

united kingdom

GOD'S
SPIRIT

the Kingdom story from creation to revelation

GOD'S SPIRIT

Based on NLT

Introduction

Those who believed in Jesus and followed Him (about 120 of them!) continued to meet together in Jerusalem after Jesus went up to heaven. A few days later, there was another special religious festival in Jerusalem, and people from all over the world came to celebrate.

Acts 2:1-4

On the day of *the festival*, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with *God's Spirit* and began speaking in other languages, as *God's Spirit* gave them this ability.

Acts 2:6-13

When *the people in Jerusalem from other places* heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from *around here*, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages ... about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them *and said*, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

Acts 2:14-16

Then Peter stepped forward with *Jesus' closest followers* and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you. ... Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was prophesied long ago. ...

Acts 2:22-24

"Listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus ... by doing powerful miracles, wonders and signs through Him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and His prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. ... You nailed Him to a cross and killed Him. But God ... raised him back to life. ...

Acts 2:32-33, 36

"Now He is exalted to the place of highest honour in heaven, at God's right hand. And *God*, as He had promised, gave Him *His Spirit* to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. ... So ... know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you *killed*, to be *the Promised King!*"

Acts 2:37-39

Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said, ... "What should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you *must turn away from your disobedience and turn to God*, and be baptised in the name of Jesus ... *to show that you've done this*. Then you will receive the gift of *God's Spirit*. This promise is to you and to your children and *to everyone throughout the world who turns to God through Jesus.*"

Acts 2:41-47

Those who believed what Peter said were baptised and added to the church that day – about 3,000 in all. ... A deep sense of awe came over them all, and *Jesus' closest followers* performed many *miracles*. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together ... each day, *prayed together, were taught about Jesus*, met in homes ... and shared their meals with great joy and generosity. ... And each day *God* added to their fellowship those who were *turning to God and being forgiven through Jesus*.

TELLING THE STORY

Why this story?

God's Spirit comes in power. Immediately He causes the Good News to be shared and people's lives to be transformed. Those who respond also obey by being baptised. The new church is a community – a picture of God's Kingdom on earth.

Salvation does not end with the cross or even with the resurrection. It is only the beginning of new life, as evidenced in this story. God promised His Spirit for all of us who turn from our sins, and turn to God through believing in Jesus. God's Spirit produces significant change in the life of believers – and the outworking of His Spirit draws others to Himself. In this first manifestation of God's Spirit, people from many different language groups heard the Good News in their own language. On that day 3,000 new people were added to God's Kingdom!

Key concepts to include in your story

- Jesus' followers obey Him and waited in Jerusalem for God's Spirit
- There's a special religious festival in Jerusalem, and people from all over the world come to celebrate
- Jesus followers' are gathered in a room praying together when a sound like a mighty windstorm sweeps through the room and something like tongues of fire come and rest on each of them
- God's Spirit fills Jesus' followers, and they begin speaking the Good News in different languages
- People who had come to the festival heard the Good News in their own languages
- Some thought the followers were drunk
- Peter stood up and told the people:
 - God prophesied this long ago
 - God proved that Jesus was the Promised King by the miracles He did
 - He was killed
 - God raised Him from the dead
 - God placed Him at a place of highest authority and honour
 - God gave Him His Spirit to pour out on His followers
 - God made Him the Promised King
- The people's hearts were pierced and they asked, "What should we do?"
- Peter said:
 - Turn away from your disobedience and turn towards God
 - Be baptised to show that you have done this
 - You will receive God's Spirit – the promise is for you and all those afterwards who follow Jesus
- 3000 were baptised that day
- Jesus' followers performed miracles, they shared everything, they worshipped and prayed together, ate together
- Every day more and more were added to their number

Notes about how the story was crafted

The special Jewish festival that was being celebrated was the "Feast of Weeks," or "Feast of Harvest," occurring seven weeks after Passover. This was a special harvest pilgrimage festival that celebrated the end of barley harvest. As a "required" festival, there would have been Jewish pilgrims from all over the world in Jerusalem.

