

**New Testament**  
**Lesson 40: DAY OF PENTECOST**

Text: Acts 1; 2

Memory Verses:	Acts 2:37,38	Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?  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.
	Acts 2:41,42	Then they that gladly received His word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.  And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
	Acts 2:46,47	And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.  Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Goals:	Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to realize the need to tell others the good news of Jesus as the early Christians did.</li><li>• to realize the Holy Spirit works within us, guiding and comforting us if we listen.</li></ul>
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*Outline:*

- I. Introduction to Acts.
  - A. Written to Theophilus by Luke.
  - B. Continuation of historical narrative.
  - C. Two main sections.
    1. Apostles in Jerusalem - Peter.
    2. Gospel to the Gentiles - Paul.

- II. Review farewell instructions. Acts 1
  - A. Wait for the Holy Spirit.
  - B. Ascension.
  - C. Prayer.
  - D. Matthias chosen.
  
- III. Day of Pentecost. Acts 2
  - A. Apostles filled with the Holy Spirit.
  - B. Peter preaches first sermon.
  - C. 3000 converted/baptized.

*Facts:*

1. The book of Acts was written by Luke to Theophilus. Luke was a physician, the only Gentile writer of the Bible, a close friend of Paul, and native of Antioch.
2. Luke writes the book of Acts as a continued historical account of Christ's continued work through the Holy Spirit. He tells of the "acts" of the apostles laboring under the great commission, the first 30 years of the church. He primarily records the work of Peter and Paul.
3. Jesus remained on earth 40 days after His resurrection establishing infallible proof of His triumph over death and reassuring His disciples of the promised Holy Spirit to guide them to all truth. They still had the misconception of an earthly kingdom.
4. Jesus gives them an agenda to follow: begin in Jerusalem, advance to Judea (region around Jerusalem), then go into Samaria (beyond Judea), and continue in an ever widening circle until you've reached all the known world.
5. The ascension was 10 days before Pentecost. At Mount Olivet, two angels appear urging them to return to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. (These apostles are all Galileans far from home and in danger; they denied themselves the comforts of home as Jesus had for the mission work of the kingdom.) Jerusalem is 3/4 mile from Mount Olivet.
6. Returning to an upper room. The 11 apostles are joined by certain devout women, certain relatives, and other followers (totalling about 120). They let nothing interfere with their praying.
7. Peter addressed the group with the need to fulfill the scriptures (Psalms 41:9, Psalms 109:2-8, Psalms 69:25) and replace Judas. Qualifications were: to have been a disciple of Jesus from "John's baptism" and to have accompanied Him (witnessed) after His resurrection.
8. Two men met these qualifications: Joseph (Barsabas) and Matthias. They prayed for God to select the one most pleasing to Him, then used the Old Testament custom of casting lots. Matthias was chosen.
9. In Judas' attempt to hang himself, his body falls and is mangled as described by Luke. Since the chief priest could not return the 30 pieces of silver paid Judas for Jesus' betrayal to the temple treasury, he purchased this field to bury strangers. The potter's field was renamed "field of blood." (Matthew 26:14- 26, 27:3-8)
10. The Jews celebrated 3 annual feasts. Pentecost celebrated the beginning of their harvest and was the most important of the year. It brought more people to Jerusalem than any other, which made it the opportune time for the Holy Spirit to fulfill Jesus' promise.

11. Suddenly, a sound as a rushing, mighty wind (of a violent storm or hurricane) filled the house where the apostles were gathered. Flames of light appeared over each apostle's head and they were filled with the Holy Spirit which gave them the ability to speak in a variety of languages.
12. Remember, these apostles were all from 1 province, Galilee, yet the devout Jews gathered in Jerusalem that day were from 15 different countries and provinces scattered widely across the Roman Empire, Mesopotamia, Judea, Asia Minor, Arabia, Egypt (Africa), and Crete. All were amazed and astonished to hear the apostles speaking in their own native language.
13. Some scoffers mocked and tried to dismiss this miracle as the apostles being drunk on new wine (wine kept a full year, very intoxicating). Peter addresses this accusation by pointing out it was only nine o'clock in the morning (3rd hour), the hour of morning prayer for Jews, in which they had been engaged.
14. Peter has been selected as spokesman for this important event; to him was committed the "keys of the kingdom." (Matthew 16:19) After explaining the Holy Spirit, he directs his message to how Jesus had fulfilled the prophecies of the coming Messiah. (Joel 2:30-31, 3:2, 14:10,11, Psalms 16:8-11, 132:11, II Samuel 7:12,13, Psalms 110:1) They could not deny their own prophets, the miracles of Jesus. As he outlines the life of Christ, he boldly charges them with the crucifixion of Jesus the Messiah.
15. Putting together the simple facts with the prophecies stung the multitude with remorse for their crime in crucifying Jesus and they ask "What do we do?" Peter gives them the terms of salvation: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38)
16. As a result, those obeying are promised the remission (forgiveness) of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
17. They gladly received Peter's teaching that day believing and obeying the gospel. (John 13:20, Luke 10:16) About 3,000 souls were added to the church that day.
18. These new disciples continued daily in 1) the apostles' teaching, learning all he had commanded (Matthew 28:20) 2) fellowship, unity of spirit and concern for the welfare of others 3) breaking of bread, celebrating the Lord's supper 4) prayers, continually.
19. The attention of the public had been attracted. Mockers silenced. The church had been simply formed through the power of the gospel and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
20. "Church" is from a Greek word meaning "called out assembly."

*Visuals:*

- Characterization props:
  - reuse visuals of Jesus' death, resurrection, ascension
  - doll/picture-Jesus rising into cloud (cotton)
  - angel
  - reuse visuals on Judas' death
  - rope/silver coins/grassy square (field)
  - doll/picture-Matthias & Barsabas
  - lots
  - tape sound effects of violent wind
  - fan
  - wire headband with "flame" attached

tape of a foreign language (public library)  
map  
OT/NT (fulfillment)  
cross  
doll(s) being baptized/pan of water  
examples of sharing/worshipping/praise  
some concept of how many 3,000 is (beans, popcorn seeds, etc.)

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Storybook
- Video

*Songs:*

- A Common Love
- Can He Depend On You?
- Feed My Sheep
- Galatians 2:20
- He Paid A Debt
- Humble Yourself
- I Am The Church
- I'm Happy Today
- Isn't It Grand To Be A Christian
- Jesus Called Them One By One
- Jesus In The Morning
- Jesus Is Living In Heaven Today
- My Jesus
- Rise And Shine
- Sinners Jesus Will Receive
- Stand Up And Shout It
- Standin' In The Need Of Prayer
- The Gospel Means Good News
- The Very Best Life
- There Is Much To Do
- This Is My Commandment
- While We Pray

*Activities:*

- Learning Center reinforcements
- Age-appropriate handwork

*Discussion Questions:*

1. How can we reach others with the good news about Jesus?
2. What things do you recall about Peter? Luke?
3. Tell what you know about Pentecost.
4. What was the most important thing Peter taught those assembled on Pentecost?
5. List those things the early Christians did together.

6. Who was chosen to take Judas' place? How?
7. Name as many miracles as you can that took place on the day of Pentecost.
8. Who preached the first sermon? Why him?
9. Where were those Jews present on Pentecost from?
10. How many became Christians that day?

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