

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 26

The Holy Spirit arrives

Acts 2:1-47



DAY 1

The Spirit came on Pentecost • Acts 2:1-3

READ

Acts 2:1-3

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 2:1-3

It was Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus had risen from the dead. For 40 days He had appeared and taught His disciples to continue His work on earth (1:3, 8b). But how were so few going to be able to do the work of the Son of God? Only by the coming power of the Holy Spirit (1:5, 8a). So about 10 days after Jesus ascended, the Spirit rushed upon the disciples, proving that Jesus is Lord and giving believers power to call all people to Him. The Spirit came like wind and fire. The Spirit is more than wind, since the wind was supernatural, coming from heaven. But the Spirit is like wind because you can sense His life-giving power even though you cannot see Him (John 3:8). Like God's breath, He breathes life into lifeless people (Ezek 37:9-14). So like a mighty rushing wind, He comes with unstoppable power. He also appeared as fire, because when He is present, God is present (Exod 3:2-5). Just as He promised, Jesus was powerfully present with His disciples through the Holy Spirit.

ASK

1. How were so few disciples going to be able to accomplish God's work?
By the coming power of the Holy Spirit.
2. What day was it when the Spirit came?
He came on Pentecost—the 50th day from the Sunday after Passover.
3. What did the Holy Spirit sound like when He came?
Like a loud, rushing wind from heaven.
4. What appeared above the disciples?
Tongues as of fire.

DISCUSS

1. Why is the Holy Spirit described as "breath" or "wind"?
2. Does the Holy Spirit always come like wind and fire?

DAY 2

The Spirit came with power • Acts 2:4–13

READ

Acts 2:4–13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 2:4–13

The wind and flames show that the 120 disciples (Acts 1:15) were each **baptized in the Spirit**, *immersed in the Spirit poured out by Jesus* (1:5; Matt 3:11). The disciples had to wait until the day of Pentecost to receive this baptism, but now that the Spirit has come, this baptism happens as soon as a person becomes a Christian (1 Cor 12:13). Now all His work of regenerating, indwelling, and sealing overflow from His baptizing presence. But when the disciples were baptized in the Spirit, they were also **filled with the Spirit**. Unlike baptism, filling is not permanent (4:8, 31; 6:5; 7:55). It is the *Spirit's control and power in our lives* that varies according to our dependence on Him and obedience to His Word (Eph 5:18; Col 3:16). The Spirit proved His power by causing Galileans to speak many languages that they did not understand (1 Cor 14:14). But the crowd understood! The people had come from hundreds of miles in every direction to celebrate Pentecost in Jerusalem (Num 28:26). They expected to communicate in Aramaic or Greek, but now they heard their own local languages!

ASK

1. What is it called when Jesus pours out His Spirit on believers?
Baptism in the Spirit.
2. How is this different from being filled with the Spirit?
The baptism of the Spirit is permanent and doesn't change; the filling of the Spirit varies.
3. What was strange about the way the disciples talked?
They were talking in languages they didn't even know.
4. How did the crowd of Jews know the disciples were speaking many different languages?
Because these Jews were visiting from many different nations with different languages.

DISCUSS

1. How did the Spirit begin to declare Jesus to the whole world at Pentecost?
2. How fully does the Holy Spirit fill your life? What can you do to let Him be more fully in control of your life?

DAY 3

The Spirit's coming was explained by Peter • Acts 2:14–36

READ

Acts 2:14–36

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 2:14–36

Peter explained that the Spirit's coming was pointing out a key time and person (1 Pet 1:10–11). As for the time, the Spirit's coming showed that the last days had begun. Even though most of Joel's prophecy hasn't happened yet (Joel 2:28–32), the last time period has begun (1 Pet 1:20). But Peter still included the future events to warn about judgment. The Spirit's coming shows that judgment may come at any time. Because

of this, it is urgent to turn to the Lord to be saved right away. But who is the Lord? The Spirit's coming pointed out the person who is Lord: Jesus. The coming of the Spirit shows that Jesus is even now ruling with the same authority as the Father, for only someone with God's power could pour out God's Holy Spirit. This leads to the shocking conclusion. Peter had just quoted Joel to urge people to call on the name of the Lord. The "**Lord**" that Joel was talking about was **Yahweh**, *the name of the true and only God*. Peter was saying that Jesus is Yahweh, and that He proved it by pouring out the Spirit!