God's Spirit has been used in place of **Holy Spirit**.

References to **Jews** have been omitted in order to avoid the distraction of a discussion about the modern-day political entity of Israel. Instead, the general term **God's people/people** has been used.

Closest followers has been used in place of **disciples**, as it has been throughout the story set. **Closest followers** refers to the twelve, and **followers** refers to the wider group of people who believed in Jesus.

Much of Peter's sermon has been omitted so that the story can be re-tell-able and so that the story can focus on the main themes of the story set. In this case, we have chosen to focus on Peter's summary of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and subsequent ascension to the right hand of God, showing that He is truly the King promised by God so many years before.

Turn away from your disobedience and turn to God is what is used for **repent of your sins** in order to unpack the meaning of the terms "repent" and "sins." These are the same terms we have been using throughout the story set. However you describe repentance and sins in your story, be consistent with how you have said it in the past.

The New Living Translation of Acts 2:38 says **Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins**. Most scholars agree that the wording of this phrase does not mean that baptism is necessary in order to have your sins forgiven. It is repentance that is necessary. The word "for" can also be translated "on the basis of" – meaning that baptism shows that your sins have already been forgiven because of your repentance. Most scholars agree that this is the best way to interpret this passage, and it seems to be further evidenced by the fact that in no other biblical passage does it seem to indicate that forgiveness of sins is dependent on baptism. In fact, other passages seem to indicate that forgiveness is dependent on repentance (Luke 24:47; Acts 3:18-19, 5:31) and faith (Acts 10:43, 13:38, 26:18).

Everyone throughout the world replaces **Gentiles** in Acts 2:39 so that our non-churched audience can understand the meaning.

The reference to the **Lord's Supper** has been omitted from this story because we have not introduced it in previous stories.

Those who were being saved has been replaced by **those who were turning to God and being forgiven through Jesus** in order to give a clearer picture of what **being saved** means.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Retelling the story

- As your group practices retelling this story, help them see the different scenes in this story
 - The followers are waiting in Jerusalem as Jesus had instructed them
 - God's Spirit comes and fills the followers – they begin speaking in different languages, and people come to hear them speaking the Good News in their own languages
 - Peter gets up to speak and refute the idea that the followers are drunk. He:
 - Gives a summary of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension
 - Says that Jesus has poured out God's Spirit on them
 - Says that God has made Jesus the Promised King
 - The people ask what to do, and Peter responds:
 - Turn away from disobedience and turn to God to be forgiven
 - Be baptised to show you have done this
 - God will give you His Spirit, and He promises His Spirit to all who come afterwards and want to follow Jesus
 - 3000 people respond and are baptised
 - The new group meets together, shares everything, worships together and continues growing

Questions for discussion

You don't have to ask all of these questions in your discussion times. These questions are discussion starters, but you will find that often, once people feel comfortable, they talk about many of these things naturally. However, these questions are helpful to keep a conversation going where needed, and they provide a logical sequence of working through the story. Even if you don't ask all the questions in a group, try to ask people what this story means for them personally. You'll find that as you continue to interact with God's Word at a deep level, God's Spirit will reveal things for your life in a wonderful way!

- What do you like about this story?
- What bothered you about this story?
- What does this story show you about God?
- What does this story show you about people?
- What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
- How will you remember this story? *(Tell it!)*
- Is there anyone you would like to tell this story to? Or anyone you would like to practice with? E.g. Your children, your best friend, your wife, your husband, a mum at the school gate, your work colleague, your neighbour. (It's true that the best way to learn a story is to tell it. So why don't you give it a go and chat to each other next week about how you found it?)
- How does this story contribute to our understanding of the Gospel? How is this story part of the Gospel?

