



# Filled with the Holy Spirit

**Goal: To claim the power of the Holy Spirit for their lives.**

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In Acts 2:1-4, 38-47

The dramatic story of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost fulfilled Jesus' promise to his disciples that they would receive power when the Spirit comes to them (Acts 1:8).

Now the Spirit arrives with "a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind" (2:2, CEB) and "individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them" (v. 3). Even more, disciples "began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak" (v. 4).

This is a key event. Now the Holy Spirit fills believers in Christ. On Pentecost, there were dramatic events. The Spirit comes and stays with the church. Now, the Spirit fills us and is always with us, in less dramatic but tremendously important ways. Grace is given.

Receiving the Spirit's grace means following Peter's words: "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (v. 38). We repent—we change in how we live, we are baptized, and we receive forgiveness of sins. We, our children, and all people can be filled with God's Spirit. In gratitude!

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

Fifty days after Easter, Christians celebrate Pentecost, the day when God's Spirit was seen and felt as the disciples came together to begin the work of the early church. The story you will tell of the Day of Pentecost invites children to think about their lives and how they live as followers of Jesus. Children of all ages will be able to provide examples of good and bad ways of living as a follower of Jesus. They will be able to provide their own responses to the question asked in the story: How will you change the way you live?

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

The Pentecost story is full of action, color, and lots of drama. It's a very busy story that will engage the active imaginations of the children you are teaching. In telling about the earliest Christians and how they responded to the challenge of living as Jesus' disciples, it is also a timeless story that is easily understood by Christians today, and especially the children you teach. Get the room ready in ways that will help the children experience all the excitement of Pentecost and invite their reflections on how God's Spirit is moving among them even today.

*Blow fresh winds of grace into my life, O Lord, that I might serve you  
in Spirit and in truth. In Christ's name. Amen.*



## Supplies

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

red, yellow, and/or  
orange tablecloths

red candle

box fan

red crepe paper

world map (or  
**SCM 14–15**)

small stickers

**Stories, Colors & More**  
(**SCM**) **2, 14–15, 38, 41,**  
**45–48**

**Music & Melodies (MM)**  
**2016–2017**

story audio (see p. vii)

## Responding

### Celebrating

cupcakes or cookies,  
plastic knives, frosting,  
red sprinkles or small  
candies, clear plastic  
cups, soda

### Praying

box fan with streamers  
(optional)

### Offering

information on ways  
your church engages  
in mission

### Bonus Activity

copies of **Grace Notes**  
(**GN**) **1**

Some SCMs are used  
throughout the quarter.  
It is a good idea to  
keep them in an  
envelope or folder.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Post **SCM 45–46**. Cut out and glue the arrow marker on a clothespin. Use the visual schedule to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM 47–48** for the key to icons (for example, **LG T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

“Celebrating God’s Grace” requires more prep.

### Welcoming and Preparing



Welcome the children and parents as they arrive by saying, “Grace and peace to you.” Prompt the response, “And also with you.”

Invite the children to prepare the worship space. Ask them to place the tablecloths, candle, and Bible on a table. Ask a couple of children to tear off strips of red crepe paper and tape them to the fan (make sure the fan is unplugged during this task).

Tape mural paper to the wall or spread it on the floor. Invite children to draw faces or stick figures across the mural paper with markers or crayons of all colors. Encourage conversation as the children create the space.

Ask some children to prepare today’s “Responding in Gratitude” activities and suggest that one or two prepare to lead today’s singing.

Tape a world map to the wall where the children can reach it. Ask them if they can find your community on the map. Invite the children to say their names and what country their ancestors came from. Begin with yourself. (Younger children may not know; you might guess or ask them if there’s a place they’d like to visit.) Place a sticker for each child on the map, marking the place they have named. Ask the children what they know about these places. Exclaim about how wonderful it is that God made us all so different, and yet brought us all together as a community.

### Singing

Gather the group in the worship space. Play “Come into God’s Presence”—**MM 24, SCM 41**—as children listen. Play the song again, inviting the children to sing and dance along.

### Praying

Suggest that the children get comfortable. Turn on the candle. Encourage a few moments of still silence as the children watch the candle flame, and then lead them in a breath prayer. Invite them to all inhale together, then exhale. Repeat two more times.

On the next inhale, say “Come, Holy Spirit.” Be silent on the exhale. With each inhale, speak the phrase; with each exhale, be silent. Repeat several times, then offer “Amen.”



### Preparing to Hear the Story C

Comment that today is the Day of Pentecost. Invite the children to share anything they may know about this special day. Accept and show gratitude for all responses.

If not mentioned, explain that Pentecost took place during a harvest festival, when people from all over would come to Jerusalem to sell their crops and celebrate a good harvest. Remind the children that Jesus has died, been resurrected, and ascended into heaven. Wonder aloud what his disciples must have been feeling because they did not have Jesus with them.



### Hearing the Story C

Invite a child to find Acts 2 in the Bible. Place the open Bible on the table.

Read **SCM 1**. Use your voice, expressions, feelings and body to make the story more lively. Vary your volume and tone to indicate changes in mood.

Ask the children what sounds are in the story. Ask a volunteer to make a list on newsprint of all the sounds (for example, wind, flames crackling, many languages, “ooohs” of astonishment).

Plug in the fan. Invite the children to direct their attention to the flame of the candle. Hand each child a piece of scrap paper and invite them to hold it until you offer further instructions.

