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THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME

Ascension/Pentecost

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Matthew 28: 16 – 20; Mark 16: 12 – 20; Luke 24: 33 – 53; John 21; Acts 1, 2

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- In the 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples many times, ate with them and taught them many things.
- Jesus promised the disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit who would give them power to do the work of the Kingdom. Then Jesus physically ascended into Heaven to begin his kingly rule.
- The disciples waited 10 more days for the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit came and gave them power to spread the good news to all nations.
- On the day of Pentecost, the disciples preached boldly, and many people repented and believed. God's people were growing in numbers, and far and near, people from every nation were beginning to follow Jesus as their king.
- If we follow Jesus, we also have the Holy Spirit, who gives us power to live for Jesus and become more like him.

Memory Verse "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."(Acts 1:8a - ESV)

ACNA Catechism Connection Q 17 What does God desire to accomplish in your life in Christ? God desires to transform me into the image of Jesus ...by the power of his Holy Spirit.

Q 84 How does the Holy Spirit relate to you? ...to make Jesus known to me, to indwell and empower me in Christ...

Q 85 How do you receive the Holy Spirit? ...through repenting and being baptized...

Q 18 How does God transform you? ...over time through worship, prayer and Bible reading, fellowship, witnessing and acts of love toward all.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- **Battery run tea light candles** (one for each child)
- **A placard** – saying “40 days”
- **10 Signs** with Day #1, Day #2, Day #3, etc. up to Day #10 (On the back of each sign, write “still waiting”Do not put anything on the back of Day #10....as that is the day of Pentecost.)

Memory Verse: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."(Acts 1:8a - ESV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss this week's poster. • Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <p><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></p>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (disciples speaking in many different languages, flames above people's heads.)

I wonder why there seems to be flames above people's heads.

I wonder why there are different languages.

Let's find out more in our story...



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of Acts, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

Today we learn that the disciples spent 40 days with Jesus after He was resurrected! He appeared to them, ate with them and taught them many things. Then Jesus had to leave and return to Heaven. He ascended, that means he was lifted up, into Heaven. We call this event the Ascension. Jesus sat down on his throne in Heaven beside his Father and began to rule as the Forever King. However, before He went to the Father, Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. On Pentecost Day, while the disciples were waiting and praying together, a rushing wind was heard and what seemed to be flames of fire appeared to rest on each person's head. The followers of Jesus started praising God, but in languages that they had never heard or learned before! The Holy Spirit came to each believer that day, so that they could have boldness and joy to tell people from many nations and languages the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit now lives inside all believers and disciples of Jesus. Even today, the Holy Spirit gives us the joy and power to share God's message of repentance, forgiveness and Christ's love. The Holy Spirit gives us power to live for Jesus and do the work of the Kingdom. In all of this, God is changing us to be more like his Son, Jesus.

STORY:

TEACHER: For 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, he appeared often and spoke to his disciples about God's kingdom.

ACTION: *Show the Empty Tomb poster. Then put a placard to the right of it, saying "40 days".*

TEACHER: Jesus told his disciples that they needed to tell others about him.

Jesus said that although he must go away for a time, they must wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would help them to tell others of him.

Then Jesus left the people. Jesus ascended (was lifted up) into the heavens. We call this event the Ascension. Jesus sat down on his throne in Heaven beside his

Father and began to rule as the Forever King.

After this occurred, the disciples went back to Jerusalem, just as Jesus had told them. They gathered together in a large room and waited and prayed for the promised gift - the Holy Spirit.

How many days are you willing to wait for something that was promised to you?

ACTION: *Hold up the signs, and then turn them over and ask the questions:*

- *Hold up the sign Day 1. Would you wait one day?*
- *Hold up the sign Day 2. Would you wait two days?*
- *Hold up the sign Day 3. Would you wait three days?*

TEACHER: I wonder if anyone thought, "How long will we have to wait?" But, they continued to wait.