Questions people may have

This section can never be exhaustive. Remember that during your group discussion times, you want to focus on the above questions rather than get sidetracked by deeply academic issues. Part of the joy of experiencing and studying God's Word in this way is allowing God's Spirit to teach us and reveal His truth to us through the narrative of the individual stories, and ultimately through the narrative of the larger story line. However, we understand that sometimes people feel they need some deeper answers. Sometimes, the storyline has to speak for itself, and we have to trust it to do so. However, if your group needs some deeper answers in order to go on, here are some basics that you can discuss. If you have unresolved questions, please come and ask, and we'll help you find the answers.

- The description of this first "church" fellowship seems unrealistic. Are we really meant to live like that now?
 - *The first fellowship of believers grew from about 120 to 3000 in one day! This obviously means that the first fellowships very practically had to look different than ours do. However, certain principles seem to be found throughout the description of the early church in Acts, and we cannot ignore them. Over and over we see miraculous signs and wonders, sacrificial generosity, and fellowship amongst believers that included worship, hospitality and praise. These characteristics were appealing to non-believers around them, and more and more were added to the number of believers on a regular basis. Although our culture will mean that these foundational principles will outwardly look slightly different than in the biblical culture of the time, these basic principles can form a foundation on which our church fellowship rests.*
- What did this first "speaking in tongues" look like? Is this a template for what "baptism in the Holy Spirit" looks like?
 - Books and commentaries abound on this subject, and we suggest that you speak to a church leader if you would like suggestions on what to read to understand more. Here's what we do know from this story about God's Spirit's arrival at Pentecost:
 - God's Spirit came and filled the believers, just as Jesus had promised.
 - God's Spirit manifests itself in something that looked like tongues of fire and in the believers speaking in other languages – that were actually used and understood by other ethnic groups.
 - We do not see tongues of fire again in the New Testament in conjunction with the arrival of the Holy Spirit.
 - We do sometimes see other languages spoken in conjunction with the arrival of the Holy Spirit to new believers, but we are not explicitly told that speakers of other languages understand them. (Acts 10:46, 19:6)

- God's Spirit is promised to all who turn away from their sins and are baptised – it is clearly linked, both here and in other cases, with repentance and baptism. In the New Testament, the idea of an unbaptised believer was never even considered. However, we do know that water baptism is not a prerequisite for receiving God's Spirit (see the Cornelius story – Acts 10:46-48). This promise of God's Spirit in Acts 2 is different than the "gifts of the Spirit" of which Paul later talks about. Those gifts (which would include speaking in tongues) are the spiritual faculties that the Spirit imparts. The gift that Peter speaks of here is the gift of the Spirit Himself. It is true that often the gift of the Spirit Himself is accompanied by various manifestations of the Spirit (and perhaps sometimes by gifts of the Spirit), but the overarching gift that the Spirit brings in this story is that of salvation through Jesus.
- Obviously the idea of a separate "baptism in the Holy Spirit" is one that requires much more discussion than we can give it in this space. It is a subject that is worth understanding at a deeper level. However, this story provides a very good foundation for understanding God's gift of His Spirit – His very presence with us. As believers, He has promised this gift to us, and we can trust in that promise!

GOD'S SPIRIT – for children

Based on NLT

Introduction

Those who believed in Jesus and followed Him (about 120 of them!) continued to meet together in Jerusalem after Jesus went up to heaven. A few days later, there was another special religious festival in Jerusalem, and people from all over the world came to celebrate.

Acts 2:1-4

On the day of *the festival*, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, *a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven*, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then what looked like flames ... of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with *God's Spirit* and began speaking in other languages, as *God's Spirit* gave them this *power*.

Acts 2:6-13

When *the people in Jerusalem who were from other places* heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were *surprised* to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they *shouted*. "These people are all from *around here*, and yet we hear them speaking in our own ... languages ... about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there *surprised* and *confused*. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd *made fun of* them and said, "They're just drunk, that's all!"

