Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit Is Powerful

Overview:

Key Focus: Jesus promised to send us a powerful helper—the Holy Spirit.

Bible Story: Pentecost

Scriptures: John 7:39; Acts 1:8, 2:1–8, 37–39, 41; Luke 11:13

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8 (NKJV) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **Depending on your group, you may want to just use the first part of the verse or extend the verse for two or more lessons.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Index card and a gift bag or small box
- Small wrapped empty box

Classroom Prep:

- Write the following verse on an index card and place it inside a gift bag or in a box and wrap it. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:13

Engage:

What are some occasions when you are given a gift? (Possible answers: birthday, Christmas, passed a test, lost a tooth, school graduation) **Who usually gives you gifts?** (Answers will vary.) **Today I have a gift that explains who wants to give you the best gift ever.** Select someone to open the gift bag or gift and read the verse. **This verse doesn’t mean that your parents are evil, but your parents are humans who aren’t perfect like God. Luke wanted you to know that even the best gift from your parents isn’t as wonderful as God’s gift of the Holy Spirit. In our lesson today, we will learn about God’s gift of the Holy Spirit “add-on, internal, power-pack booster.”** On the board write “add-on, internal, power-pack booster” and have the children practice saying it.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. **This verse is another version of Jesus' command to all believers—age doesn't matter— to be a witness and tell others about Jesus.**

Have the children sit in a large circle. Take the small wrapped gift and select a child to start passing it around the circle as the children say the verse. The child holding the package at the end of the verse reads or recites the verse. Continue this pattern several times.

Memory Verse: Acts 1:8 (NKJV) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Bible Story:

As we read the Bible and talk about the Holy Spirit, watch for me to point to someone or the whole group, and that person or everyone stands and says "add-on, internal, power-pack booster." Practice pointing to several people and then to the whole group.

We already learned that Jesus died as the sacrifice that paid the price of all sin. There is nothing for us to do to receive it except say "yes" and receive salvation. God puts something in us the moment we believe in Jesus as our Savior, what? (God puts the Holy Spirit in us at salvation.) **We talked about the Holy Spirit as the treasure, and we are the treasure chest. We can't lose that treasure or have it stolen. The Holy Spirit helps us in many ways. Today we will discover the special** (point) **"add-on, internal, power-pack booster." When you buy a computer game, you might see that you can pay extra and "add-on" some features or levels of the game. We never have to pay to get anything from God.** (point) **"Internal" means inside and the Holy Spirit lives in our "spirit part" of us. We can't see the Holy Spirit inside us and He doesn't show up on an x-ray.** (point) **The Holy Spirit "power-pack" has supernatural power and goes with us everywhere we go.** (point) **A "booster" gives extra power or protection, like a booster shot keeps your body staying healthy.** (point)

Before Jesus died for our sins, He told His disciples many things about God, heaven, and what would happen to Him. Often, His disciples didn't understand the spiritual things. One day He talked about the Holy Spirit. Read John 7:39. **The disciples didn't understand because the Holy Spirit helps us understand spiritual things. Did the disciples have the Holy Spirit like we do?** (No.) **The Holy Spirit didn't live inside believers yet because Jesus was still with them. He hadn't died and risen or returned to heaven yet.**

Jesus' disciples didn't like hearing that Jesus would die and leave them. They were sad because Jesus taught them many things and did miracles. Jesus told them they should be happy when He leaves because God would give them the treasure of the Holy Spirit to live in them. (point) **Imagine if Jesus hadn't gone back to heaven, we wouldn't have the Holy Spirit and His** (point) **power**. **Jesus could only be one place at a time on the earth, but when we have the Holy Spirit—Jesus can be everywhere we are because the Holy Spirit is part of God and so is Jesus!**

The disciples were sad for Jesus to leave them, but Jesus knew they were getting a powerful gift! (point) **The last thing Jesus told them was Acts 1:8.** Have the children say or read Acts 1:8. **Jesus promised them power.** (point) **The Greek word for power is *dunamis*. What English word does this remind you of?** (dynamite) **Jesus knew that all people who believe in Him would need help to live the Christian life. Christians need the Holy Spirit's dynamite power.** (point)

The disciples stayed in Jerusalem for ten days just like Jesus had told them. They stayed together and ate together and prayed together. God's plan is for Christians to be in unity and not fight each other or argue about the Bible. Read Acts 2:1–4. **Pentecost was a special day exactly 50 days after Jesus had resurrected and came out of the tomb. What was the first strange thing that happened to the people gathered in the upper room?** (They heard a sound as a rushing wind.) **What was the next strange thing?** (Tongues of fire rested above them, or on them.) **What happened when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?** (They began to speak with other tongues.) **Sometimes at church, you will hear the words "baptism of the Holy Spirit." This is the special Holy Spirit gift from God** (point) **that we ask to be given. We will learn more about this gift in other lessons.** (point) Reread Luke 11:13 from the card in the gift. **The Holy Spirit comes into us at salvation, but we ask for this extra power.** (point)

