

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Grades
1-2

FILLED • DAY OF PENTECOST • YEAR B

ACTS 2:1-21



What is happening in this story?

Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival celebrating God's giving Moses the law on Sinai. Jews in the first century assumed that God's Spirit rested upon individuals while they were called to perform a specific task. When that task was done, God's Spirit left them. Pentecost is unique because the Spirit remains with the apostles as their constant companion. When Peter quotes the passage from Joel, he is suggesting that the time when the Spirit remains and fills God's people, as prophesied, has come.

Why does this story matter for kids?

One way to communicate this story to kids is through a discussion of talents. Previous lessons have focused on God being love, and on how we are called to participate in that love. The gift of the Spirit on Pentecost can be seen as an aid that helps us participate and abide in God's love by using our talents to help our neighbors. Further, kids might wonder what makes them special, and this text reminds them that we are all special because of God's gift of the Spirit. God's Spirit lives in us! Through the Spirit we are given the ability to go and make disciples!

What is the lectionary connection?

On this festival Sunday, we receive the Holy Spirit. During the remainder of the season, we grow into being open to that Spirit. For kids, that could mean coming up with fifty (the big Pentecost number) things they could do together, thanks to being empowered by God and called to serve.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Try visiting an online resource, such as Google Translate, to get a handle on the proper pronunciation for the foreign words in today's class. Just type in "Share the good news," select Arabic, Greek, or Latin, and then click "Listen!"



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Glue sticks
- Masking tape
- Markers (yellow, red, orange)
- White paper
- Scissors

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Small paper cups (1 per kid plus cups for stacking)
- Tissue paper squares in yellow, red, and orange

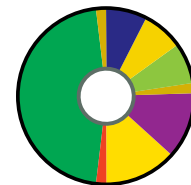
WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL STORY BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Place cups, glue sticks, and tissue paper on a table. Ask kids to create a tissue fire in a cup by crumpling the paper and gluing it to the inside of the cup. Then ask kids to hold the cup on their heads. **The disciples see fire over their heads today!**

Invite kids to gather near the Wall Chart.

Point out today's date, season (Day of Pentecost), color (red), and icon (dove in flame). **Today is a celebration day. It's the Day of Pentecost. On Pentecost, we remember how God gave the disciples a special energy to do God's work. We call this special energy the "Holy Spirit." We will learn more about the Holy Spirit in our story and video. Let's mark our Wall Chart to remember this day.** Hold up yellow, red, and orange markers. **I want four volunteers to help write the words "God's Holy Spirit" on our Wall Chart.** Select four volunteers to do so.

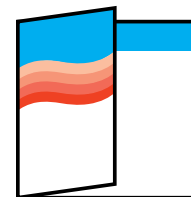


Have kids form a triangle with their hands by matching thumbs and pointer fingers together. Kids blow on each triangle point as you say, **"God, Jesus, God's Spirit."** Repeat.

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Hold up a leaflet and ask kids who they see on the page.

Clara, Ada, and Victor are on our leaflet today. What do you think the video kids are saying? Discuss what the kids could be saying and in what language. **There's a big hint on the page!** Point out the text, if necessary. Then point to the blank space in the upper left. **Draw a stick figure of yourself saying, "Share the Good News," in the empty space.** Collect their leaflets until Respond.



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

The kids are drawing pictures today, and Clara's picture is pretty special. Let's see what makes her picture so different from everyone else's.

View Episode 14, "Simple Spirit," on the Whirl Year B Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **What are the kids doing in Sunday school?**
- **Why is Clara's picture very calm?**
- **What do you think being filled with God's Spirit looks like? What might it feel like?**
- **What happens in our story today that reminds you of a movie? Why?**
- **Can you remember a time when you were able to do something you thought you couldn't do?**



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "A Gust of Wind" on page 438. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the flame and dove in the red circle for the Day of Pentecost. Before you read, invite kids to look for fire.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Why did the tablecloth fly into the air?
- What was on top of the disciples' heads?
- What were the disciples filled with? What could they do that they thought they couldn't do?
- What do you know about God's Spirit? What don't you understand about God's Spirit?
- People around the world hear about God's power in their own language. What would it be like to not be able to hear about God?

Play together!

Set out cups and white paper on the table. **It's time to build with cups! Let's work together to see how tall and wide we can stack our cups.** Help kids build a large, sturdy structure. Give each kid a piece of paper. **Let's fold our papers into fans.** Show kids how to fold accordion pleats in order to create fans. **Let's see if we can blow over our building using the fans.** Fan the structure until it falls over. If time allows, rebuild and repeat! Talk together about the power of wind. **Wind can be really powerful. Why do you think God's Spirit appeared as wind in our story today?**

BIBLE BIT

- The disciples were celebrating a Jewish festival of thanksgiving called Shavuot. This festival is celebrated between the Jewish festivals of Passover and Sukkot.

WATCH IT AGAIN

- Challenge kids to spot the scenes from earlier Sundays.
- Turn to two stories in the Whirl Story Bible, "Trusted with Talents" (p. 266) and "Healing at Simon's House" (p. 278), for quick reminders.

OUR CHURCH

- Celebrate different cultures by having an international snack time or meal after worship. Ask people to bring food from around the world to share with one another.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. For this activity, gather kids in a space where they can access the Wall Chart and Whirl Story Bibles. Hold up the square. **What do you see on the square today?** Allow kids to respond. **I see the symbols from our Wall Chart! What symbols do you see?** As kids identify the symbols on their squares, point out the same symbols on the Wall Chart.
2. **What else do you see that looks familiar on your square today?** Allow kids to respond. **There are pictures from our Story Bibles on the square!**
3. Point to the “Start” space in the lower left corner and help kids remember the sequence of the church year. Help kids notice that the square is similar to the Wall Chart. **Our square today follows the seasons on our Wall Chart, but uses a different shape to do so.**
4. Point out the blank spaces. **Let’s draw in pictures of what the different seasons mean to us. Begin with Advent and fill in all the spaces except this one in the middle.** Point to the “(Me)” square.
5. Ask kids to fill in the last square. **Today is Pentecost. But what comes after Pentecost?** Allow kids to respond. **Maybe it’s time for us to fill up with God’s Spirit and get to work being God’s people. What does God’s work look like?** Generate ideas such as being kind to a new kid at school or walking the neighbor’s dog.
6. Share squares with one another.

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

In our story today, the disciples were celebrating Pentecost when they experienced God’s Holy Spirit! They discovered that with the Holy Spirit’s help, they can show people God’s power. And what did the video kids learn today? Allow kids to respond. **The video kids learned they have the Holy Spirit within them. And guess what? We do too!**

Pass out leaflet panels, scissors, markers, and masking tape.

Read the text “Filled up with God’s Spirit” with kids. Then ask kids to print “Filled” in the rectangular headlamp area, cut out along the blue lines, and tape the headlamp to their heads.

Send kids out.

Have kids form a triangle with their hands by matching thumbs and pointer fingers together. Kids blow on each triangle point as you say, **“God, Jesus, God’s Spirit.”** Repeat.

Pray together with “windy” arms: **Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come, Holy Spirit, come.** (Arms stretched wide.) **Show me what I can do! Amen.**

Thank kids for filling up with God’s Spirit! Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.