Acts 2:14-16

Then Peter stepped forward with *Jesus' closest followers* and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you. ... *Pay attention to what I'm about to say*. These people are not drunk, as some of you *think*. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, *a long time ago a prophet wrote about what you're seeing here today*. ...

Acts 2:22-24

"Listen! God *clearly showed who Jesus is* ... by doing powerful miracles, wonders and signs through Him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and His *plan was made long ago – then* carried out when Jesus was betrayed. ... You nailed Him to a cross and killed Him. But God ... raised him back to life. ...

Acts 2:32-33, 36

"Now He *was raised to the most important place* in heaven, at God's right *side*. And *God*, as He had promised, gave Him His Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. ... So ... know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you *killed*, to be *the Promised King!*"

Acts 2:37-39

Peter's words *made the people feel guilty*, and they said, ... "What should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you *must turn away from your disobedience and* turn to God, and be baptised in the name of Jesus ... *to show that you've done this*. Then you will receive the gift of *God's Spirit*. This promise is to you and to your children and to *everyone throughout the world who turns to God through Jesus*."

Acts 2:41-47

Those who believed what Peter said were baptised and added to the church that day – about 3,000 in all. ... *Everyone felt great respect for God*, and *Jesus' closest followers* performed many *miracles*. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their *land and the things they owned* and shared the money with *anyone who needed it*. They worshiped together ... each day, *prayed together, were taught about Jesus*, met in homes ... and *were happy to share their food with joyful hearts*. ... And each day God added *more people who were turning to God and being forgiven through Jesus to the group of believers*.

TELLING THE STORY – for children

Key concepts to include in your story

The story will need to be simplified at varying levels based on the age group of the children you are teaching. This means that many of the details in the story will need to be summarized. However, you should include the following concepts in your story.

- Jesus' followers obey Him and waited in Jerusalem for God's Spirit
- There's a special religious festival in Jerusalem, and people from all over the world come to celebrate
- Jesus followers' are gathered in a room praying together when a sound like a mighty windstorm sweeps through the room and something like tongues of fire come and rest on each of them
- God's Spirit fills Jesus' followers, and they begin speaking the Good News in different languages
- People who had come to the festival heard the Good News in their own languages
- Some thought the followers were drunk
- Peter stood up and told the people:
 - God prophesied this long ago
 - God proved that Jesus was the Promised King by the miracles He did
 - He was killed
 - God raised Him from the dead
 - God placed Him at a place of highest authority and honour
 - God gave Him His Spirit to pour out on His followers
 - God made Him the Promised King
- The people's hearts were pierced and they asked, "What should we do?"
- Peter said:
 - Turn away from your disobedience and turn towards God
 - Be baptised to show that you have done this
 - You will receive God's Spirit – the promise is for you and all those afterwards who follow Jesus
- 3000 were baptised that day
- Jesus' followers performed miracles, they shared everything, they worshipped and prayed together, ate together
- Everyday more and more were added to their number

