candle, a flame burns brightly. We have to be careful with flames so that they do not burn us or things that should not be burned.

Our Bible lesson will tell about a flame that glowed brightly but did not burn. The flame reminds us of a gift Jesus sent to his disciples. In our Bible lesson, we will learn what happened ten days after Jesus went back to heaven.
Attach **white paper** to the inside bottom of a shallow **box**. Turn the box on its side so the paper becomes the back wall of a room. While telling the story:

- draw several disciples on the wall.
- have a child make the sound of a strong wind.

- have children walk **toy people** toward the room.
- have one child use an **orange washable marker** to draw flames over the disciples’ heads.

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**Before Jesus** went **back to heaven**, he **promised** his disciples, “I am **with you always**.” Jesus also told them, “**Wait** in the city of Jerusalem. You will receive a **special gift**. I will **send** you **God the Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit will **give** you the **power** to **tell others** about God’s love.”

**Ten days** after Jesus went up into heaven, the **disciples** were together in a **room in Jerusalem**. They were **waiting** for God the Holy Spirit to come.

**Suddenly** some **strange things** began to happen. The disciples **heard a sound** like a **strong wind blowing**. But there was **no wind**; there was **just the sound** of a wind. Then **little flames like fire** flickered over the heads of the disciples. But the flames **did not burn** them. **Jesus used** the **sound** of the wind and the **flames** like fire to **show** the disciples that the **Holy Spirit had come** to them.

**Many people** were **visiting** in Jerusalem that day. They had come **from other countries** and **in languages** that were **different from the language** most people in Jerusalem spoke. When the people **heard** the **noise** that sounded like a **roaring wind**, they **came** to the place **where the disciples were** meeting. They **listened** to the disciples and were **amazed**. They **could understand** what the disciples were saying! The **Holy Spirit had come** to the disciples. He had **made them** able to **speak in many languages** so that people from **different countries could understand** God’s Word.

The disciples told the people about Jesus and his **great love** for them. As the people listened, **God the Holy Spirit worked faith** in their hearts. **Many people came to believe** in Jesus that day because of the **power** of the Holy Spirit.
On a paper heart, make a cross with “faith” written on it. Place that heart inside a gift bag with a tag that says, “From the Holy Spirit.” You also need a Bible.

**Do** Lead the children in raising each finger as all of you count to ten.

**Say** Ten days after Jesus went back to heaven, the disciples were in a room together. Then some special things happened.

**Do** Have everyone cup ears.

**Ask** What did the disciples hear? [A sound like a strong wind blowing.]

**Say** But there was no wind, just the sound of one.

**Do** Have the children point to their eyes.

**Ask** What did the disciples see? [Little flames like fire above their heads.]

**Say** But the flames did not burn the disciples.

**Do** Have the children point to their lips.

**Ask** What was different about the way the disciples were speaking? [They were speaking in other languages.]

**Do** Give examples of a different language. For example, say, “One, two, three.” Then say, “Ein, zwei, drei” (ine, tsvy, dry), which is

**Discuss** Stick a small branch with smaller branches into a pot of sand or soil so that the branch looks like a tree that is tipping. You need an ascension picture, string, craft sticks, and a student lesson picture. Cut paper apples sized to fit the tree, punch a hole in each, and add string so the apples can hang.

**Do** Show an ascension picture.

**Say** Before Jesus went back to heaven, he promised to send God the Holy Spirit to his disciples. The Holy Spirit would strengthen their faith and help them tell others about Jesus, the Savior from sin.

**Do** Set aside the picture.

**Say** Let’s pretend we are Jesus’ disciples. We are all together in one room. It has been ten days since Jesus went back to heaven, and we are still waiting for him to send the Holy Spirit.

**Do** Have one child make a wind sound.

**Say** I hear a wind, but I don’t feel any wind.

**Do** Have each child move one hand above his or her head like a flame.

**Ask** What is strange about the flames on our heads? [They don’t burn us!]

Why do you think these strange things are happening? [To show that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit.]

