



Date: May 23 ,2010
Series: Jesus Now...
School Year 3, Lesson 50

Pentecost Power

Take Home Point: *The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 2:1-41. Pentecost

Key Verse: Acts 1:8, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We will help kids know:

- The Pentecost Bible Event in Acts 2.
- God sends the Holy Spirit who fills us with the power to witness about Jesus.
- The message that we are to share is that Jesus is Lord. He is the promised one of God who gave his life for us.



We will help kids feel:

- Excited that God would give them the Holy Spirit's power.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness for Jesus.

We will help kids do:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill them so that they will have God's power to share Jesus with others.
- Make a rocket out of a balloon and a straw that reminds them of the power of God sending them out to be witnesses for Jesus.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Gathering Time	3	<p>Kids sign in, deposit offering on table</p> <p>Kids learn/review the scripture verse set to music, our Song of the Month</p>	<p>Offering basket</p> <p>Our God from A to Z CD CD player</p>
Small Group Warm-Up	3	<p>Kids take turns in a test of how much power each has to push a straw down a string track. When a balloon is added to the straw for extra power, they see that it's God's power that sends us out as witnesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drinking straw • 20 feet of kite string or fishing line • a deflated balloon that can expand to between five and seven inches • masking tape • marker
<p style="text-align: center;">Large Group</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>7</p> <p>9</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Blown Away” – Gordy thinks his shepherd cheated because she used a balloon in the straw race. The presenter explains how the balloon is like the Holy Spirit who gives us power to do great things for God.</p> <p>Video: <i>Visual Bible, Acts</i>—show clip containing Acts 2.</p> <p>Teaching Point: Kids review video.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Blown Away”—Gordy understands that with the filling of the Holy Spirit, he has power to witness to others about God's love.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • an inflated balloon with a straw attached to it like in small group warm-up but NOT attached to the string track • video: <i>Visual Bible, Acts</i>, produced by Visual Bible International. Order from http://www.christiancinema.com • a string track pulled tightly from behind Gordy's window (See small group warm-up.)
<p style="text-align: center;">Small Group Application</p> 	4	<p>Kids make a balloon rocket as an illustration of how the Holy Spirit gives power to lead us in God's direction and to testify of his love.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 feet of string for each child • a straw for each • a deflated balloon for each • tape

Gathering Time/ Offering (8:55 til ~ 9:05)

Play background music as children enter: Use the Our God from A to Z CD, playing the H song (track 8) on repeat, so children become familiar with the song of the month. .

Children collect their name tag, sign in on the clipboard in the classroom, and deposit their offering into the basket on the sign-in table.

Welcome children warmly!

Song-of-Month Review: (9:05 – 9:10)

If you feel less comfortable leading children in learning/reviewing this song, ask Barb Ferrier to come in to lead the singing. In May we focus on H - God is Holy as our Song of the Month.

**My God, my Holy One, Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
You cannot tolerate wrong. Your ways, O God, are holy.**

**"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was, and is, and is to come."**

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full
the whole earth is full, the whole earth is full of his glory."**

Small Group Warm-Up: (9:10 – 9:20)



Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies needed: drinking straw, 20 feet of kite string or fishing line, a deflated balloon that can expand five to seven inches, marker, masking tape

To begin activity, say:

Kids, today we are going to have a power test. We will see who has the most power to push a straw the farthest down this string. The string is like a track. How much power do you have to have to send this straw as far as possible down this track?

Tie the string to an object at one end of the room, or let someone hold it. On the other end, thread the string through the straw. Have someone hold it tightly, parallel to the ground. Mark a starting line with the tape on the ground.

Let each child take a turn giving the straw a push from the starting line to go as far as possible down the track (*string*). See who has the most power to get it the farthest along the track.

As each child holds the straw and gives it a push, mark places on the string with a marker to indicate how far each person is able to push the straw. Celebrate the power test winner.

Today we will talk about power. What is one powerful thing you would like to do for God?

Let kids share ideas. Then say:

I am going to demonstrate some REAL power that can help send this same straw down the same track. I bet I can send it farther than anyone else. Do you think I can?



Pull the balloon out of your pocket, blow it up and pinch the end closed. Point the neck of the balloon in the opposite direction that the balloon and straw will travel. Hold the balloon under the straw and tape it securely to the straw. It works best to place the tape in the middle of the straw or at the end closest to the beginning of the string track. (See picture.) Release the balloon and it should easily glide the entire distance of the string track.

What do you think? Did I score the highest on the power test? You might think this is not a fair test because it was not MY power that pushed the straw. That is exactly the point of this lesson.

Today we will learn that God's power sends us out as witnesses. As a matter of fact, this power comes from God, the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes

Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

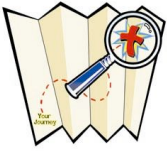


Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Gets Blown Away"—Gordy thinks his shepherd cheated because she used a balloon in the straw race. The presenter explains how the balloon is like the Holy Spirit who gives us power to do great things for God.