Sometimes we have to wait, just like these disciples, before we receive our answer to prayer.

ACTION: *Hold up the sign Day 4....the disciples are still waiting. Hold up the sign Day 5....still waiting. (The teacher should continue to hold up each sign until he/she has held up the sign Day #10.)*

Ask the children to shut their eyes.

TEACHER: I am going to place something on each person's head. Keep your head still! Do not open your eyes until you hear a loud sound like the wind blowing - then you can open your eyes.

ACTION: *Place the lit battery operated candles on the heads of everyone, and get the picture of the Day of Pentecost ready. Ask another adult to start making a (wind blowing) sound.*

TEACHER: Open your eyes. Look around. It looks like there is a flame on each person's head.

The Bible tells us that the disciples heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and then, as they looked around, they saw what appeared to be flames of fire over their heads.

Then something very, very exciting happened.

The disciples started praising God, but it was in different languages that they had never learned before. This was wonderful, because there were many visitors in Jerusalem who spoke different languages, and now they were hearing about

Jesus in their own language. People started to repent of their sins, and they believed in Jesus.

Many of God's people started to follow Jesus and the numbers kept increasing. Also, people from many other nations were beginning to follow Jesus as their king too.

ACTION: *Ask the children to take the candles from their heads and hold them in their hands.*

TEACHER: This day, when the Holy Spirit came, is called the day of Pentecost.

Just as Jesus promised, he sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to give the disciples power to boldly tell others about Jesus. No longer did the disciples feel that they had to hide from the Roman soldiers.

The disciples now had the Holy Spirit, not as flames of fire on their heads, but the Holy Spirit living within each one of them. The Holy Spirit wasn't just around them, but he was actually within them giving them power to preach the Word of God and live for Jesus.

The Holy Spirit also gives **us** power to live for Jesus and to become more like him.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- What does this story tell us about God? (God can live in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. God is a Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus is seated on his throne in Heaven, ruling as the Forever King. God keeps his promises. Jesus wants us to have his Holy Spirit so that we may boldly tell others about him. The Holy Spirit can help us become more and more like Jesus.)
- What does this story mean for us today? (We too can have the Holy Spirit and all the promises of God if we believe, repent and are baptized, and follow Jesus.)
- For how many days did Jesus appear to the disciples after he rose from the dead? (40 days)
- What is the Ascension? (The day (after the 40 days) when Jesus was taken up to Heaven. There he sat down on his throne beside his Father and began to rule as the Forever King. Optional comment: The church celebrates the Ascension every year, 40 days after Easter)
- What were the disciples doing in Jerusalem? (Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit)
- How many days after the Ascension of Jesus did the disciples have to wait for the Holy Spirit? (10 days)
- How did the Holy Spirit come to them? (They heard a rushing wind and saw tongues

of fire and they spoke in different languages)

- What do we call the day when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples? (The day of Pentecost. Optional: The church celebrates Pentecost every year 10 days after Ascension.)
- Why did the Holy Spirit give the disciples the gift of different languages? (So that people visiting Jerusalem could understand and believe in Jesus)

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Continuing with the above discussion, ask the children if they have turned their hearts (their lives) to Jesus and are following him. By being baptized (*just like Jesus was baptized*) reading the Scriptures, (*just as Jesus did*) obeying God, (*Jesus always did what his Heavenly Father asked him to do*) the Holy Spirit will live within us, strengthen us and help us to become more and more like Christ. He gives us the power to overcome sin and choose to do what is right and good. We will be living for Jesus and building his Kingdom. With the Holy Spirit, we also have the power to tell others about Jesus.

Pray with the children and ask the Holy Spirit to guide them, give them joy in their hearts and help them to follow Jesus.

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional Activities

- Have different languages printed out which say words of praise to God on them. The children can take them home or glue them onto a Pentecost poster.
- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers



Flames on the heads of the disciples on the day of Pentecost

"But you will
receive power
when the Holy Spirit
has come upon you."

(Acts 1:8a)