Jewish people from all over the world were in Jerusalem for the special Jewish holidays. Read Acts 2:5–8. **What unusual thing happened?** (Visitors all heard the disciples and other believers speaking in their own language.) **Jesus' followers were able to communicate in languages they didn't speak before. That sure sounds like a powerful Holy Spirit gift.** (point) **Sometimes you might hear people at church speak in tongues, or languages that aren't known to others. Speaking in tongues is a heavenly language that we will talk about in other lessons.**

Peter was the disciple who denied three times that he knew Jesus. Something amazing happened when Peter received the Holy Spirit's power. (point) **Peter began preaching to the crowd that gathered.** Read Acts 2:37–39, 41. **Peter told everyone how to be saved from their sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Notice He said the promise of the Holy Spirit is for the adults AND children!** Lead the children in a cheer that salvation and the Holy Spirit are for children. **When you say "yes" to Jesus, there isn't a kid-size salvation or a junior Holy Spirit. The same salvation and Holy Spirit that your parents and all adults have—you can receive also! When you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit immediately comes inside you, but you can ask God to give you the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster." How do you**

feel knowing you can have the same Holy Spirit power (point) **as the pastor?** Let several children comment.

Bible Story Questions:

- **What do you have to do to get the Holy Spirit inside of you?** (The Holy Spirit comes inside of you when you trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior.)
- **What do you have to do to get the extra power of the Holy Spirit?** (Just ask God and He will give you the power of the Holy Spirit.)
- **What did the disciples do when they received the power of the Holy Spirit**? (The disciples spoke in other languages or tongues.)
- **What was the special day that Jewish people were in Jerusalem to celebrate?** (Pentecost)
- **If the disciples waited in Jerusalem for 10 days until Pentecost, how many days was Jesus alive after He died?** (40 days)
- **Do you want the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster?"** Have the children nod their heads to answer. Discuss the prerequisite of asking Jesus to forgive your sins and trust in Him alone to be your Savior.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Set all the chairs in a large circle, but place one chair in the center. **I will name items and when you hear me say something that is powerful, get up and change seats with someone. The person in the center is trying to get a different seat also.** As you name things, choose someone to explain what makes the item powerful.

  Powerful things: dynamite, spotlight, miracles, fireworks, elephant, wildfire, military vehicles, gorilla, cannon, atomic bomb, whale, electricity, Holy Spirit

  Non-powerful things: mouse, flowers, hamburger, notebook, cup, fish, comb, grass, crayons, feather, chewing gum

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids: 
  Have the children work together in pairs or small groups to create a song, rap, or jingle to encourage people to ask for the baptism of the Holy Spirit —the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster." Allow time for them to share their creations.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids: 
  Pass the wrapped gift around the circle while saying, "The Holy Spirit is powerful. The Holy Spirit lives in me." The child holding the wrapped gift at the end says, "I love You, Holy Spirit." Continue this pattern several times.

Worksheet:
Guide the children to fill in the Jerusalem News headline, picture, ad, and news report for the newspaper. On the back of their papers, have them write questions they would like to ask one of the believers who experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Then have them interview someone in the class pretending to be one of the believers.

Affirmation/Declaration:
Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit is powerful.
There is no small version of the Holy Spirit.
Look out, I have the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" gift from God.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The world believes that they are alone in dealing with life. As believers, we know that the Holy Spirit indwells us at salvation and guides us. It's not fair that we have an advantage over unbelievers. Help the children to be excited about the Holy Spirit as an "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" gift from God!

Missions Connection:
There is no kid-size salvation or junior Holy Spirit. The Great Commission tells ALL believers to make disciples. Remind the children that they are real missionaries only smaller. They should be ready to tell people, especially other children, about Jesus and the extra bonus of the Holy Spirit. Have children gather in small prayer circles and pray for children their age around the world. If children have a favorite country, they should pray for children their age in that country to hear about Jesus and believe on Him for salvation.

Family Connection:
This week's lesson focused on the Holy Spirit filling believers at Pentecost. Look online at some children's church videos or articles about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost. Help your child realize the powerful gift that God has made available. If your child would like to pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, pray together and celebrate the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" gift from God.

Prayer Points:

Ask children if they have prayer requests and write them down. Take time to pray for each request. Show the children the list and place it on the board or where it will be kept. Next time you meet together, ask each of the children about the results of their prayer request. Have children pray and thank God for listening to their prayers and for answering them. Help them develop the habit of sharing answers to prayer with those who prayed for them.

Name _____

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Bible Time News

Write a headline for the Pentecost story.

Draw a picture of the believers receiving the Holy Spirit.

Write an ad for the Holy Spirit add-on, internal, power-pack booster.

Fill in this news report.

This is news reporter _____.

Let's recap the amazing events of Pentecost.

The believers heard a noise like a rushing

_____.

Above their heads were tongues of _____.

When the believers spoke, visitors heard their

own _____.

_____ preached and 3,000 people were saved.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write questions to ask one of the believers who experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Then, interview someone in the class pretending to be one of the believers.*

ANSWERS

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Peter preached and 3,000 people were saved.

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