

# The Holy Spirit

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Acts 2:1-21**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Day of Pentecost**

Lesson Focus  
**Share the Spirit!**



### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Time</b> Kids decorate their classroom with party supplies and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Markers, pencils, crepe-paper streamers (red, orange, yellow), scissors, tape, CD of lively music, CD player
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids greet each other with a class cheer, hear about the lectionary season, and talk about birthday parties.	Leaflet	Optional: Birthday cupcakes, muffins, or cookies
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray after the leader lights a candle.	None	Candle, matches

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>The Holy Spirit Storytelling</b> Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible and kids speak phrases in different languages.	Spark Story Bibles	None
<b>Happy Birthday, Dear Church</b> Kids sing "Happy Birthday" to the church.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
<b>Here's My Church!</b> Kids learn facts about their church and draw a picture of it.	Leaflets	Pencils, markers, church directory, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Flames of Faith</b> Kids solve a puzzle to learn about Pentecost.	Leaflets	Pencils or markers
<b>Birthdays around the World</b> Kids learn about how people celebrate birthdays in other countries.	Leaflets	None
<b>Pentecost Windsock</b> Kids make windsocks to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.	None	Crepe-paper streamers (orange, red, yellow), white card stock, markers, stapler, tape, scissors, single hole punch, yarn

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids select what they will do at home this week, say the lesson focus statement, and do a good-bye action rhyme.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids pray using their windsocks as part of the prayer.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	Windsocks from Pentecost Windsock activity



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Arrival Time

---

Set out markers, pencils, and copies of the Activity Page for this lesson.

Have lively music playing as kids arrive. **How many of you like to go to birthday parties?** Pause for responses. **What is the most fun birthday party you have ever been to? Why?** Pause. **We're going to celebrate a special birthday today, right here in Sunday school. We don't have to send out invitations, because everyone is already here. What are some other things we do to prepare for a party?** Affirm responses. **Let's work together to decorate our room!** Give kids long pieces of streamers and pieces of tape. **Use the streamers to turn your ordinary chair into a party chair.** Encourage kids to decorate the chairs of others who might arrive later.

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

### Spark Resources

Activity Pages



### Supplies

Markers  
Pencils  
Crepe-paper streamers (red, orange, yellow)  
Scissors  
Tape  
CD of lively music  
CD player

## Circle Time

---

**Let's all stand in a circle and put one hand in the middle, so our hands stack on top of each other.** Place your hand in first to demonstrate. After everyone has a hand in the circle, shout together, **God loves everyone! God knows our names! Now, we'll each shout our own name out loud and lift up our hand starting with the person whose hand is on top.** Kids take turns saying their names, in the order their hands are stacked from top to bottom. After all names are said, tell everyone, **Raise both of your hands high and shout, "Praise God!"**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Hold up the leaflet and point to the flame symbol on the red background on the top of the first page. **What does this picture look like?** (*fire, flames*) **What color is the background?** (*red*) **Today is a special day in the church. It is the birthday of the Christian church. It is a day filled with fire, like the fire of birthday candles. It is a day filled with wind, when the disciples received a very special birthday present—God's Spirit. We call this day Pentecost. Our Bible story today is all about the birthday of the church.**

*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for learners who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

If you chose to bring cupcakes, muffins, or cookies, pass them out at this time. Allow kids to eat their treats while you talk together.

**Well, look at our classroom! It sure looks bright and happy, doesn't it? Today, we hung up streamers to celebrate a very special birthday—the birthday of the Christian church. How old do you think the Christian church is?** Pause for responses. **It's over 2,000 years old! Does anyone know how the church got**

### Spark Resources

Leaflet

### Supplies

Optional: Birthday cupcakes, muffins, or cookies

**started?** Let kids respond. **Let's pray, then we'll open our Bibles and hear the story of the birthday of the Christian church. I can't wait to read it with you!**

## Prayer Time

---

Light a candle and place it in front of you. Be sure everyone can see the candle.

**When do we see candles burning?** *(on a birthday cake, at a fancy dinner, in church, when the electric power goes out)* **During worship, we light candles that sit on top of the altar. The flames remind us that God is with us. During our prayer today, we have this little flame burning. Watch this flame flicker as you listen to the prayer. The little fire can remind you that God is right here, in this room, with all of us.**

**Dear God,  
Thank you for birthdays,  
And parties,  
And churches!  
Thank you for being with us today  
As we celebrate the birthday  
Of the Christian church!  
Help us to celebrate  
All of the good things  
You give us!  
Amen.**

Blow out the candle.

