Preschool–Grade 6

Pentecost

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God kept His promise and poured out the Holy Ghost, and the promise is for us and our children too (Acts 2:39).
Bible passage: Acts 1:4–14 and Acts 2:1–41. 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, 8 paper strips in red, orange and yellow, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 8 paper strips (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Acts 2.

1. Opening game: What Do You Hear? (5 minutes)

Kids close their eyes. Make a sound and let them guess what it is: clap your hands, tap the table, crinkle a piece of paper, jingle your keys, close a book. Last of all, blow a long, loud "whoooosh" like a strong wind. Ask: *Could you see the sound? How did you know what it was?* Say: "Today we will hear about a sound that came from heaven, like a rushing mighty wind!"

2. Bible story: God Keeps His Promise (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Acts 2, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

After Jesus rose from the dead, He told His followers not to leave Jerusalem, but to "wait for the promise of the Father." He said they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost in just a few days (Acts 1:4–5). Then Jesus was taken up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight (1:9). His followers went back to Jerusalem, and they prayed together with one accord (1:12–14). **With one accord** means all together, with one heart.

Then the **day of Pentecost** came. Pentecost was a holy day for God's people. The believers were all together in one place (2:1). **Suddenly** a sound came from heaven, like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting (2:2)! Then they saw something like tongues of fire, and it sat upon each one of them (2:3). Here a **tongue** of fire means a little flame shaped like a tongue, and **cloven** means split.

Read Acts 2:4 from your Bible: "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Say: "The **Holy Ghost** is God's own Spirit. God filled them with His Spirit, and they spoke in other tongues, words God gave them to say. **Utterance** means the words to speak."

The story continues: Jews from every nation under heaven were living in Jerusalem (2:5). When they heard about this, a big crowd came together. They were amazed, because every man heard them speak in his own language (2:6)! They said, "Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?" They asked how every man could hear them in his own language (2:7–8). They heard them speaking about the wonderful works of God (2:11). But some people made fun of them (2:13).

Then **Peter** stood up with the eleven other apostles and spoke in a loud voice (2:14). He said this was what God promised long ago through the prophet Joel: "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh" (2:16–17). Then Peter told them about Jesus. Jesus did miracles. They put Jesus on a cross, but God raised Him up from the dead (2:22–24, 32). "God hath made that same Jesus... both Lord and Christ" (2:36).

The people were **pricked in their heart**. That means they felt very sorry for their sin. They asked Peter and the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (2:37). **Read Acts 2:38 from your Bible:** "Then Peter said unto them, 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." Peter said, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children" (2:39). The people who gladly received his word were baptized. That same day about **three thousand** souls were added (2:41)!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where did Jesus tell His followers to wait? *(In Jerusalem, Acts 1:4)*
2. What did the sound from heaven sound like? *(A rushing mighty wind, 2:2)*
3. What sat upon each of them? *(Cloven tongues like as of fire, 2:3)*
4. What happened when they were filled with the Holy Ghost? *(They began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance, 2:4)*
5. How many souls were added that day? *(About three thousand, 2:41)*

4. Memory verse: Flame Verse game (5 minutes)

Tape the 8 strips up in order: *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.* Explain the old words: **ye** means you; **witnesses** are people who tell what they know about Jesus; **Judaea** and **Samaria** are the lands around Jerusalem; **the uttermost part of the earth** means the farthest places in the world. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "On the day of Pentecost, Peter told the people how to obey the gospel, and he said the promise is for their children too (Acts 2:39). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus, in the same words Peter preached that day: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in our story (Acts 2:4)."

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.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Pentecost word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/pentecost-word-search), the Pentecost crossword, maze, coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/pentecost), or **Tell It in Order:** kids sit in a circle. The first child says one thing that happened in the story ("Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem"). The next child says what happened next, and so on around the circle, until someone says, "About three thousand were added!" Then start again with a new child. Help with the order when they get stuck.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for keeping Your promise and pouring out the Holy Ghost. Help us tell others about Jesus, at home, at school and everywhere we go. 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. When the believers were filled with the Holy Ghost, they 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 "unto you, and to your children" (2:39). Invite the child to talk with their parents and pastor.

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