Tell the story again, this time asking the children to supply the sound effects. (For example, at the mighty rushing wind, ask a volunteer to turn on the fan with the streamers. At the flames, crumple the scrap paper to make the sound of crackling fire.) When you read the final paragraph, invite children to clap and celebrate.

Conclude the reading by saying, “Word of wisdom, word of grace,” and prompt the children to say, “Thanks be to God.”

### Reflecting on God’s Grace

Ask the children to gather around the mural paper they prepared earlier. Wonder what they could add to the mural now to create a Pentecost image.

Invite them to work together to add images. As they work, ask:

- ▼ What part of the story amazes you the most?
- ▼ What does the story make you wonder about?
- ▼ How might we celebrate Pentecost together?

Admire the mural they have completed.

### Singing

Give God an offering of music. Play and sing together “Holy, Holy, Holy!”—**MM 21, SCM 38**. Turn off the candle.



## RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

Select activities appropriate for your group and the time available.

### Claiming God's Grace

Make spirit flames to share with the congregation. Provide several sheets of 8 ½" x 11" white paper for each child and plenty of red, yellow, and orange markers or crayons.

- ▼ Encourage the children to scribble on the paper any design with the three colors. Have them cover as much of both sides of the paper as they can.
- ▼ Show the children how to fold the paper diagonally from the top right corner to the bottom left edge. Cut off the excess strip on the left to make one folded triangle.
- ▼ Cut along the fold to make two triangles.
- ▼ Have the children place the triangles together with the long sides pointing away from them.
- ▼ Beginning at one short side, have them fold the triangles accordion style.
- ▼ When the children get to the small point at the opposite end, help them pull the two triangles apart.
- ▼ Flip over one piece so the long sides line up, then interlock the long sides.
- ▼ Pinch the folds together, staple at the bottom, and cover the staple with tape.

Play "Holy, Holy, Holy!"—**MM 21**—as the group works. If your church is large and making spirit flames for each member isn't realistic, suggest that the children offer them to people who sit near them in worship.



### Celebrating God's Grace



Celebrate by preparing and serving birthday snacks. Have the children wash their hands before you begin. Invite them to frost cupcakes or cookies. Use red and yellow frosting or add edible red decorations. When the food is ready, wonder why the church chose the color red for the celebration of Pentecost.

Pour soda into clear cups and watch the bubbles fizzing upward. Recall that in the story, God's love and joy bubbled up inside the disciples. Just like the bubbles in soda, they couldn't keep it down. Say a short prayer of thanks and enjoy the snack together.



### Praying God's Grace

Have the children fan themselves with the spirit flames they made in "Claiming God's Grace" or turn on an electric fan. Comment that the children are hearing and feeling the wind as those gathered during Pentecost did.

Explain that you will lead the children in a "finish the sentence" prayer. You will say the first part of a sentence and they will complete it. Offer that it is OK to speak out (they don't need to raise hands for permission), to speak at the same time as someone else, or to finish the sentence silently, praying in their hearts and minds. Encourage the children to wave the spirit flames as they pray:

"God, help me to share the gift of your Spirit with . . .  
 God, thank you for the gift of . . .  
 God, help me to follow Jesus' way of love by . . .  
 God, give me courage to . . ."

Encourage the children to repeat after you to finish the prayer:

"God, we are grateful /  
 for the gift of your Spirit. /  
 Amen." /

Ask some of the groups to provide pictures or to visit your children to explain how they share the good news with others.

### Offering God's Grace



Re-read **SCM 1**, beginning at the line "Peter came out and told them the story of Jesus" and continuing to the end. Comment that Peter was grateful for the Holy Spirit and wanted to share the gift of God's Spirit with others. Because he did, lots of people became followers of Jesus. Wonder aloud about ways we share the gift of God's Spirit with others.

Ask the children about ways in which their church is sharing the good news by inviting people to follow God's way of love, as Peter did in Acts 2. Offer information about ministries and events the church engages in to share the gospel. Lead the children in writing letters of gratitude that they can offer to the groups or individuals leading these efforts. As they are working, ask them what they could do to tell the story of Jesus to others. Could they be part of any of the groups mentioned? Could they share with their families and friends? Could they do something together to share the good news with others? Offer a prayer of thanksgiving over the letters, asking God to use them as instruments of encouragement and love.



### Bonus Activity

Help the children create “flame” headbands. Cut a strip of construction paper for each child. Staple it at the ends so that it fits around the child’s head. Invite the children to color the flames on copies of **GN 1**. Cut out the flames and staple them to the headbands.

Have a Pentecost Parade—walk or even skip up and down the hallway or through the church yard, wearing the flame headbands, blowing like the wind, and offering thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Decide before you begin what expression of thanks the group wishes to offer in unison.

## LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Invite the children to gather and lead them in cleaning up the worship space.

Ask them to consider how they can share the gift of the Holy Spirit, the love of Jesus, and the goodness of God this week.

Sing “Alabad al Señor” (“Let Us Give Praise to God”)—**MM 27**, **SCM 43**—together.

Finish with a breath prayer similar to the one you began with. Encourage a few moments of still silence. Invite the children to inhale together, then exhale. Repeat two more times. On the next inhale, say, “Guide me, Holy Spirit.” Be silent on the exhale. With each inhale, speak the phrase; with each exhale, be silent. Repeat several times, then offer “Amen.”

As the children leave, offer a Pentecost blessing over each by saying, “(Name), may the Spirit of grace guide you as you tell the story of Jesus this week.”

Ask parents and caregivers for their e-mail addresses so you can send the Grace Sightings link, or invite them to visit [gracesightings.org](http://gracesightings.org).



