



## BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 47

### PENTECOST

**Scripture:** Acts 2

**Open:** Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

**Supplies:** Paper, stapler, colored pencils/markers/crayons

#### Ask:

- We've been learning about the New Testament these last several weeks, what do you remember? (Jesus' birth, ministry, teachings, miracles, death and resurrection)
- The New Testament begins with the life of Jesus found in the four gospels. Does anyone know what the four gospels are? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
- Then the New Testament goes into the history of the early church, letters, and prophecy about the second coming of Christ.
- Today, we're going to learn about the early church.

#### Summarize

After Jesus rose from the dead, he spent forty days with his followers, explaining the Scriptures to them and showing himself to them to prove he really was alive. Then he ascended back into heaven and told his followers to wait for a gift he would send them. This gift came on the day of Pentecost. Pentecost (or the feast weeks) was celebrated when Moses received the Law on Mount Sinai. The Jewish people often made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for this time. We're going to look into that gift today.

**Read:** Acts 2:1-4

#### Ask/Explain:

What was the gift? (The Holy Spirit)

Can anyone tell me who the Holy Spirit is? (The third person of the Trinity)

God is three in one. He is the Father, Spirit, and Son. The Trinity is three distinct persons that are one. We see all three at work when Jesus was baptized, and when he was raised from the dead.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come upon people. People would prophesy because the Holy Spirit would come upon them. The Holy Spirit came upon David as king. He would individually come upon people. This story we're reading is a big deal because now, the Holy Spirit comes upon all who believe.

**Explain:**

When we believe in Jesus, his Spirit is within us. As he fills us again and again, he empowers us to live our lives in obedience to the Word of God. He gives us boldness and strength. He gives us power and peace. He gives us wisdom and help. He is such a precious gift. Let's see what happened after the gift of the Spirit first came to the followers of Jesus.

**Read:** Acts 2:14-41

**Explain:**

Do you see how Peter suddenly had wisdom to understand and apply the scriptures? Do you notice his boldness to proclaim the good news? And do you see how the people were convicted, and turned from their sin? The Holy Spirit is an incredible gift, because we aren't alone in following Jesus. His Spirit is with us, helping us, guiding us, teaching us, and empowering us.

**Apply:**

So the next time you feel like you should tell someone about Jesus, ask for his Spirit to guide you. The next time you feel defeated, ask for him to empower you. The next time you don't understand, ask God to give you wisdom through his Holy Spirit. You'll be amazed at his power at work within you!

**Craft:**

Make tongues of fire hats. Cut out rectangular strips and staple them once measured to the size of each child's head. Have the kids cut out flames from construction paper, or white paper and then draw their own. Have them wear their flame hats to remind them that the gift of the Holy Spirit is available to them, too!

**Comic Book Bibles:**

Have the kids draw the day of Pentecost their comic book Bibles.

**Memorize:** Acts 2:18

**Close in Prayer**