Example of a simplified version of the story for children

There were about 120 people who believed in Jesus and followed Him. They kept meeting together in Jerusalem after Jesus went up to heaven. A few days later, another special religious festival in Jerusalem started, and people from all over the world came to celebrate. On the day of the festival, all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and landed on each person there. They were all filled with God's Spirit, and the power that God's Spirit gave them caused them to begin speaking in different languages. There were people in Jerusalem from every country in the world, and when they heard the loud noise, they came running. They were surprised to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be happening?" they shouted. "These people are from this area, but we can hear them speaking in our own languages about all the wonderful things God has done!" The people stood there surprised and confused. "What does this mean?" they asked each other. But other people in the crowd began making fun of the believers, saying, "They've had too much to drink, and now they're drunk!" Then Peter stepped forward with Jesus' closest followers. In a loud voice, Peter spoke to the crowd: "Listen to me. Pay attention to what I'm about to say. These people are not drunk, as some of you think. It's only 9 o'clock in the morning – much too early for that. A long time ago, a prophet wrote about what you see happening here today. Listen carefully to what I'm saying. Jesus is God's Promised King. God clearly showed this to you by the miracles, wonders and signs He did through Jesus. You know all of this, because it happened right here among you. Jesus was given to you, and you put Him to death by nailing Him to a cross. But this was God's plan, which He had made a long time ago; He knew all this would happen. God raised Jesus from the dead – back to life! Then Jesus was lifted up to heaven and is now at God's right side. God – the Father – has given the Holy Spirit to Jesus – just as He promised. And Jesus has now sent His Spirit to us today – which is what you are seeing and hearing right now. All of you should know the truth: God made Jesus – the Man you killed – to be the Promised King." Peter's words made the people feel guilty, and they asked, "What should we do?" Peter told them, "Each of you must change your hearts and your lives. Turn away from the ways you've disobeyed God and turn to God. Be baptised in the name of Jesus to show that you've done this. Then you will receive the gift of God's Spirit. This promise is for you and your children and for everyone in the whole world who turns to God through Jesus." Those people who believed what Peter said were baptised. About 3000 people were added to the group of believers that day. Everyone felt great respect for God, and Jesus' followers performed many miracles. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their land and the things they owned. They shared the money they were given with anyone who needed it. The believers worshipped together everyday. They prayed together, learned about Jesus, met in homes and happily shared their food with each other. They had joyful hearts and praised God. And each day God added more people to the group of believers – people who were turning to God and being forgiven through Jesus.

Retelling the story

The following activities can be used to vary your storying sessions with the children and keep the action fresh and exciting. They also help the children learn the stories in different ways. You'll find as children journey through this story set with you, they become more and more capable of learning even complicated stories quickly and well. Varying activities and keeping it fun helps the children write the stories on their heart so that they can pull them out of their toolbox whenever a situation comes up where they can use them!

- **Charades** – Have participants choose one line from the story and use actions to convey that line to the rest of the group. The child that guesses correctly goes next.
- **Skit** – Assign parts to groups and have them act out the story as you or a participant narrates. This can be done as a group or in smaller teams. If done in teams, you may choose to have each team act out the whole story, or assign sections and have them perform the skits in chronological order one after the other.
- **Song** – This activity seems to work best in small groups of older and more advanced students. If you believe your group would enjoy this activity, have them write and perform a song based on a story or a portion of a story. To make this task easier, have each group choose a song melody as their foundation and change the lyrics as needed, as opposed to starting from scratch.
- **Sign Language** – This is a great way to incorporate kinaesthetic learning into storying. Work with the participants to develop "sign language" for keywords in the story. This will help them to remember the order and progression of the story. This activity may also be done as a group or in smaller teams. If done in teams, have a participant from each team narrate as the group demonstrates their motions. The more creative, the more likely they are to remember it! Sign language is a good activity if younger and more inexperienced storytellers are part of the group.
- **Perspective Shift** – This creative and critical thinking activity works best later in the story set. Assign groups of children different characters in the story. They then adjust the story they have learned to the perspective of that character. For example, they could tell the Fall story from Adam and Eve's perspectives or the Abraham story from Abraham's perspective.
- **Memory** – The storyteller starts this activity by saying the first line of the story. The story then moves around the circle as each participant tells a line. An alternate method is to go back and forth between partners as they tell the story to each other.
- **Popcorn** – The storyteller also starts this activity. As children remember, they raise their hand. When ready, the storyteller yells "pop" and the name of someone with their hand raised. That person will then jump in until more hands are raised and they shout "pop" to pass the story to another child. You will likely need to demonstrate how this works.
- **Interview** – Children are assigned different characters. A child designated as "interviewer" asks the characters questions about what happened in the story and the character answers according to his or her role. For example, the interviewer could ask Adam about what he witnessed or the actions he took in the garden when he ate the fruit, and Adam would give his answer.
- **Action words** – Before telling the story, the storyteller gives instructions associated with particular words. Children listen for those words in the story, and must do appropriate action when heard. For example, the storyteller would tell the participants to wiggle their arm like a snake anytime they hear the word "snake." There should be multiple words associated with actions in the story. This activity also works well with a younger audience.

