

May 19, 2013

## Lesson 38: Pentecost

### Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.



### Galatians 4:1-7, 5:16-26

My point is this: heirs, as long as they are minors, are no better than slaves, though they are the owners of all the property; but they remain under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; while we were minors, we were enslaved to the elemental spirits of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.



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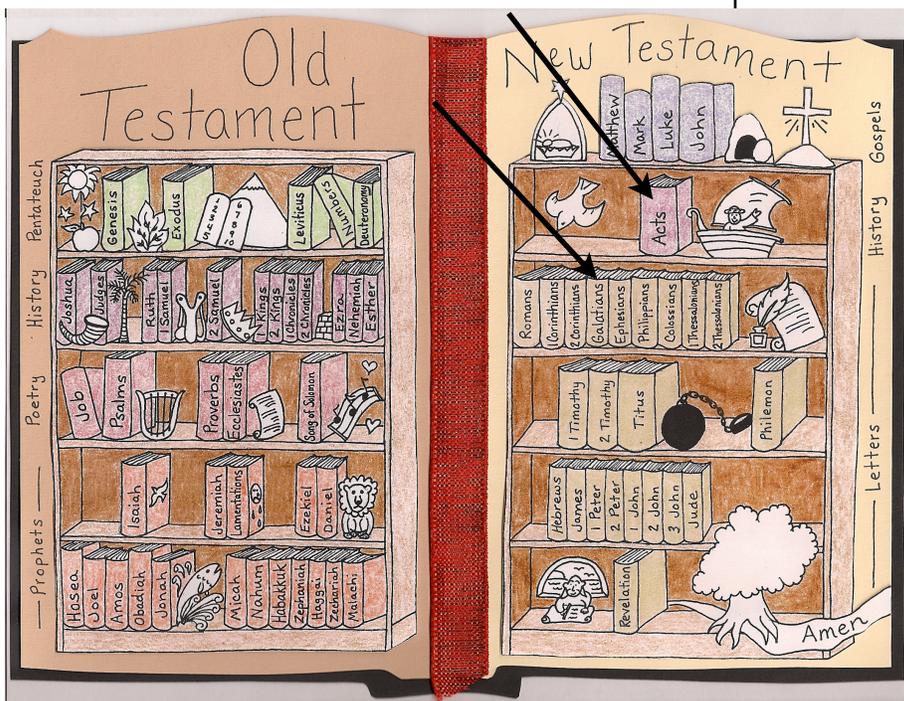
**The Big Story Truth:** God has poured out the Holy Spirit on us and has made us children of God!

**About These Scripture Passages:** Today's lesson is unusual in that we are covering two portions of scripture. The first is backtracking a little back to the time after Jesus' resurrection when the disciples were gathered in Jerusalem. This

reading from Acts talks about how the disciples were all gathered together, waiting, as Jesus had instructed them to. As they had gathered, the Holy Spirit came upon them in a visual way- looking like tongues of fire. And they started speaking in different languages so that they could go and share the good news about Jesus to the ends of the earth.

The second reading that we will hear this morning is continuing in the book of Galatians. This reading continues what we have been reading over the past couple of

weeks as Paul continues to argue that it isn't what we do that makes us right in God's eyes, but what Jesus has done. The gift of the Spirit testifies to the fact that we have all been adopted into the family of God. Because of that, we can call God "Abba" (Daddy). And since we are children, what we get is an inheritance of the holiness and goodness that belongs to God alone.