Video: *Visual Bible—Acts. Acts 2.*

Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy Gets Blown Away"—Gordy understands that with the filling of the Holy Spirit, he has power to witness to others about God's love.

Small Group Application: (9:42-10:08)



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 2 for the following questions.

How did the Holy Spirit show his presence on Pentecost? *(Acts 2:2-3. A sound like violently blowing wind came from the sky and filled the whole house where the believers were staying. Tongues of fire appeared and rested on each believer.)*

What strange thing did the believers do after receiving the power of the Holy Spirit? *(Acts 2:4. They began to speak in other languages.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why do you think Peter, who earlier denied Jesus three times, could now preach such a powerful sermon about Jesus and his resurrection? *(The Holy Spirit gave him the power.)*

What was the result of Peter's powerful sermon? *(Acts 2:41. 3,000 people believed and accepted Jesus and were baptized that day.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

In the key verse from Acts 1:8, Jesus says, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

How can you and I be like Peter and the disciples according to this verse? *(With the power of the Holy Spirit, we can testify about Jesus and expect amazing results.)*

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: 20 feet of string for each child, a straw and a deflated balloon for each, tape

Help each kid make a balloon rocket. Give each a string and have them thread it through the straw. Then pass out a balloon to each. Have the kids work with a partner.

As one blows up a balloon, have his/her partner tape it to the straw. (*You may need to blow them up for the younger kids.*)

Let them practice racing the balloon down the track as their partner holds the string on one end. After each has had a turn, have the kids set the balloon rocket to the side and discuss the following:

Show your family and friends this activity and explain to them how the balloon filled with air is like the Holy Spirit, or the breath of God, that fills our lives and gives us power to go in God's direction.

Where is God leading you? Can you think of someone who needs Jesus?

What message can we share about Jesus? (*He is Lord. He is the promised one of God who gave his life for us. He loves us so much he died on the cross for our sins.*)

Each of us has his/her own track. God wants to use each of us in different ways to bring his love to the world. Just like the Holy Spirit gave Peter and the believers power to testify about Jesus in different languages, **The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness, too.*

Closing Prayer:

Let each child pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive power to tell others about Jesus' amazing love. Encourage them to pray for an individual they know who needs Jesus. Pray for God to show them the direction he wants them to go in their lives. Pray that they develop their ability to hear God and discern - to test - what God's telling them, and then for courage to obey God.

Popcorn Prayer (~ 10:08- 10:12)

Purpose: *Help kids become comfortable in praying out loud, and learning how to intercede for others.*

Popcorn prayers are typically short (one breath prayers.... Finish your prayer before you run out of breath.), and they pop up from all directions from those standing within the circle.

Gather in a circle; designate one of the children to start the prayer, designate yourself as the closing pray-er. Allow children to offer prayers. Rather than asking for prayer requests, go directly to prayer and let children add their prayers in the circle.

Dismiss:

- **Be sure children take a God Talk at Home page from the sign-out table.**
- **Supervise children until parents come to sign them out, checking that the person picking up the child is really his/her parent.**

Large Group Presentation:

20-30 minutes

Gordy Gets Blown Away

Puppet Presentation

Supplies needed: a string track pulled tightly from behind Gordy's window with a straw and inflated balloon attached to look like Gordy has launched it and the video Visual Bible: Acts.

Presenter: Kids, shall we call for Gordy?

Kids call for Gordy. **Gordy... Gordy... Gordy...**

An inflated balloon with a straw taped to it comes shooting out from behind the puppet screen. *(Same as small group warm-up, but not on the string.)*

Gordy: *(Enters.)* Hi, *(presenters name)*! Hey, did you see a balloon go by here?

Presenter picks up the balloon to be used later in the Teaching Point.

Presenter: Yeah, Gordy, here it is. But where did you get this?

Gordy: My shepherd left it in our small group just a minute ago when we were coming here.

Presenter: Gordy, you shouldn't have taken it.

Gordy: Why not? Our shepherd shouldn't have used it.

Presenter: What do you mean?

Gordy: Well, we were having a contest to see who was the most powerful.

Presenter: You mean by seeing who could launch a straw the farthest down the string?

Gordy: Yeah, that's it! And you can guess who won, can't you?

Presenter: Well, let me see...

Gordy: He is the most powerful kid in our group.

Presenter: Let's see then, it must have been _____ (*insert a child's name*).

Gordy: No, it was me! That is, I got the balloon the farthest until my shepherd cheated.

Presenter: Cheated? That's a strong word. What do you mean?

Gordy: (S)he used this balloon thing and it went zooming down the string just like that. It wasn't even her own power, so she cheated.

Presenter: No, she didn't!

Gordy: I figured you'd be on her side.

Presenter: No, Gordy. That's what we're learning about today.

Gordy: What, how to cheat?

Presenter: No, we're learning that to do powerful things for God, we act not out of *our* power, but out of *God's* power.

Gordy: But all (s)he did was blow up the balloon and tape it to the straw. I think that's cheating.

Presenter: Gordy! Once again, that balloon was helping to teach you a very important truth about power.

