



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 44

PENTECOST

The promised Holy Spirit is poured out.



MONDAY

THE STORY: ACTS 1:15-26

The disciples replaced Judas the betrayer. Peter addressed about 120 believers and explained that a witness had to be chosen to replace Judas since he had betrayed Jesus and killed himself. Peter laid down the requirements: He had to be a man who was with them from the time of John's baptism through the Ascension. Two men were chosen who filled these requirements. Rather than make the final choice through debate, they prayed for God's will, cast lots, and allowed the sovereignty of God to guide the choice.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Peter think it necessary to replace Judas? (The apostles became known as the "Twelve" [see Luke 9:1]. It would be strange for them to only have eleven.)

Is the number twelve significant? (Yes. There were twelve tribes of Israel, and in Revelation we read that the city of God will have twelve foundations and on them will be written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb [see Revelation 21:14]). We can assume the name Matthias will be listed there instead of Judas.)

What part of Jesus' ministry was most important for them to have witnessed? (Peter places particular emphasis on the Resurrection, which validated all of Jesus' claims.)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord again for His ministry from the time of John the Baptist through to the Resurrection. Invite your children to thank Jesus for a specific part of His ministry such as being born, healing the sick, dying on the cross, etc. Make sure that if the cross is not mentioned by your children, you mention it.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: ACTS 2:1-4

The Holy Spirit is poured out. On the day of Pentecost, fifty days after the Passover was celebrated and about ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the waiting for the Holy Spirit ended. As the Holy Spirit was poured out, a wind from heaven came and filled the whole house. They saw what looked like tongues of fire settle upon each one of them. All of them, not just the twelve, began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did Jesus keep His promise? (Yes. Jesus kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.)

Did they have to wait long? (No. Jesus walked among them for forty days [see Acts 1:3]). The feast of Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover, so we can approximate that their wait was about ten days.)

What promise are we now waiting to see fulfilled? (Jesus said He would return. We are now eagerly waiting for Him to return.)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for His faithfulness in keeping His promises and ask Him to return soon so we can be with Him and so that sin and death can be finally destroyed.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: NUMBERS 28:26-31

In the Old Testament, the feast of Pentecost was called the Feast of the Harvest or First Fruits (see Exodus 23:16). In Numbers 28:26-30 the offerings for this day are described. Bulls, lambs, and a goat were offered, in addition to the regular offering, to make atonement.

Now that Jesus has been sacrificed, no goat for atonement needs to be killed. The promised blessing to Abraham was about to be fulfilled. The gospel can be spread from the very first believers to people of every tribe, language, and nation!

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why are the sacrifices normally offered on the Feast of First Fruits? (The sacrifices were offered in worship to God, who provided the harvest.)

Do we need to continue this practice today? (No. Both the killing of lambs without defect and the killing of goats for atonement were completely fulfilled on the cross. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed. The debt of all men who would believe has been paid for all time. God's wrath against man for his sin has been fully and completely satisfied.)

PRAY:

Thank God for Jesus - our perfect sacrifice.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: ACTS 2:5-13

The assembly was amazed. The people from various nations heard the disciples speaking in their own language. They could not understand how the disciples, Galileans, could do this.

Those who mocked heard only a loud babble of foreign languages they could not understand. They wrongly assumed drunkenness. And this crowd may have included those who had already turned against Jesus and had called for His crucifixion.

This event marked a major development in God's salvation plan for man. It signaled that the gospel was for all peoples and all tongues. God was now going to take initiative by His Spirit, through the followers of Jesus, to reveal Himself to people outside of Israel. From this point on, people did not have to identify with the nation of Israel and learn the Jewish tongue to know God. He was now speaking by His Spirit, through his disciples, to the whole world in order to reach every tribe and tongue.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the outpouring of the Spirit tell us about God's mission? (The gospel of the kingdom is to reach all men, not just the Jews. Here at Pentecost men from all over the world could hear the message of the disciples in their own language.)

What did Jesus say the disciples would receive from the Holy Spirit? (They were to receive power. [see Luke 24:49.]

Can we be filled with the Holy Spirit today? (Yes. The Spirit of God dwells in the heart of every believer. But we are also called to be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit [see Ephesians 5:18] and we are to pursue the gifts of the Spirit [see 1 Corinthians 14:1]. Paul said he wished everyone would speak in tongues and even more, would prophesy. [see 1 Corinthians 14:5].)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for sending His Holy Spirit to us all.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: ZECHARIAH 9:10,11

Jesus is the promised king. He will proclaim peace to the nations. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (John 14:27). At the outpouring of the Spirit we see further evidence that the kingdom will go to all nations, as men from all over the world heard the disciples speaking in their own language!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How do we know that passages like these point to Jesus? (Often they are quoted in the New Testament. This passage is quoted in Matthew 21:5. Other times we can tell by the description. For instance, there is only one righteous king who brings salvation.)

What is the greatest peace offered by Jesus? (The greatest peace offered is the freedom from judgment, which comes when we trust Christ. When we believe, our sins are taken away and we have peace with God.)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord that His salvation and peace extends to all nations, especially your own.