

LESSON AIM: God has given us the Holy Spirit to be powerful witnesses for Him!

KEY SCRIPTURES: Acts 2:1-47

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson...”*)

- 1) Why were the disciples sad as they were walking along the road?
- 2) Who was the stranger on the road with the disciples?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION

So much has happened in the lives of the disciples and friends of Jesus! They went from utter despair when they saw Jesus crucified and buried. Then everything changed when He rose again and they were filled with joy, hope and excitement! Then Jesus left again and ascended into heaven before their very eyes and told them he would always be with them, but to go and tell others the good news! So now what do they do? They decided to get together and just pray and wait for God to show them what to do. Then something amazing happened as they were in that room together...

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. People from many countries had come to Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost (v. 1, 5, 9-11). [*See explanation of the *Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) at the end of lesson*].

B. Jesus' disciples were also gathered together in Jerusalem (1:4-5, 2:1).

Gathered in an upper room, the disciples waited for the Lord to fulfill a very special promise. He was going to send God the Holy Spirit to be their Helper and give them power to be witnesses for Him. If you have called on Jesus to save you, He also wants you to be a witness for Him. You have the Holy Spirit living inside of you who is your helper and will give you the power to share the good news about Jesus (read Acts 1:8). In Jerusalem, the disciples waited together for the promised Holy Spirit to come.

C. Suddenly God sent the Holy Spirit. There was a sound like a mighty wind; what looked like little tongues of fire appeared; and the disciples began to speak in other languages (v. 2-4, 6).

This was probably not what they were expecting! Different languages? What is going on! They left the room as they were all speaking these different languages, and they went outside where there were people everywhere.

D. The amazed Jews from other lands heard God being praised in their own languages (v. 7-12).

Since there were so many people in the city for the Feast, they could hear the disciples all speaking in different languages, but then people who actually spoke these languages recognized what they were saying! They were speaking about God!

E. Hearing them speak in foreign languages, some people made fun of the disciples, saying they were drunk (v. 13).

Some people didn't understand that this was the work of God and thought these crazy people must be drunk, but they were very sober and told them this was God at work! Sometimes people aren't going to understand what God is doing in your life, but you will know it is God because His Spirit now lives inside of you!

F. Peter explained that this ability to speak in other languages was evidence of the Holy Spirit God had promised to send (v. 14-21).

They were excited and encouraged because God did exactly what He said He was going to do! Now a huge crowd was gathering and Peter began to preach the good news...

G. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter went on to tell the people that it had been God's plan for Jesus to be put to death and raised from the dead (v. 22-36).

The Holy Spirit was using Peter's message to work in their hearts. When you call on the Lord Jesus to save you, God the Holy Spirit comes to live inside you. This is our "proof" that we are now God's child! **Romans 8:16** tells us that "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." That means something happens inside our hearts where we know that the Spirit of God is now living inside of us! The Holy Spirit is now IN you; to guide you, to give you wisdom, to give you boldness, and to give you power! (Read **Acts 1:8**)

H. When Peter finished, the people, convicted by God's Spirit, asked what they should do; Peter told them to turn from their sin and call upon God to be saved (v. 21, 37-40).

Everyone in the world—including you and me—is born a sinner and needs to be saved. Sin is doing things that do not please God, and sin separates us from Him. But God loves us, and He showed His love to you and me by sending His Son Jesus to die for us. This is the message that Peter was able to share with the large crowd and the Holy Spirit helped him and gave him the power and boldness to speak to the people, and they listened and believed!

III. CLIMAX

About 3,000 people were saved that day as Peter witnessed by the power of the Holy Spirit! Even though Jesus rose from the dead and is in heaven, he sent us the Holy Spirit to ALWAYS be with us!

IV. ENDING

A. Conclusion

1. The disciples continued meeting together each day **(2:42-46)**.
2. Every day more people were saved and joined the disciples and the church began to grow! **(2:47)**

B. Challenge

If you have Jesus as your Savior, you have the Holy Spirit living inside you to help you witness. (Read Acts 1:8) God the Holy Spirit gives you His power to enable you to witness. Will you witness to one person this week? (Have a few moments of silence as you encourage the children to ask God's help in thinking of someone to whom they should witness.)

MEMORY VERSE:

"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God."

Romans 8:16

***Note on the Feast of Weeks:**

[The Feast of Weeks, also known as the Feast of Pentecost (which comes from the Greek word for "fifty"), or the Feast of Harvest. It was held on the first day of the week, exactly 50 days after the Sabbath that preceded the Feast of the First fruits. This feast showed the finished product that would come from the first sheaf presented at First fruits. During this festival Israel was to bring a "new grain offering" (23:16) in the form of "two wave loaves... baked with leaven" (23:17). This feast provides rich pictures of New Testament realities, too. Fifty days after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus (our First fruits), "when the Day of Pentecost had fully come" (Acts 2:1), the Holy Spirit came to indwell believers. The two loaves can picture Jews and Gentiles in the early church. The grain for the offering was not fresh flour composed of individual particles, but grain that had been transformed into new, unified whole-baked loaves. This offering symbolizes the special unity of the church as a body knit together by the Holy Spirit. The use of leaven in the baking reminds us that the church is not perfect.]