

# Acts Lesson 3

## The Giving of the Holy Spirit

### Acts 2:1-13

Attribute: God is Triune---Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Aim: When Christians are filled up with God's Spirit they declare the wonders of God.

**Remind class of the Rule of Respect**

**Set Limits**

**Open with a brief prayer**

At the end of class tonight, we are going to celebrate a birthday – the birthday of the church! The day you entered the world is *your* birthday. The day God's Spirit entered into the hearts of believers is the birthday of the *church*. When we talk about the church, we aren't talking only about the church you attend. The church we are talking about includes all Christians everywhere – all over the world. On this special day we call Pentecost, God's Holy Spirit came to *live within the hearts* of believers everywhere. And so that day is considered the birthday of the church. This is also the day God's people began to get a better understanding that **God is “three – in – one”**. **God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**.

It had been seven weeks since Jesus rose from the dead – since the resurrection. It had been ten days since Jesus ascended into heaven. Last week we learned that after Jesus returned to heaven the disciples and other believers prayed together and waited in an upstairs room for the gift Jesus had promised. Ten days later on a day called the Festival of the Harvest, the disciples and the others were still praying. Jesus had been crucified on The Festival of Passover. Jesus rose from the dead three days later on the Festival of Firstfruits. I wonder if the people waiting in that room were expecting something unusual to happen on *this* festival day?

Suddenly, everyone in the room heard a sound like a mighty wind. The wind was not actually blowing but they heard a sound *like* the wind. Then, something that looked like flames or tongues of fire seemed to rest on each person in the room. It wasn't *actually* fire – but it *looked* like fire. What do you think the people in the room *thought*?! Do you think they immediately knew that this was the gift – the Holy Spirit – Jesus had promised? Close your eyes and imagine what it would have been like to be in that room at that moment...Imagine you hear the sound of a loud wind. Imagine you see what looks like tongues of fire...

*Everyone* in that room was filled with the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit had come to live within the hearts of everyone there. Not only did God's Spirit come to live within their hearts, but God's Spirit filled them up and gave them the ability to speak in other languages!

Why would the Holy Spirit give these people the ability to speak in languages they had never spoken before? One reason was to prove the power of the Holy Spirit. With the *sound* of wind, the *appearance* of fire, and the ability to speak other languages, there would be no doubt that God's Spirit was powerful. Another reason was to help them be powerful witnesses to spread the good news of Jesus quickly.

On their own, the disciples could not speak other languages. Yet before He returned to heaven, Jesus had given His disciples a job to do. Jesus had told them, "... you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Because the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the ability to speak in other languages at that time and because many people from other countries were present in Jerusalem that day for the Festival, lots of people heard the good news about Jesus in a short amount of time. They probably returned to their homes in other countries and told their friends and family all they had seen and heard.

From reading your Bible this week, do you remember what the disciples and other followers of Jesus were saying in all these other languages? They were talking about all the wonderful things God had done. You see, **the Bible says that "whatever is in your heart determines what you say"** (Matthew 12:34) The 120 people in that room had spent a lot of time in prayer and a lot of time thinking about God's words to them. When they were given the ability to speak in other languages, what was in their hearts (their thoughts/feelings) came out in their words. They declared the wonders of God! **What thoughts are in your heart? What kinds of things do you talk about? Do your words match up with what is inside of you?**

The Holy Spirit may not give you the ability to speak in a language you do not know, but He *will* give you just the right words to say to your friends and family about how wonderful God is. So whenever you have the desire to tell someone about Jesus, you can know that the Holy Spirit lives within your heart.

What is the difference between God the Father, Jesus the Son of God, and God's Holy Spirit? **The truth is God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all at the same time.** There is One True God, but He has three forms. God is called triune. Think of it this way. Water and ice and steam from boiling water are different forms of water. But they are all water. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are different forms of God. But they are all God.  
*(Try to bring a thermos of water for the steam, a cup of water, and some ice so children can better understand the comparison)*

Before Jesus came to earth, God's Holy Spirit would fill people up only once in a while and only for a very short time so that they could do something special that God wanted them to do. But ever since the birthday of the church, God's Spirit lives forever within the hearts of everyone who admits they have sinned, believes the truth about Jesus, and chooses to belong to Jesus, and lets Jesus be the Lord and Ruler of his/her life.

Close with a brief prayer.

## Discovery Ideas

As always, make time for the attribute, prayer, and the memory verse. Select from among the other ideas as time allows, and based on the age and personality of your class, to reinforce the main points of the lesson. Feel free to tweak the ideas to better fit your class or come up with an idea of your own!

**Attribute: Triune—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Older children may be ready to learn the word "triune" or "trinity." Read the book "Three in One (A Picture of God)." (See below for more details). Bring water, ice, and steam as a visual.