Gordy: What's that?

Presenter: The Holy Spirit is the power, not us.

Gordy: Do you mean that the balloon reminds us of the Holy Spirit?

Presenter: Not exactly. Did the balloon give the straw power?

Gordy: Yeah.

Presenter: No, the force of the air against the inside of the balloon gives it the power.

Gordy: Sure, when someone blows it up.

Presenter: Well, that's what happens in our lives. God sends the Holy Spirit to give us power. Also, the Bible compares the Holy Spirit to wind. So it's just like God breathing into us and his presence fills our lives with the Holy Spirit.

Gordy: Kind of like blowing up the balloon?

Presenter: Right! And then that wind power lets us do things far greater than we can imagine—powerful things for God. The disciples discovered that on Pentecost.

Gordy: Do you mean that the disciples had balloons? No way! Balloons didn't even exist back then.

Presenter: No, I'm not talking about balloon power. I'm talking about Holy Spirit power. Listen to what Jesus said in this Bible verse from Acts 1:8...

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Now watch this Bible video and you will see how God's Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples and they did something very powerful. See if you can tell me afterwards what it is.

Video

Show Acts 2 from the video: the *Visual Bible: Acts*, produced by Visual Bible International. Due to the length of this chapter, a recommended way to abbreviate playing time is to fast forward through verses 17-28.

Teaching Point

Pick up Gordy's deflated balloon and say:

Boys and girls, did you notice the ways the Holy Spirit was seen and felt in that room on the day of Pentecost? What was it that seemed to be on top of their heads. Yes, tongues of fire. What was it that they felt across the room? Yes, a rushing wind. Oftentimes, God's presence, the Holy Spirit, is pictured as fire or rushing wind.

Even though the Holy Spirit is a person (the third person of the trinity) and not just a force - today we are picturing the Holy Spirit's presence like wind.

Hold up the balloon.

Let's say this balloon is you. Do you have any power on your own to get across the room? Let's see.

Drop the balloon.

Well, it didn't go very far, did it? But we have God's breath in us when we are filled with the Holy Spirit—just like when this balloon is full of air, it has power to move.

Begin threading the string attached to Gordy's window through the straw on the balloon while saying:

When we listen and obey him, God also gives us direction and the power to witness. He shows us what to do. When the Holy Spirit is in our life, God gives us the power to love him and others. That's what happens when we launch the inflated balloon along the string track.

Blow up the balloon without tying it shut and pull string tight with your other hand. Demonstrate the balloon racing down the string from Gordy's window by releasing the end of the balloon. (See small group warm-up.)

Think about the string track. Where is God leading you? He wants to use you in different ways to bring his love to the world. You will discuss this in your small groups.

Gordy Gets Blown Away

Puppet Conclusion

Gordy: Do we get to have one of those rockets?

Presenter: **Yes, you will get a balloon in small group, Gordy. I do think you need to apologize to your shepherd for taking a balloon without permission.**

Gordy: I guess you're right. I shouldn't have taken it without permission. It's just that sometimes I just don't think.

Presenter: **Did you know the Holy Spirit can give you power in your life to do a better job?**

Gordy: How does he do that?

Presenter: **Well, you ask the Holy Spirit to fill you up. God breathes into your life to give you the power to love and care for others. When the Holy Spirit fills us up, he gives us the power to witness about God's love shown in Jesus. He also gives us self control.**

Gordy: Do you mean we care for other people and treat them right? Like not getting into their stuff when we're not supposed to?

Presenter: **Right.**

Gordy: I think I could use some of the Holy Spirit's power.

Presenter: **Well, Gordy, I think you could, too. We all need the Holy Spirit to do the right things. After small group, you will be able to take your balloon home with the string. You can show your family and friends what you have learned today. Tell them about how the Holy Spirit fills**

you up and gives you the power to go in the right direction. **The Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness to others about God and his Son Jesus.*

Gordy: So, the Holy Spirit fills me up to do what he wants. What does he want me to do?

Presenter: He wants to send us out into the world to tell others about what Jesus has done for us.

Gordy: I don't know if I can do that.

Presenter: Gordy, of course you can. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you up with his power. You will become more and more excited about what Jesus has done for you. So much so, that you will *want* to tell others.

Gordy: I am excited about what Jesus has done for me. He died on the cross to take away my sin. I'm so glad he did, because sometimes I forget what I'm doing and do wrong things.

Presenter: I understand. But Jesus, through his death, has rescued us. Telling others about what Jesus has done for us is one way we can serve God.

Gordy: The Holy Spirit helps us tell others?

Presenter: Yes. Just like the wind in the balloon helps it move down the string. Can you think of some people who need Jesus?

Gordy: Yes. I have some friends who need Jesus.

Presenter: Well, why don't you pray for them and for the Holy Spirit's power to tell them about Jesus.

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, thank you for your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit fill us all up. Give us your power so that we can witness to others who don't know you. Help us tell them about Jesus and what he has done for us. And thank you for this power which also gives us self control. I need it! In Jesus' name. Amen.