Preschool–Grade 6

Pentecost

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God kept His promise and poured out the Holy Ghost. He gives His Spirit to those who obey the gospel, and power to tell others about Jesus (Acts 1:8; 2:38–39).
Bible passage: Acts 1:4–14 and Acts 2:1–47. Read them before class.
Memory verse: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." *Acts 1:8 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Under it, write these names from Acts 2:9–11: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Mesopotamia, Cappadocia, Pontus, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Cyrene, Rome, Cretes, Arabians.

1. Opening game: Name Twister (5–10 minutes)

Point to the list of names. Kids take turns reading three names in a row as fast as they can without a mistake. Cheer every try. Then ask: *These are the places people came from. How many different languages do you think they spoke?* Say: "All these people were in one city on one day, and something happened that let every one of them understand."

2. Bible story: The Day of Pentecost (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Acts 1. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

The promise. After Jesus rose, He told the apostles not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the promise (Acts 1:4). **Look up Acts 1:5.** John baptized with water, but they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost "not many days hence," which means in a few days. Jesus said they would receive power and be His witnesses (1:8). Then He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight (1:9). The apostles went back to Jerusalem to an upper room, and they all continued with one accord in prayer, with the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brethren (1:13–14). In those days about 120 believers were meeting together (1:15).

The day of Pentecost. Pentecost was a feast God gave Israel. The word means "fiftieth," because God told Israel to count fifty days to it (Leviticus 23:15–16). **Look up Acts 2:1–3.** They were all with one accord in one place. A sound came from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Cloven tongues like as of fire appeared and sat upon each of them. **Cloven** means split, and **as of fire** means they looked like fire. **Look up Acts 2:4.** They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them **utterance** (the words to say).

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Every man in his own language. Devout Jews (people who loved God) from every nation under heaven were living in Jerusalem (2:5). A **multitude** (big crowd) came together, **confounded** (confused and amazed), because every man heard them speak in his own language (2:6). **Look up Acts 2:7–8.** They said, "Are not all these which speak Galilaeans?" They could not understand how men from Galilee were speaking their languages. They heard them telling "the wonderful works of God" (2:11). Others mocked and said, "These men are full of new wine," which means they thought they had been drinking (2:13).

Peter preaches. Peter stood up with the eleven and said they were not drunk; it was only the **third hour**, about nine in the morning (2:14–15). He said this was what the prophet Joel had written: "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh" (2:16–17; Joel 2:28). Peter told them about Jesus: God did miracles through Him, they crucified Him, but God raised Him up, and the apostles were all witnesses (2:22–24, 32). Jesus had shed forth, or poured out, what they now saw and heard (2:33). **Look up Acts 2:36.** God made that same Jesus both Lord and Christ.

What shall we do? Look up Acts 2:37. They were **pricked in their heart** (they felt deep sorrow for their sin). **Look up Acts 2:38.** Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. **Look up Acts 2:39.** The promise was for them, their children, and all that are afar off. **Look up Acts 2:41.** Those who gladly received his word were baptized, and about three thousand souls were added that day.

The church begins. They kept on in the apostles' doctrine (teaching), fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers (2:42). "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (2:47).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The believers waited and prayed with one accord before the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:14; 2:1). Why do you think praying together matters?
2. You can't see wind, but you can hear it and see what it does (John 3:8). How could people tell something real had happened to the believers (Acts 2:4–8)?
3. Peter told the crowd about Jesus with boldness (2:14, 36). What makes it hard to tell others about Jesus? What could help?
4. The people asked, "What shall we do?" (2:37). Why is that a good question to ask when we hear God's Word?
5. Peter said the promise is "to your children" (2:39). What does that tell you about how God feels about kids?

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Recall questions

1. What did the sound from heaven sound like? *(A rushing mighty wind, Acts 2:2)*
2. Who stood up with the eleven and preached? *(Peter, 2:14)*
3. How many souls were added that day? *(About three thousand, 2:41)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **ye** means you; **witnesses** are people who tell what they have seen and know; **Judaea** and **Samaria** are the lands around Jerusalem; **the uttermost part of the earth** means the farthest places in the world. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "On the day of Pentecost, Peter told the crowd how to obey the gospel, and the promise is still 'unto you, and to your children' (Acts 2:39). God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words, just like the believers on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: be a witness. Tell one person something Jesus has done for you or for your family.

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6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Acts 1:4: Where did Jesus tell them to wait? *(Jerusalem; they were not to depart from it)*
2. Acts 1:9: What received Jesus out of their sight? *(A cloud)*
3. Acts 2:2: What did the sound fill? *(All the house where they were sitting)*
4. Acts 2:3: What sat upon each of them? *(Cloven tongues like as of fire)*
5. Acts 2:6: What did every man hear? *(Them speak in his own language)*
6. Acts 2:15: What hour of the day was it? *(The third hour)*
7. Acts 2:16: Which prophet did Peter name? *(Joel)*
8. Acts 2:41: How many souls were added? *(About three thousand)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for keeping Your promise and pouring out the Holy Ghost. Help us pray together, love Your Word, and tell others about Jesus with boldness. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks about speaking in tongues: answer simply and warmly. The believers spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4), and the Bible tells of it happening again later (Acts 10:44–46; 19:6). Peter said the promise is for "your children, and… all that are afar off" (2:39). Invite the child to talk with their parents and pastor.

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