**Group Prayer.** For younger classes, you'll probably want to once again review the acronym ACTS. With the younger classes, stick to the "Thanksgiving" part again this week. Older classes may be ready to start adding the Adoration part of prayer if you've not already done so. In your resource binder is a sheet of paper that the children can fill out before praying. This is helpful to those new to this style of prayer.

If your class is having a hard time getting started, you could write things to be thankful for on index cards. For example: friends, my family, the Bible, my church, Timothy Team, God's love for me, etc. Write one per index cards. Read each one and then ask who would like to thank God for that particular thing.

**Bible Memory Verse.** Continue with our memory verse: *Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* Have the children look this up in their Bibles again. Choose a memory verse activity from your resource binder or come up with one of your own. If you are pinched for class time or prep time, you can always write the verse on the board and erase one word at a time - reciting the verse after each word is erased.

**Alternative Opening for the Lesson. Refuse/Receive a Gift.** Role play one teacher giving a nicely wrapped gift to the other teacher. The teacher could refuse the gift at first, saying he/she has no money to pay for it. The giver then explains it is a "gift" - there is no cost to the one to whom it is given. The recipient can continue to refuse saying he/she is not good enough to receive such a nice gift. Finally, he/she should receive the gift by opening it up. Follow up by talking about how silly it would be for your class to refuse the teaching you have prepared for them each week. Help them understand that when they write notes to each other during class or chit-chat or don't pay attention, they are refusing the gift of Bible teaching.

**Trinity S'mores: (A 3 Ingredient Recipes to provide a visual of "three being one.")**

Ingredients: slice and bake sugar cookie dough, candy kisses, mini-marshmallows. Slice  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch sections of cookie dough. Flatten each section into a 3 inch circle. Place one candy kiss and one mini-marshmallows in center of each circle of dough. Pull up the edges of the dough to cover the kiss and marshmallow. Pinch to seal. Bake 12 minutes in 325 degree oven. As you eat remind the children that the trinity is made up of God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Just as the cookies are three in one, the Trinity is three -in- one.

**Happy Birthday to the Church.** Bring a cookie cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to the church.

**Spell it Out!** (from rotation.org) Let the children write out the following phrases in other languages (variations of Jesus loves you, Jesus is alive, or Jesus is risen).

(Note that some languages use a different alphabet or characters, so the phrases are spelled out phonetically.)

Taiwanese: Yah so go wah. (Jesus has risen.)

German: Jesus lebt. (Jesus lives.)

Spanish: ¡Jesus está vivo! (Jesus lives.)

Mandarin (Chinese): Yay su ai ni. (Jesus loves you.)

Korean: Yae su nu sa dang da. (Jesus loves you)

French: Jesus est vivant! (Jesus lives.)

Italian: Jesus e vivo! (Jesus lives.)

Follow up by noting the power of the Holy Spirit to enable ordinary men and women to instantly speak in languages they had never before spoken. Create a sense of wonder about the power of the Holy Spirit to do this.

**Speak it out!** Give each child the opportunity to tell something wonderful about God. This could be a personal experience or something they learned in Timothy Team last year. Or you could give each one a verse from one of the Psalms to read, such as Psalm 103 (v 8,10,11,12,13,17,22) and 111 (v 2,3,4,5,6,7,9) and 118 (v 1,6,7,13,14,15,16). Draw a sketch of a church on the whiteboard. Give each child one of the attached clip arts of children. As they share their wonderful words about God, they can come forward and tape their clip art into the sketch of the church.

**Three in One (A Picture of God), by Joanne Marxhausen.** A great children's book, which uses the three parts of an apple (the core, the peel, the flesh) as an analogy to the trinity of God.

**Tongues of Fire.** The younger children would really enjoy this. Staple a 1 - 2 inch strip of black construction paper together to form a circle about the same circumference as a child's head. Attach a red construction paper "tongue of fire" to the black circle, so that it sticks up in the air. The children could wear these as you teach the Bible lesson.

**What Does the Holy Spirit Do?** (For older classes). Divide the class into small groups of 2 or 3. Have them read the following passages and make a list of what the Holy Spirit does.

John 14:15-16, 25-26

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:6

John 16:7-8

Romans 8:16

**Look It Up!** Have the children look up the story of the Tower of Babel in *Genesis 11* where God confused the language of the people so they could not understand each other. Contrast this with God now supernaturally giving the people the ability to speak other known languages so they *can* understand each other. In *Genesis*, the people were declaring their own greatness by building the tower. In *Acts*, the people declared the greatness of God. Stress that we were created to glorify God not ourselves. (Ephesians 1:12).