**Say** Now let’s pretend we are the people going to see what is going on.

**Do** All walk in place.

**Ask** What do we hear the disciples doing? [Talking in different languages.]

Why can the disciples speak in different languages? [The Holy Spirit made them able to do this.]

**Do** Demonstrate counting to three in a different language. Examples: uno, dos, tres (oo’no, dose, trace; Spanish) or ein, zwei, drei (ine, tsvy, dry; German).

**Say** Jesus had kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples. The Holy Spirit came to strengthen their faith and help them share it with others.

**Do** Show the potted branch.
Let’s pretend this branch is a tree.

What problem does our tree have? [It is tipping.]

Let’s strengthen our tree.

Use pieces of string and the craft sticks to stake the branch so it is straight.

This tree reminds us of something God the Holy Spirit does for us. Just as these strings and stakes strengthen the tree, so the Holy Spirit strengthens the faith he has given us.

Say the memory treasure for and then with the children.

Now let’s pretend that our tree grows fruit.

Have a child hang the paper apples on the tree.

Look at all that fruit! I know it tastes good and it is good for you, so I think I will share it.

Hand paper apples to the children.

Just as I shared fruit, so we want to share our faith with others. We want them to know the good news that Jesus took away the sins of all people and earned life in heaven for us.

Show a student lesson picture.

Who made the disciples able to speak in other languages so they could tell people from other countries about Jesus? [The Holy Spirit.]

Who will help us tell other people about Jesus? [The Holy Spirit.]

The Holy Spirit has given us the gift of faith and has promised to give us strength and help us share Jesus with others.

Those special things showed that Jesus had kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit.

Read the tag on the gift. Have the children think about what gift the Holy Spirit gives us. Then have a child open the gift and pull out the heart.

What is on this heart? [Cross with a word on it.]

This word is faith. God the Holy Spirit gives the gift of faith. He works in people’s hearts (point to heart) and leads them to believe in Jesus as their Savior from sin. (Point to cross.) But that’s not all he does!

Open a Bible to Isaiah 41:10. Read the memory treasure.

The Holy Spirit strengthened the disciples’ faith, and he strengthens our faith too.

Lead the children in saying the passage.

Jesus gives us the same important job he gave his disciples. He wants us to tell people that he is the Savior from sin.

Who helped the disciples share their faith and will help us do the same thing? [The Holy Spirit.]
CLOSE

Say Each day let’s ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith (show heart) and help us share it with others!

Show a student lesson picture. You need the heart from Discuss (Alternate).

Do Have everyone say the memory treasure.

Say The Holy Spirit came to strengthen (flex arm muscles) the disciples’ faith and help them share it with others.

Do Point to “faith” on the heart.

Ask What gift does God the Holy Spirit give? [Faith in Jesus.]

Do Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for giving us faith in Jesus. Strengthen our faith and help us share it with others. In our Savior’s name we pray. Amen.

Student Idea: Time to draw! Get out your markers and crayons to do the activities on your student lesson.

Ask Ten days after Jesus went back to heaven, whom did he send to the disciples? [The Holy Spirit.]

Say The Holy Spirit came to strengthen (point to string and stakes) the disciples’ faith and help them share it (hold up a paper apple) with others.

Ask Who gives the gift of faith in Jesus? [God the Holy Spirit.]

Do Lead the children in saying the memory treasure. Then say the following words and lead the children in doing the actions:

Dear Spirit, fill our lives with love (hold hand over heart)
And faith that comes from you above. (point up)
Help us share that faith with all, (move palms outward)
Young and old, big and small. (put hand up for big and down for small)

Parent Idea: Be a little like the disciples and speak some of God’s Word in a different language. Do an Internet search, and learn to say “Jesus loves you!” in a foreign language.

MEMORY TREASURE

Isaiah 41:10
• Begin by reading the following poem. Lead the children in doing the actions.