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What does the Spirit's coming show about the time we are living in?
It is the last times, when final judgment could come at any time.
2. What does the Spirit's coming show about who Jesus is?
It shows that Jesus really is alive and ruling as God in heaven right now.
3. What did Peter say the Men of Israel had done?
They had crucified Jesus.
4. What did Peter call Jesus?
Lord and Christ.

DISCUSS 

1. How does Peter's sermon illustrate the role of Scripture and the Spirit in preaching?
2. What does it mean to call on the name of the Lord? Since judgment may come at any moment, have you called out to Jesus to be your Lord?

DAY 4*The Spirit convicted many of sin • Acts 2:37-41***READ** 

Acts 2:37-41

EXPLAIN **The truth of Acts 2:37-41**

The Jews were *cut to the heart* after hearing that they had killed their Savior (Acts 2:23). They were experiencing *intense, sudden conviction* over their sin. But they had never responded to Jesus this way, so why do they respond to Peter? Because Jesus had poured out the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit was convicting the world of sin (John 16:8). After they were cut to the heart, they heard the good news: **forgiveness!** All their sins, including killing the Lord, could be *washed away*. God would *not hold any of it against them*. And if that weren't enough, the Lord was offering them the Holy Spirit too! And if that weren't enough, these blessings were also being offered to their children and to all the world! But forgiveness of sin can only be received by repenting and believing. The Jews also needed to be *baptized to publically side with Jesus, declare allegiance to Him as Messiah and God, and find their identity in Him*. This was a decisive act of faith, since they would now be cut off by their fellow Jews and give up their old way of life.

ASK 

1. Why were the Jews so broken-hearted when they heard this?
They realized they had crucified their Messiah and God.
2. What did Jesus offer these Jews instead of judgment?
He offered them forgiveness for all their sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. What did the people need to do?
Repent and be baptized.
4. What did baptism show?
That the Jews had declared their allegiance to Jesus and found their identity in him.

DISCUSS 

1. What is the good news? Has this gospel message changed since Peter's first sermon?
2. Have you been baptized? Why or why not? What does baptism signify (Rom 6:3-4)?

DAY 5

The Spirit created an obedient, unified, and joyful church •
Acts 2:42–47

READ

Acts 2:42–47

EXPLAIN

The truth of Acts 2:42–47

The shocking message had a shocking result: about 3,000 people repented that day! The Holy Spirit used the disciples to do greater work than Jesus had done (John 14:12; 16:7). In the process, the Spirit created the church, and when the church is Spirit-led, it is a preview of God's perfect kingdom to come. The church is Spirit-led when believers obey His Word, when they choose to make the church their primary community by often gathering together, when they remember their salvation through Jesus in the Lord's Supper, when they live in awe of God and in dependence on Him through prayer, and when they selflessly serve each other because they love each other more than themselves. It is good to be humble and obedient like that, because that is how we find great joy, see how amazing God is, and show others that serving God is good. Not surprisingly, this church continued to grow as God caused the growth.

ASK

1. How many people were saved after Peter's sermon?
About 3,000.
2. What was the early church like because of the Spirit?
It was obedient, united in Christ, united to each other, devoted to serving, delighting in how amazing God is, full of joy, and an attractive witness to unbelievers.
3. Did the church continue to grow?
Yes. The Lord added people to the church each day.

DISCUSS

1. What made the early church so special?
2. How does your church compare to the early church? How can you contribute to a joyful, God-honoring church?

NEXT WEEK

Peter and John preach the gospel

Acts 3:1–26