**Indwelt or In-filled?** (Additional teaching for older grades). There is a difference between having the Holy Spirit *living* within your heart and being *filled* with the Holy Spirit. To be *filled* with the Holy Spirit, we must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. The more time we spend with God - talking to Him, reading the Bible, listening for His voice, obeying Him, and surrendering to Him, the more we will be filled with the Holy Spirit. When we are *filled* with the Holy Spirit, God will give us the power to speak about Him and to tell the wonderful things he has done.

**If you have prayed to receive Jesus as your Savior, there should be evidence that the Holy Spirit lives within your heart. Just like you can see the effects of the wind, people should see the effect of the Holy Spirit in your life.** The more time you spend with God through reading the Bible and through times of worship, the more changes you will see in your behavior. You will become kinder, more patient, more self-controlled. (Galatians 5:22-23) The Holy Spirit may not give you the ability to speak in a language you do not know, but He *will* give you just the right words to say to your friends and family about how wonderful God is. So whenever you have the desire to tell someone about Jesus, you can know that the Holy Spirit lives within your heart. When you hear other people declare the wonders of God, you are seeing the effects of the Holy Spirit. During praise time here at Timothy Team, you are seeing the work of the Holy Spirit in the worship leader's life. When you hear me pray, you are hearing the work of the Holy Spirit within my life. Can you see the effects of the Holy Spirit within your life? Just having the desire to come to Timothy Team each week and learn more about Jesus is the effect of the Holy Spirit in your life. This week, begin to notice every time you see the work of the Holy Spirit in you life and in the lives of the Christians you know.

Think of it this way. On a really hot summer day, you could take a sip of water. Now you have water *inside* of you. But if you go outside to play, that small sip of water won't do you a lot of good. You'll quickly get too hot. You may even feel sick. You'll soon have to go back inside the house. However, if you drink *three* big glasses of water, your stomach will be *filled* with water. Then when you go outside, you can play longer and harder because that water will go throughout your body and help to keep you cool. Being filled with water will help you out a lot. In the same way, being filled with the Holy Spirit will help you deal with tough times and sad times and the ordinary everyday times. We need to ask everyday to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

See also: Ephesians 4:29-31 and 5:18, Galatians 5:22-23

**Dry Sponge/Wet Sponge.** Take two dry sponges. Pour a drop of water on one dry sponge. It will remain basically dry. Saturate the other sponge with water and demonstrate how you can squeeze the water out of it. Relate this to being indwelt with the Holy Spirit versus being filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Question #13** What would you say to someone who makes fun of your belief and commitment to Jesus?

If you teach one of the older grades, make time to cover this question. Share your own experiences if you have them of others being put off by your commitment to Jesus. Help the kids to understand not everyone worships God and knows Jesus as Savior. They will come up against some opposition.

**Shamrocks.** Give each child a picture of a shamrock (see attached). Have them write "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit" --- one name on each leaf.

**Fruit of the Spirit.** Have the students look up and underline Galatians 5:22-23. Explain it is the Holy Spirit that develops these attributes in us. It's fun to bring a real-life fruit (or can of fruit) to represent each attribute. Some suggestions are:

<b>Love</b>	a tomato shaped like a heart
<b>Joy</b>	a lemon with the word "joy" written on it
<b>Peace</b>	an orange with the word "peace" written on it
<b>Patience</b>	peaches (sounds similar to patience)
<b>Kindness</b>	grapes (grapes grow on a vine which rhymes with kind)
<b>Goodness</b>	banana (who doesn't think a banana is good?)
<b>Faithfulness</b>	watermelon (takes a lot of faith to believe a watermelon seed will grow into something as large as a watermelon.
<b>Gentleness</b>	strawberries (if you're not gentle with these, they can get messy)
<b>Self-control</b>	apple (Adam and Eve didn't show self-control with the fruit in the Garden, which is usually depicted as an apple).

It's always fun to have the kids memorize this verse using the fruits as memory aides.





# ACTS LESSON 3

B W P D X G B T J T R T J C L  
U Q H Z C Z R Q I D N I W Y A  
R B E D R I I R E A L V I R N  
H Z W R N K I I K J S D Y Z G  
O X D I I P E N T E C O S T U  
C S T I S F C E U I O L L B A  
G Y P Y S G C G U O R M U K G  
X U L K G C L B D S N T N R E  
R O J Q J N I A F H C T V F S  
H C N L Y P G P B W V D Z T M  
F U I Z G C J F L T E P I I A  
O X G Q Y J H M W E Q U H Q Z  
B B V C V K H T D W S S C M Z  
I U A Y W Z F F S V S T J D G  
A E D E U I Q Z N Y P A X P O

DISCIPLES  
LANGUAGES  
WIND

FIRE  
PENTECOST

HOLY SPIRIT  
TRINITY