God the Holy Spirit has put faith in me.
(press hands against heart)
I believe in Jesus happily!
(form cross with arms)

• Use Activity 1 (Flames Review) under Lesson Activities to review the story.

• Recall that the Holy Spirit came to strengthen the disciples’ faith and help them share it with others. Then do the following activities:
  – Show some healthy foods (real or toy) such as fruits, vegetables, and milk. Ask why those foods are important to our bodies. [They help our bodies stay healthy and strong.] Ask what might happen if we did not have good foods to eat and drink. [Our bodies could get sick and weak.] Ask how the Holy Spirit works like those good foods. [He keeps our faith strong and healthy.]

  – Show a picture of a mother and a baby (both can be persons or animals). Ask what would happen if the mother did not take care of her baby and did not give her baby the food and other things it needed. [The baby could get sick and die.] Show a Bible. Ask what would happen to someone who does not believe in Jesus as the Savior from sin. [The person would go to hell.] Stress that we want to share our faith with others so that they hear the good news that Jesus took away their sins and earned life in heaven for them.

• Pray: Dear Holy Spirit, help us learn your Word, always believe it, and share it with others so that they hear about Jesus the Savior. Amen.

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

1. Review

Flames Review

*Purpose:* To take turns telling parts of the story.

*Procedure:* Before class, write each child’s name on a separate red, yellow, or orange paper flame. Place all the flames in a box or basket.

Choose a flame, read the name, and have that child tell a favorite part of the Bible story. That child keeps the flame and then chooses the next flame. Repeat until everyone has had a chance to tell part of the story.

Story Song and Pictures

*Purpose:* To use a song and pictures to review the story.

*Procedure:* Have each child cut out pictures made from Copy Master 1. Sing the following words (including those of the refrain) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” During each refrain, show the picture of the disciples and flames. For stanza 1 show the ascension picture, and for stanza 2 show the people running to the disciples.

1. Jesus told his friends,
   “Wait. It won’t be long.
   I will send the Spirit soon
   To make your faith grow strong.”

   *Refrain:*
   The sound of the wind,
   The little bits of flame,
   Let all the disciples know
   That God the Spirit came.

2. Then the disciples spoke
   In languages to all
   About God’s love and his dear Son,
   Who lived and died for all.

   *Refrain*

2. Application

Birthday Discussion

*Purpose:* To talk about the best gift.

*Procedure:* If fire regulations allow it, light a candle on a cupcake. If not, draw such a picture on the board. Ask the children what day a lit candle on a cake reminds them of. [*A birthday.*] Have children name birthday gifts they have received. Then show a heart with a cross inside. Say that God the Holy Spirit gives us a gift that is far more important than any the children named. He gives us faith in Jesus, our Savior from sin. Ask why that gift is more important than the others. [*Jesus is the only one who can save us from our sins and give us life in heaven.*]

Emphasize that we want to share our faith so that others learn about Jesus, their Savior from sin. *Pray:* Dear Holy Spirit, you gave us a gift far more important than any birthday gift we could ever receive. You gave us faith in Jesus, our Savior. Thank you! Help us share that gift with others so they hear the good news of Jesus and the forgiveness he gives. Amen.

What Makes . . .

*Purpose:* To emphasize that the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith.

*Procedure:* Review the memory treasure and the fact that the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. Then give each child a copy of Copy Master 2. Read the words in the first box and have the children complete the picture as directed on the page. Repeat for the remaining boxes. Explain that a dove is often used to help us remember the Holy Spirit coming to us. When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus in the form of a dove.
3. Music

**Songs**

*Purpose:* To sing lesson-related songs.

**Procedure:** Teach one or both of the following songs:

- “The Spirit Works in Me” ♫ from Copy Master 3.
- “This Little Gospel Light of Mine” from *Little Ones Sing Praise* (Concordia Publishing House). *Suggestion:* Have the children scatter throughout the room. The teacher and class sing the song over and over. The teacher leads one child after another to the center of the room until all the scattered children are in one group (to represent sharing the Word with each child).