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Candle  
Matches

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### The Holy Spirit Storytelling

---

**The disciples were celebrating a festival called Pentecost, when a very special guest showed up. Who was it? This special guest changed their festival into a birthday party! Let's open our Spark Story Bibles to find out!**

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find The Holy Spirit on pages 502-503. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

**Who was the special guest at the disciples' party?** *(the Holy Spirit)* **How did the disciples know that they had received God's gift of the Holy Spirit?** *(A strong wind blew through the house. Everyone's hair lifted up, and there was an amazing noise. It looked like each disciple had a flame of fire touching him, but no one was burned.)* **Amazing things happened when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. Suddenly, people could speak different languages—without ever having studied them before! What must that have sounded like? Let's do a little experiment to find out.**

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

### Supplies

None

Divide the class into three groups. All three groups will learn to say, “Peace to you” in different languages. Teach group one to say it in French: Paix a vous (pays uh voo). Teach the second group to say it in Finnish: Rauha teille (rowha tay-leh). Teach the third group to say it in Romanian: Pace pentru tine (pacha pentroo teenay).

**Now, let’s pretend that we’re the disciples and we’ve just received the Holy Spirit. When I point to your group, call out “Peace to you!” in your language.**

Take turns pointing to each group. Then, start pointing to each group quickly, so that all groups are calling out their greeting again and again at the same time. By doing this, kids will get a chance to hear how things might have sounded at that first Pentecost! **After being visited by the Holy Spirit, the disciples did something very important. They went out into the world speaking new languages and shared the Spirit with everyone they met!**

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

1. **Who came to the disciples at Pentecost?** (*the Holy Spirit*)
2. **What new thing could the disciples do after the Holy Spirit came?** (*speak in different languages*)
3. **What do you think would have been the most exciting part of the Holy Spirit’s arrival—the strong wind, the amazing noise, the flames of fire, or the different languages people spoke? Why?** Affirm all responses.

## Happy Birthday, Dear Church

---

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

**When the Holy Spirit visited the disciples, some incredible things happened. What did the disciples see?** (*flames of fire*) **The Holy Spirit came to everyone in flames of fire—flames that didn’t burn! Let’s finish our picture by making sure that each disciple has received the Holy Spirit.** Hand out the large stickers to kids. Give kids time to place their large stickers.

**That first Pentecost is remembered as the birthday of the Christian church. What’s one thing that people do at birthday parties?** Let kids respond. **They sing! Let’s sing a song to celebrate the church’s birthday right now!** Lead kids in singing the verses on the leaflet to the tune, “Happy Birthday to You.” You may replace the words, “dear church” with the name of your congregation.

**We love you, God, we do!  
We love you, God we do!  
For you sent us your Son!  
Keep us faithful to you!**

**Holy Spirit, it’s true!  
Holy Spirit, it’s true!**

**Spark Resources**  
Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

**Supplies**  
None

**You're with us now, too!  
Guiding all that we do!**

**Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday to you!  
Happy birthday, dear church!  
May God bless and keep you!**

**The disciples shared the Holy Spirit with others and began the first Christian church. Now it's our turn to share the Spirit! Let's tell others about Jesus, and keep our church celebrating birthdays for years to come!**

**Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible. Today's Bible story, The Holy Spirit, is from the book of Acts. In Acts, we hear about the disciples and their adventures. We also learn about the Holy Spirit, who helped the disciples in starting Christian churches in lots of places!**

Give kids the three word stickers. **Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (*Holy, Spirit, churches*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible Memory Verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4**

## Here's My Church!

Before class, find out how old your church is, how many pastors have served your congregation, and other bits of history that would be of interest to the kids.

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **The Holy Spirit helped the disciples to start the first churches long ago. But did you know that the Spirit is still with us, even today? We can pray for the Holy Spirit to help and guide our church—no matter how young or old our congregation may be.**

**Let's find out a little more about our church right now! Let's get started. What is the name of our church?** Pause for responses. Write the name of your church on the whiteboard for the kids to copy into the first blank. **How old do you think our church is?** As kids guess, tell them that the correct number is either higher or lower. Let them guess until someone guesses correctly. Then give kids time to write the number in the second blank. Repeat this for the number of pastors your church has had. **We have one more thing left to do. In the empty space, draw a picture of our church.** Give kids time to draw. Point out unique features of your church building such as the roofline, cross, windows, and so on.