Children's Teaching Materials

Sunday mornings will begin in the warehouse with a joint children's worship time led by a youth worship band followed by a storying session with the roving storyteller. Then groups will disperse to their usual meeting locations for the age-appropriate teaching of the story and activities that reinforce that story's message.

Sparks

10:30 Retell the story using a Storybook Bible.

Snack – rice cakes

10:45 Craft:

~ Make streamers in fire colours, and stick them onto straws.



~ Make concertina people (paper chains). Wave the streamers over them. Then bring them together to make a community.

Resources Needed:

- Storybook Bible
- Rice cakes
- Straws
- Crepe paper
- Pre-made concertina people (paper chains)

11:15 Music:

"Joyful, Happy & Thankful" (sing to tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

God loves me so much, (*hands over heart*)

God loves me so much.

Joyful, joyful, joyful, joyful, (*waving arms above head*)

God loves me so much.

Jesus is my friend, (*arms hugging*)

Jesus is my friend.

Happy, happy, happy, happy, (*jumping up and down*)

Jesus is my friend.

Holy Spirit in me, (*fingers point to heart*)

Holy Spirit in me.

Thankful, thankful, thankful, thankful, (*clapping*)

Holy Spirit in me.

God is our Father, (*hold up one finger*)

Jesus is His Son, (*hold up two fingers*)

And there is the Holy Spirit, (*hold up three fingers*)

The three of them are one. (*hold up one finger*)

- Music

11:20 Play

Resources Needed:

10:30 Begin with prayer. (Don't repeat a specific prayer, but follow the general idea of the prayer below.)
~ Say "Hi" to God, tell Him we're glad He's there with us and ask Him to help us see Him, hear Him and know Him. Invite Him into everything we'll be doing today.

Keep today's focus in mind: "Jesus sent God's Spirit to live in me."

10:35 Story & Crafts:

~ Begin with telling the story, then make the crafts



~ Make a colourful chain of people

~ Make streamers with coloured cellophane and paper (to represent the wind and fire)

~ Make a dove with white paper

- Pre-made chain of people
- Bright coloured crepe paper
- Cellophane
- White paper

10:45 Retell the story (using the crafts made above as visuals)
~ The paper chain represents the people speaking different languages
~ The streamers represent the wind & fire
~ The dove represents God's Spirit

- Crafts (from above)

10:55 "Knowledge Harvest" conversation: (use similar questions as below)

- ~ How many people believed in Jesus and followed Him after He went up to heaven?
- ~ Why did people from all over the world come to celebrate in Jerusalem?
- ~ What happened to the believers who were meeting together on the day of the festival?
- ~ Why could the believers speak in other languages?
- ~ What did other people think was happening when they heard the noise and the different languages?
- ~ What did Peter do?
- ~ What did Peter tell the crowd about Jesus?
- ~ Why did the people feel guilty?
- ~ What did Peter tell the people they should do?
- ~ What gift was promised to everyone who turns to God through Jesus?
- ~ How many people believed and were baptised that day?
- ~ How did the believers act after that? What did they do together?

11:00 Biscuit break – Use this relatively calm opportunity for a little chat and prayer time.

- Biscuits

Discussion: "Why is it important to have God's Spirit live in you?"

11:05 Popcorn Prayer

~ Have simple prayers, popcorn style: "Thank you, Jesus, for _____!"