4. Art

**The Holy Spirit Strengthens My Faith**

*Purpose:* To make a reminder that the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith.

**Procedure:** Duplicate Copy Master 4 on white paper, and give each child a sheet with a flame. Have the children use dark crayons to write their names on their flames. Then have them use red, yellow, and/or orange watercolors to paint their flames, painting right over their names. Have each child cut out his or her flame, punch a hole near the top, and add a loop of yarn for hanging. Have the children hang their flames on a potted tree like the one used in *Discuss.* On the pot, place a sign that reads, “The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith!”

*Suggestions:* (1) Each day choose a flame and insert the name on it into the following prayer: Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for giving _____ faith in Jesus. Strengthen _____’s faith and help him (her) share it with others. Amen. (2) Make a tree on a bulletin board. Attach the flames to the tree. Add the title suggested earlier.

**Headbands**

*Purpose:* To make a reminder that the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith.

**Procedure:** Duplicate Copy Master 4 on orange paper to make a flame for each child. Cut a yellow construction paper headband for each child and write “The Holy Spirit Gives Faith in Jesus” on each headband. Read the words to the children. Have the children attach their flames to their headbands with tape. The children could draw hearts with crosses inside (to represent faith) on the headbands and add Jesus stickers.

**Pentecost Prayer Windsock**

*Purpose:* To make a reminder to ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith and help us share it.

**Procedure:** Give each child a piece of 12” x 9” white construction paper, turned horizontally, with the words “Holy Spirit, strengthen my faith and help me share it with others” written along the top. Have the children add tracings of their hands (praying hands) and drawings of flames, doves, and hearts with crosses inside. Have the children glue crepe paper streamers (2 feet long) along the bottom edges of their papers. Use red, yellow, and orange streamers as reminders of the flames on Pentecost. After the streamers have dried, have the children glue the sides of their papers together to form a cylinder. Punch two holes near the top and insert a piece of string. Hang these windsocks in the classroom or encourage the children to hang them at home to remind them to ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith and help them share it with others.
5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

*Purpose:* To do a movement activity based on the number of days from Jesus’ ascension to Pentecost.

*Procedure:* Recall that ten days after Jesus went back to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Then have the children:

- Do ten jumping jacks.
- Run in place while counting to ten.
- Hop ten times on the right foot.
- Hop ten times on the left foot.
- Do ten toe touches.
- Do ten arm circles.

Snack

*Purpose:* To serve a snack based on the lesson and its truth.

*Procedure:* Have the children add religious stickers (Bibles, crosses, Jesus) to disposable drinking cups. Serve milk in those cups. Remind the children that milk helps make our teeth and bones strong, and the Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to strengthen our faith. With the milk, serve a “flaming” treat. For each child, place a pineapple ring on a paper plate. Stand half a banana inside the hole of the pineapple. Cut a small wedge from the top of the banana. Place a maraschino cherry or a small orange fruit snack in the wedge as a flame. Enjoy! Remind the children that flames like fire above the disciples’ heads were a sign that Jesus had sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith and help them share it with others. Note: Provide a milk substitute for those who are lactose intolerant.

Flicker Picture

*Purpose:* To make a toy that reminds the children of the flames that appeared on the disciples’ heads.

*Procedure:* Give each child two 3-inch poster board circles and a set of two circles (flame and face) made from Copy Master 5. Each child should color the face (add a smile for a happy disciple) and the flame, cut out the two circles, and glue each paper circle to a separate poster board circle. Help the children tape a pencil or wooden dowel to the back of the face circle so that the pencil (dowel) goes through the center of the area where the face would be if it were on that other side. Then staple the circles back-to-back so the flame is positioned above the top of the head on the other circle. Show the children how to hold the pencil (dowel) between their palms and rub back and forth rapidly. As the pictures flip back and forth, the children will see an optical illusion. The flame will seem to appear above the head. The technical term for this toy is a thaumatrope.