**Spark Resources**  
Leaflets

**Supplies**  
Pencils  
Markers  
Church directory  
Whiteboard  
Dry-erase marker

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

## Flames of Faith

---

**Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. When the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, they were celebrating a festival called Pentecost. Pentecost takes place after Easter. Let's count the flames in the boxes to find out how many days are between Easter and Pentecost! Let's all silently count how many flames are in the first box.** Give kids time to count. **Good job!** Continue to work together to count flames in the remaining boxes. **What can you tell me about the number of flames in each box?** (*They are all the same. Each one has ten.*) **Let's count by tens to find the total number of days between Easter and Pentecost: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50! What is the total number of flames? (50) Write 50 in the first blank.** Pause to give kids time to write. **There are 50 days between Easter and Pentecost. Let's write that number in the second blank to finish the sentence.**

**We're not done yet! Inside each box, you'll see two letters. Write the letters from all the boxes on the lines below.** Wait while kids complete this step. **These letters are going to form two words. Let's unscramble them and see which words they spell!** Help kids unscramble the letters to spell out HOLY SPIRIT. **Let's write the words HOLY SPIRIT in the last two blanks. Thank God for the Holy Spirit who helps us to tell the story of Jesus and to share God's love.**

## Birthdays around the World

---

**Turn to the back page of your leaflets. When we came to class today, we decorated the room with streamers. Why do you think we did that?** (*We are learning about the church's birthday.*)

**People celebrate birthdays all over the world. Does everyone decorate with streamers? Let's read the facts below and find out!** Invite kids to take turns reading the facts on the leaflets. **Which one of these ways would you like to celebrate your birthday?** Affirm responses.

**What's your favorite thing to do on your birthday?** Let kids respond. **What is one fun way that you might celebrate the church's birthday at home?** Let kids respond. **Some people celebrate Pentecost by flying kites, because the Holy Spirit came with wind. Others eat cakes with red frosting, because the color red reminds them of the flames of fire that rested over each disciple's head. Some families plant gardens filled with red flowers. Maybe you can come up with your own way to celebrate the church's birthday with your family!**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Pencils or markers

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## Pentecost Windsock

---

**When people think of Pentecost, they often think of wind. Why is that?** (*Because the Holy Spirit came with the sound of a rushing wind.*) **Let's make Pentecost windsocks. When you get home, you can hang them by a window and think of the Holy Spirit whenever the wind blows!**

Give each kid a sheet of card stock. **Let's use markers to draw a picture that reminds us of Pentecost. This might be flames of fire, birthday candles, a birthday cake, or swirls of wind. Choose one of these ideas or come up with your own.** Give kids time to draw. **Raise your hand when you're done drawing, and I'll help you to put your windsock together.** Bring the two 8-1/2 in (22 cm) ends together, slightly overlapping them. Staple or tape in place to make a wide tube.

Cut three or more long streamers for each kid. Invite kids to tape their streamers inside the card stock tube. Using a hole punch, make three evenly spaced holes in the opposite end of the tube. Cut three 12 in (31 cm) pieces of yarn. Tie the end of each piece to a hole. Then bring the free ends of the three pieces of yarn together and knot them. **These are indoor windsocks. Remember to hang them in front of a window inside your home. Then whenever they move in the wind from the open window, you can remember our Bible story for today.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Crepe-paper streamers (red, orange, yellow)

8-1/2 in x 11 in (22 cm x 29 cm) white card stock

Markers

Stapler

Tape

Scissors

Single hole punch

Yarn

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

---

**Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about the Holy Spirit, who first came to the disciples so long ago. We also celebrated the church's birthday! We can tell others about the amazing things that happened at Pentecost. Let's share the Spirit with our friends and families this week!**

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet. Kids can fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

**After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week, we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!**

**It's time for our Go Out! circle.** Give kids time to stand with you in a circle. **Today we heard: Share the Spirit! Let's say it together: Share the Spirit! Let's go out with God's love!** Say this rhyme together while doing the motions:

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

Scissors

**Put both hands in,  
Put both hands out,  
Put hands up high,  
And shake them all about.  
Spin around once,  
Spin again and shout:  
Go, God! Go, us! Let's go out!**

## Prayer Time

---

Invite kids to gently wave their windsocks back and forth as you pray. If you didn't make windsocks, have the kids pretend to be tall beautiful flowers, swaying back and forth in the wind.

**Holy Spirit,  
You came to earth at Pentecost  
With the sound of a strong wind.  
You lit the flames of faith  
Over the heads of the disciples.  
It's good to know  
That you are with us, too,  
Helping us to share the story of Jesus.  
Amen.**

Be sure to send the leaflets, Family Pages, and windsocks home with kids.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Family Pages



### Supplies

Windsocks from Pentecost  
Windsock activity