

The Holy Spirit Helps the Church

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 28, ages 4-5

Lesson 28 Goal

- Your child will learn the story of Pentecost and will identify it as the day when the work of the Church began.

Key Points

- On the day of Pentecost, the Apostles taught many people about Jesus.
- Pentecost is often referred to as the day the work of the Church began.



Parent Reflection

In the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, we read the account of the day of Pentecost. On this day, the Holy Spirit moved within the Apostles and filled them with courage. They went out to the temple square and began to speak to the people. A mighty, rushing wind was heard, and tongues of fire appeared above their heads. As they spoke, each person heard the Apostles in his or her own language.

God comes to us and speaks to us in our own language, through the events of everyday life, through relationships, in the quiet of our minds, and through Scripture and the Church. Like the Apostles, we have a responsibility to speak to others about Christ in a language they can hear and understand. As we let God's Word take root in our lives, even in the smallest actions, the Body of Christ is born in us.

Reflection Question

How can I speak God's Word to others through my actions or words this week?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- ☐ Family Activity Sheet
- ☐ crayons or colored pencils
- ☐ cake
- ☐ party hat
- ☐ sheet of drawing paper

- ☐ Activity Master #2 – Saint Page (Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Preparation Steps

- ☐ Make sure your child has a copy of Activity Master #2 (included with this lesson).

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Say, *“Today we are going to ask God the Holy Spirit to come be with us. Because we can’t see the Holy Spirit, we use symbols to learn about and pray to the Holy Spirit. Symbols can be things we see or touch to help us understand in our hearts what we can’t see with our eyes.”*

Begin in prayer:

Pray the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

“Dear Jesus, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit! May the Holy Spirit watch over us always. Amen.”

Discovering

The Day the Holy Spirit Came. Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read about Pentecost.

Ask your child, “What amazing things happened at Pentecost?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask

your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. The Holy Spirit Comes to Us. Turn to the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils. Explain the activity to your child and have him or her complete it.

2. Celebration of the Church. Invite your child to put on a party hat and join you in a celebration. Share that today’s party does not celebrate the day a person was born; it celebrates the day our Church started its work. Help your child recall the name of this special Church’s feast (Pentecost). Invite your child to make a drawing of something he or she can do for the Church. Possible ideas include a way to tell a friend about Jesus, or reading a Bible story with the family. Talk about your child’s picture and other ways your family can do the work of the Church. Pray grace and enjoy the cake with your child.

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Peter the Apostle. Show your child the picture of Saint Peter on the Family Activity page and read about him. Then read more about Saint Peter to

your child (see below).

Ask your child:

- ▶ What amazing thing did Peter know about Jesus? (*That he is the Son of God*)
- ▶ What did you like best about the story of Saint Peter?

Have your child write and draw about Saint Peter the Apostle using Activity Master #2.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by

tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child.

Parent: *Come like a gentle dove, so we will know God's love!*

Together: *Come to us, Holy Spirit!*

Parent: *Come like a brisk wind, so we will know God's greatness!*

Together: *Come to us, Holy Spirit!*

Parent: *Come like a warming fire, so we will know God's wisdom!*

Together: *Come to us, Holy Spirit!*

Saint Peter the Apostle

Breakfast with Jesus

It was night, and the boat rocked on the sea. Peter had decided to go fishing. So far, he and the others with him had not caught even one little fish.

Just as the sun was coming up, a man called to them from the shore, "Have you caught anything to eat?"

When they answered, "No," the man said, "Cast the net over the other side of the boat."

They did this, and immediately there were so many fish in their net, they couldn't pull it out of the water! It was a miracle! John turned to Peter and said, "That's Jesus on the shore!"

Jesus! Peter loved Jesus so much, he jumped into the water and swam to him. When the

others brought the boat in, Peter dragged in the heavy net filled with fish. All together, they sat by an early morning fire and ate breakfast.

Peter had traveled and worked with Jesus for three years now. Through good times and hard times, they had been together. When Peter did things that were right and good, Jesus loved him. When Peter did things that were silly or wrong, Jesus still loved him. When Peter was frightened, Jesus loved him. When Peter was brave, Jesus loved him.

Now, Jesus turned to Peter. Peter knew the most amazing thing of all: that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And Peter said, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