11:10 Activity:

~ Show a globe/map/Google Earth; talk about God's people spreading the Good News around the world to all peoples

- Globe/map/tablet or computer

11:15	Sing: Choose some song that appropriate for today's story. ~ Allow the kids to use the streamers (made in the earlier craft) during the worship ~ "Joyful, Happy & Thankful" (sing to tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat") God loves me so much, <i>(hands over heart)</i> God loves me so much. Joyful, joyful, joyful, joyful, <i>(waving arms above head)</i> God loves me so much. Jesus is my friend, <i>(arms hugging)</i> Jesus is my friend. Happy, happy, happy, happy, <i>(jumping up and down)</i> Jesus is my friend. Holy Spirit in me, <i>(fingers point to heart)</i> Holy Spirit in me. Thankful, thankful, thankful, thankful, <i>(clapping)</i> Holy Spirit in me. God is our Father, <i>(hold up one finger)</i> Jesus is His Son, <i>(hold up two fingers)</i> And there is the Holy Spirit, <i>(hold up three fingers)</i> The three of them are one. <i>(hold up one finger)</i>	• Music • Streamers
11:20	Learn the words of the week: "Jesus sent God's Spirit to live in me." Use visuals for the kids to help them learn the words.	• Visuals to help learn the phrase
11:25	Prayer: Thank God for His Spirit	
11:30	If there is any remaining time (or the previous activities finish early), allow the children to freely choose to do whatever they want to do. Play story-relevant music in the background. Leaders should engage with the children during this time: celebrate them, pray for them, love them. ~ Play with story-oriented toys ~ Role play ~ Play-dough creations ~ Colouring station	• Story-oriented toys • Play-dough • Colouring sheets • Blank paper • Crayons

Blaze

		Resources Needed:
10:30	Share the rules, review last week's story and retell today's story	
10:35	Activity to learn the story: ~ Split the kids into two groups. Have the leaders walk through the story with the kids, splitting the story into four scenes. 1. Use tissue paper to represent God's Spirit arriving. 2. Have the kids create a tunnel (using their arms) to represent the change the Spirit brought. 3. Create a quick flipchart including the main points in Peter's speech. 4. Have the kids act out the different things the believers did together. ~ Have one or two children try retelling the entire story to their group.	• Flame-coloured tissue paper • Paper for flipchart • Markers or crayons

10:50 Split into small groups for the discussion questions

Discuss the questions:

~ What do you like about this story?

~ What bothered you about this story?

~ What does this story show you about God?

~ What does this story show you about people?

~ What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?

~ How will you remember this story? *Tell it!*

~ Who will you tell this story to?

~ How do you want God's Spirit to change your life?

Pray for who they want to share the story with and for God's Spirit in their lives

11:00 Game: Guided in Truth

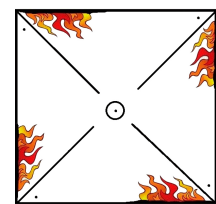
~ Though unseen, God's Spirit will guide us in truth – if only we will listen

~ Form two teams (A & B), and have each team sit back to back with a sheet or table blocking their view from each other. Give each team an identical set of colourful building blocks. The object is for the members of one team to create a design using their blocks and the other team to duplicate that design exactly – but without looking. Taking turns, one member of team A places a block on the floor and tells team B how to do just as he/she had done. Team B must attempt to duplicate the block. After all the blocks are placed, the teams compare and talk about what went wrong. Then switch sides and do it again. To make it more difficult, add other rules such as: do not use any colour words (red, blue, etc) or shape words (square, circle, etc) to describe the blocks.

~ If there is a large group of kids, create four teams instead of two ... with two leaders and two followers.

- Colourful blocks or Legos
- Sheets or table to separate/hide teams

11:15 Craft: God's Spirit Pinwheel



~ Explain that the wheel will not turn without the power of wind. God's Spirit is like the wind and is necessary in our lives.
~ Cut out the paper pinwheel square. (The template can be found at the end of these teaching materials.)

