

# The Holy Spirit

## KEY VERSES

Acts 1 & 2

## KEY THEMES

God is a promise keeper  
The Holy Spirit is at work

## TEACHING NOTES



**Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:3-8)**



**The Holy Spirit comes (Acts 2:1-13)**

Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1)



God is a promise keeper (Acts 2:2-3)

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVT. PROMISE LAW GRACE

Filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)

Response of the crowd (Acts 2:6-8)

Reaction of the crowd (Acts 2:12-13)



**Peter preaches to the crowd (Acts 2:14-36)**



**The role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer**

**Lesson Objective:**

*To understand the work and role of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church*

**PERSONAL STUDY****Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Begin by quieting yourself before God. Ask Him to help you focus and learn what He has for you from this time with Him and His Word.

**Read Acts 1:4-8**

Who does Christ tell them to wait for in the days following His resurrection?

What did Jesus promise the apostles they would receive upon the Holy Spirit's arrival? And what were they to do with this power?

**Read Acts 2:38-39**

Who else will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit along with the power He provides?

From what you have read thus far, do you believe the Spirit who filled the believers at Pentecost to be the same Spirit who fills all believers today? Why or why not?

How does it make you feel knowing that when you placed your faith in Jesus you received this same gift of the Holy Spirit?

When individuals place their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, they receive the Holy Spirit. Think about an electrical cord and outlet. When we insert the plug of a device into an outlet, we expect to receive the power needed to run the device. It is much the same when we put our faith in Christ. Because we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, we now have access to the power of the Holy Spirit. In the next personal study, we will take a look at the Holy Spirit at work in Acts 2.

### Key verse

Put to memory Acts 1:8. Put your memory scripture card in a place you will see it often.

### Prayer time

Reflect for a moment how incredible it is that God gave us His Holy Spirit. Thank Him for this amazing gift of His presence. Ask God to help you be more aware throughout the day of the Holy Spirit being with you.

## Study 2

### Prepare your heart and mind

Whenever we spend time reading and studying God's Word it is good to prepare our hearts and minds. Sometimes you may find it necessary to first share your concerns with God so you can then focus on the lesson. Take a few moments to do this now.



### Read Acts 2:4-41

Why do you think in this situation the Holy Spirit enabled the Apostles to speak in languages other than their own?

What was the key truth Peter wanted those present to understand about Jesus? (Verse 36)

What changes do you see in Peter from his earlier days as a result of the Holy Spirit coming upon him?

What was the outcome of Peter's boldness to speak the Word of God?

In Courses 1 & 2, we learned that God has a plan and invites us to join Him in that plan. Last week we learned that our role in that plan is to go into all the world to spread the Good News. As believers we have received the Holy Spirit. The role of the Spirit is to empower us to witness to those around us.

What are some fears or anxieties you may have when you think about sharing Christ with others?

How can what you've learned about the Holy Spirit's role alleviate your fears about sharing Christ in your own circle of friends or beyond?

### **Key verse**

Continue learning Acts 1:8. Break down the verse into 3 or 4 parts and write them on separate index cards. Once you have learned each part try putting it all together. As you are learning this verse, ask God to show you how He wants you to participate in sharing the Good News throughout the world.

### **Prayer time**

Father, I thank you for giving me the power of your Holy Spirit. Help me to have confidence in you to act boldly when you place an opportunity before me.

## PARENT GUIDE

The story of Pentecost might not seem like a bedtime story you would read to your children, but actually it is an exciting true story of when God gave us the Holy Spirit. Children are so curious. They will love discovering the truth that they too have the Holy Spirit if they have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

### Bedtime story



**Read:** Acts 2. If you have older children, take turns reading the chapter together. If you have younger kids, summarize the story for them.

**Say:** In this Bible story there were lots of people who had come to Jerusalem to worship God. They had come from many different places and couldn't understand each other's languages. The Bible says that when the Holy Spirit came that day, the apostles were suddenly talking in languages the others could understand. After this happened, Peter got up and shared about Jesus. There were over 3,000 people there that day that placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

**Discuss:** Why do you think God sent the Holy Spirit to them? (*Because He promised He would. See John 14:26.*)

Who did God use in this story to share about Jesus?

Why wasn't Peter afraid to speak to a large crowd?



**Read:** John 14:26

**Say:** The Holy Spirit teaches us about Jesus and reminds us of the things He said.

**Discuss:** How does the Holy Spirit help us?

**OPTIONAL STUDY**

Hindsight is always 20/20. When Jesus told the disciples that it would be better for them when He returned to the Father in heaven, they were filled with sorrow. They did not have a full understanding of what Jesus meant when He said in John 14:23, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.” He was promising them the gift of the Holy Spirit: a Spirit of power, love and self-discipline. What did this mean for the lives of ordinary men and women? More specifically, what did it mean for Peter who previously was too cowardly to even identify himself with Jesus to a couple of servant girls? Let’s take a “before” and “after” look at the life of Peter.



Read Mark 14:27-31, 66-72

What was revealed about Peter’s heart and character when he denied knowing Jesus?

What do intense situations reveal about what is really in our hearts?



Read Acts 2:14-39

What was revealed about Peter’s heart and character when he preached?

What changed about Peter from the time he denied Christ, to when he boldly testified about Jesus?

Jesus told the disciples in Acts 1:8 that they would receive power to be His witnesses when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. There is nothing in our sinful humanity that can be a successful witness to the dying world around us. All ministry comes from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, which gives believers the supernatural ability to testify of the wonderful works of God. In John 15:5 Jesus reminds the disciples, “For apart from me you can do nothing.”