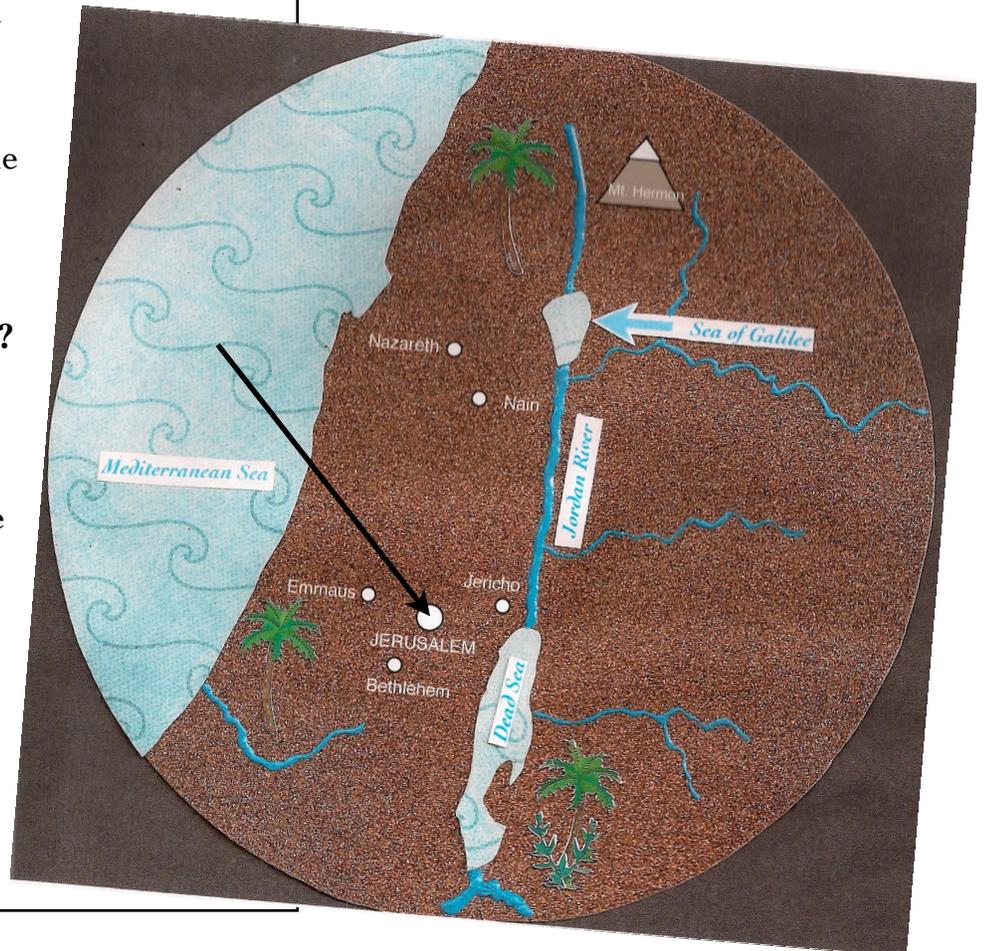
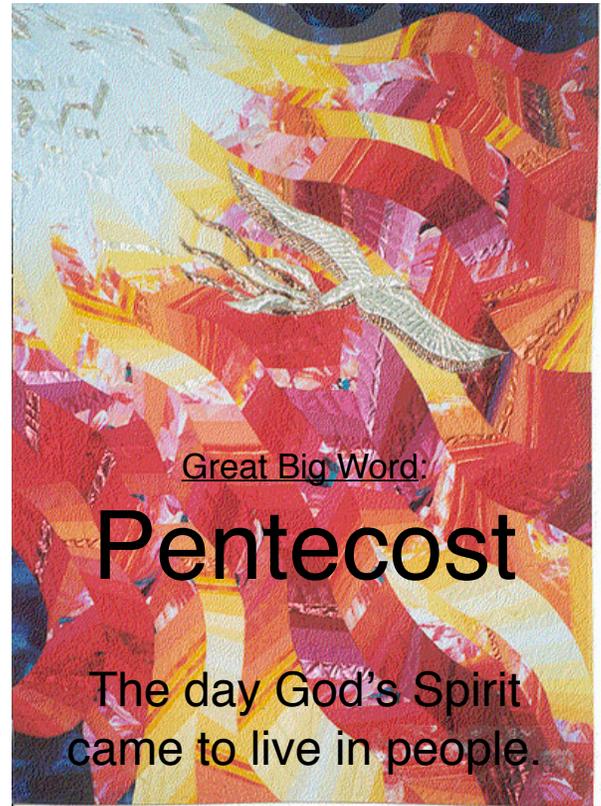