~ Cut the diagonal lines, and glue the corners with the dots to the centre – one on top of each other. Hold it in place until it's dry.

~ Cut out and glue the fiery dove to one of the pinwheel peddles. Using a hole punch, create one hole through the centre of the pinwheel. Be careful not to crush the pinwheel.

~ Twist the pipe cleaner around the pencil top. Make sure it is tight.

~ Put the pipe cleaner through the pinwheel centre. Wrap the end of the pipe cleaner around itself (making a ball), but leave space to allow the pinwheel to spin.

~ Now give it a blow!



- Pencils
- Pinwheel templates
- Fiery dove templates
- 3-inch pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

11:30 Circle Time: praying, reflection, responses and offering
~ Activity pages (if needed) for extra time

- Offering box
- Activity pages

TNT

Resources Needed:

10:30 Share the rules, review last week's story and retell today's story

10:35 Activity to learn the story:
~ Split the kids into two groups. Have the leaders walk through the story with the kids, splitting the story into four scenes.

5. Use tissue paper to represent God's Spirit arriving.
6. Have the kids create a tunnel (using their arms) to represent the change the Spirit brought.
7. Create a quick flipchart including the main points in Peter's speech.
8. Have the kids act out the different things the believers did together.

~ Have one or two children try retelling the entire story to their group.

- Flame-coloured tissue paper
- Paper for flipchart
- Markers or crayons

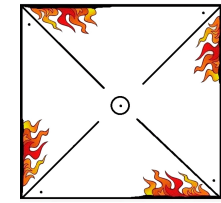
10:50 Split into small groups for the discussion questions
Discuss the questions:
~ What do you like about this story?
~ What bothered you about this story?
~ What does this story show you about God?
~ What does this story show you about people?
~ What does this story mean for your life? How will you live your life differently having learned this story?
~ How will you remember this story? *Tell it!*
~ Who will you tell this story to?
~ How do you want God's Spirit to change your life?

Pray for who they want to share the story with and for God's Spirit in their lives

11:00 Game: Guided in Truth
~ Though unseen, God's Spirit will guide us in truth – if only we will listen
~ Form two teams (A & B), and have each team sit back to back with a sheet or table blocking their view from each other. Give each team an identical set of colourful building blocks. The object is for the members of one team to create a design using their blocks and the other team to duplicate that design exactly – but without looking. Taking turns, one member of team A places a block on the floor and tells team B how to do just as he/she had done. Team B must attempt to duplicate the block. After all the blocks are placed, the teams compare and talk about what went wrong. Then switch sides and do it again. To make it more difficult, add other rules such as: do not use any colour words (red, blue, etc) or shape words (square, circle, etc) to describe the blocks.
~ If there is a large group of kids, create four teams instead of two ... with two leaders and two followers.

- Colourful blocks or Legos
- Sheets or table to separate/hide teams

11:15 Craft: God's Spirit Pinwheel



~ Explain that the wheel will not turn without the power of wind. God's Spirit is like the wind and is necessary in our lives.

~ Cut out the paper pinwheel square. (The template can be found at the end of these teaching materials.)

~ Cut the diagonal lines, and glue the corners with the dots to the centre – one on top of each other. Hold it in place until it's dry.

~ Cut out and glue the fiery dove to one of the pinwheel peddles. Using a hole punch, create one hole through the centre of the pinwheel. Be careful not to crush the pinwheel.

~ Twist the pipe cleaner around the pencil top. Make sure it is tight.

~ Put the pipe cleaner through the pinwheel centre. Wrap the end of the pipe cleaner around itself (making a ball), but leave space to allow the pinwheel to spin.

~ Now give it a blow!



- Pencils
- Pinwheel templates
- Fiery dove templates
- 3-inch pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Glue sticks
- Markers or crayons

11:30 Circle Time: praying, reflection, responses and offering

~ Activity pages (if needed) for extra time

- Offering box
- Activity pages