For Your Reflection:

*How do you feel the Holy Spirit working in your life?  
What direction is the Spirit carrying you?*

**Making the Connection:** We talk about God being the One True God. But we also talk about God in three persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Kids are pretty good at understanding God the creator, and Jesus (God's son), but the Holy Spirit seems to be harder for all of us to understand. The Holy Spirit is that part of God that is living and moving in our lives. We can't see or touch the Holy Spirit. (Unfortunately, we don't have tongues of fire dancing over our heads we can point to), but the Holy Spirit is living and working and moving in and around us. One word for the Holy Spirit is *ruach*... or the breath of God. Sometimes we think of this word as "wind." Wind is an image that kids can understand. We can't see the wind, and yet we can feel it. The wind is a force so strong that it can carry things. The same is true of the Holy Spirit. Today we will try in our Sunday School lesson to make that image visible for kids using the illustration of kites.

**Where in the World Are We?**  
The gathering of disciples on the day of Pentecost was in Jerusalem, before they left and went out to the rest of the world to tell the story of Jesus!



# *Large Group Lesson*

Since this is the final lesson of Sunday School for the year, this is a quick lesson plan that can be incorporate into a fun closing celebration.

## **Materials:**

Spark Story Bible

Blank Kites (Ordered from Oriental Trading Company)

Permanent Markers of Various Colors

## **Before the Students Arrive:**

Talk with other teachers and Sunday School Superintendent to decide whether the kids will start out in their individual classes or if they will meet for this whole project as a large group. If you will have some time for you individual classes, you might decide to read the story from the Spark Story Bible or the Spark NRSV Bible according to your grade level.

## **Experiencing the Story:**

As students arrive, have a candle lit, sitting on your classroom table. Ask kids how they would describe the flame. (Especially notice the colors, movement.)

Tell the kids that today is a special celebration in our church year. Today is Pentecost. Have the kids practice pronouncing "Pentecost." Ask the kids if anyone has heard that word before. Most probably won't have remembered hearing about Pentecost. So ask kids about a shape they might know- a pentagon. How many sides does a pentagon have? A pentagon has 5 sides. The word Pentecost comes from a word that means 50 days. 50 days after Passover the Jewish people were having another celebration and during that time is when the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to Jesus' disciples. So the story that we are going to read happens about 50 days after Jesus died. That's why we call it Pentecost.

Read the Story “The Holy Spirit” in the Spark Story Bible (pages 502-503).

Ask the kids to notice as they go into church today the red color of the fabric in the church. The red reminds us that when God came as the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, that the disciples looked like they had fire on top of their heads!

Tell the kids that just like the Holy Spirit came to those disciples on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes to us too. When we were baptized, God promised to send the Holy Spirit into our lives. Even though we can't see the Holy Spirit like fire over our heads, God has promised that the Spirit is with us!

Can you think of anything that you know is there even though you can't see it? (Take some suggestions, prompt if necessary until you get the answer WIND!)

Tell the kids that the word Spirit in the Bible is actually like the same word for “breath” or “wind.”

**Activity:**

Today our activity is a reminder that even though we can't see the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is God's presence in our life sending us out to share the good news of Jesus!

Ask the kids how many of them have flown a kite before. What do you need in order to fly a kite? WIND! What happens if there is no wind, does the kite fly? No! That's kind of like the Holy Spirit in our lives. The Holy Spirit in our lives is what makes it possible for us to go and share the good news about Jesus!

Pass out the blank kites. (Have kids label them with their names in a corner of the kite first thing!) Then ask the kids to use the permanent markers to decorate the kite to remind them that the Holy Spirit is God living in them, giving them strength to go and share the good news of Jesus!

As you have time (and weather permits) go outside and practice flying the kites!

Before you go, circle everyone up and hold hands. Pray a prayer like this one:

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for each and every one of the friends that you have gathered here. We thank you for your Word, the Bible, and all that you have taught us in Sunday School this year. We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we go into this summer, we pray that your Spirit would strengthen us to share the good news of Jesus every way we can! May we tell the good news of your love to everyone! Amen.