

# Jesus Sends Power From God

Acts 2:1-21

Third- and fourth-graders are interested in science and how things work. They have at least a cursory knowledge of the power sources that fuel the world—the sun, electricity, and engines. Today’s lesson can introduce your kids to God’s power source provided expressly for them. Help your kids see that the Holy Spirit is available to guide them every day and to power their faith as they grow.



**► Bible Point**  
God gives us the Holy Spirit.

**Key Verse**  
“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Kids will seek the Holy Spirit’s help as they serve God in a specific way.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Advice Column</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Write advice columns, and learn the Key Verse.	Bibles, paper, pens, advice column	Find and print an advice column from the Internet, or cut one out of a newspaper.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Here Comes the Holy Spirit!</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Experience Scripture by listening to the CD.	Bibles, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
	<b>How Can I Have the Power?</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Search the Scripture in small groups.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Windsock Craft</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Make windsocks.	Bible, 1 foam cup per child, several pairs of scissors, glue, crayons or markers, crepe paper streamers, hole punch, yarn	
	<b>Power Prayer</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Pray and acknowledge the power of the Holy Spirit.	CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***



# Jesus Sends Power From God

Acts 2:1-21

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS



## Passover

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Fifty days after the Passover celebration, the Jews celebrated the Feast of Weeks, otherwise known as Pentecost. Jerusalem was crowded with Jews from many surrounding areas who had gathered in the holy city for the feast. Many spoke languages other than the Aramaic and Greek that were most common in Palestine at that time. God set the stage for a miraculous display of his power through the Holy Spirit.

We could take a long time discussing the sound, the tongues of fire, and who was present for all this as described in Acts 2:1-3, but what’s important to glean from this passage is that the Holy Spirit came upon Christians in a new and powerful way, enabling them to better spread the good news about Jesus. They were filled with God’s Holy Spirit.

## Speaking in Other Tongues?

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We could also take a long time explaining the term “speak in other tongues” (Acts 2:4), but instead we’ll simply examine the event described in this passage. The disciples were able to speak so that people from many different nations could hear them in their respective languages. Speaking in a language that the speaker had never learned does not necessarily mean that what is spoken is a message from God. In this passage, however, we’re given the evidence to verify God as the source of the message: The disciples were “declaring the wonders of God.”

## Peter: A Changed Man

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Notice who takes the lead in verse 14 and the powerful message he gives. Could this be the same Peter who, only seven weeks earlier, had three times denied even knowing Jesus? The same Peter who had hidden with the other disciples behind locked

doors for fear? Indeed it is. Peter’s experience with the risen Christ and his being filled with the Holy Spirit made Peter a new person.

## The Jesus Connection

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Peter had no delusions about the source of the power. God sent the Holy Spirit to empower his people to further his kingdom. Jesus had told his followers before he ascended to heaven that they were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They needed the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news.

When God has something big for us to do, he’ll empower us to do it. And God may use us in remarkable ways if we’re willing to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pray and ask God how he wants to use your life for his glory. Trust him to empower you to accomplish his plans. You can write your prayer here.

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### Advice Column Supplies

Bibles  
paper  
pens  
advice column

### Advice Column Easy Prep

Find and print an advice column from the Internet, or cut one out of a newspaper.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Advice Column

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. When everyone has arrived, gather kids in a circle and show them the advice column.

Ask:

- **What do you know about advice columns?**

Have willing kids share what they know about advice columns.

Say: **An advice column is usually written by someone who is answering questions. People who read newspapers might write to the advice columnist at the newspaper to ask a question about a certain topic. The advice columnist, or writer, might answer that question by writing a response in the advice column.**

### Today you've all become honorary advice columnists!

Form groups of three, and give each group a piece of paper and a pen. Instruct each group to decide who will be the Questioner, the Advice Writer, and the Advice Giver.

Encourage each group to come up with a big question they'd really like to have answered. For example, one group might ask, "Why do mosquito bites itch so much?" Have the Questioner in each group write the question at the top of the group's page, and then have each group trade papers with another group.

Say: **Take five minutes in your group to come up with an answer to the question you received. Make it as funny or as serious as you want. It might not be the right answer, but that's okay. Just make it up! The Advice Writer will write your column.**

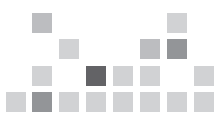
Give groups five minutes to write their advice columns. Then have them present their columns by having each Advice Giver read the column including the question and answer aloud.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like getting an answer to your question?**
- **How accurate was the answer to your question?**



Make sure kids have Bibles, and have them look up the Key Verse, John 14:26. Ask a willing child to read it aloud: “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Ask:

- What is a counselor?
- Tell about someone who has been a good counselor to you.

Say: ► **GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We may not be able to read the advice the Holy Spirit gives, but we can sure use his help to know more about God and serve God the best we can! Let’s look today at how the Holy Spirit teaches us, reminds us of what Jesus said to us, and gives us power to do things for God.

## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Here Comes the Holy Spirit!

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Divide kids into four groups. Group 1 will be the Wind, Group 2 will be the Fire, Group 3 will be the Crowd, and Group 4 will be the Mockers.

Read aloud Acts 2:1-2, and have Group 1 blow like a mighty wind. Read aloud Acts 2:3-4, and have Group 2 go around and touch the top of people’s heads to represent the tongues of fire. Read aloud Acts 2:5-12, and have Group 3 look amazed and astonished. Read aloud Acts 2:13, and have Group 4 act like mockers. Finally, gather everyone around you and read aloud Acts 2:14-21.

Say: **Now let’s hear Peter explaining to some very confused people what just happened.** Play “Here Comes the Holy Spirit” (track 14 on the CD).

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you react to what you just heard?
- How is the Holy Spirit different from Jesus and God?

Say: **Even though the languages sounded very different, the people who were there with the disciples were able to understand everything that was said. God sent the Holy Spirit to help everyone speak different languages so people from other countries could understand the languages, too. The Holy Spirit is powerful! ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT,** and he will help us do amazing things, too.



### Here Comes the Holy Spirit! Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: “Here Comes the Holy Spirit” (track 14)





### How Can I Have the Power? Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### How Can I Have the Power? Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 13 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

### Windsock Craft Supplies

Bible  
1 foam cup per child  
several pairs of scissors  
glue  
crayons or markers  
crepe paper streamers  
hole punch  
yarn

## How Can I Have the Power?

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **When everyone who was gathered heard men speaking in different languages, some of them thought the disciples were drunk. Peter explained what was happening by quoting from the book of Joel in the Old Testament. Let's see what Peter said.**

Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids form pairs and read Acts 2:17-21 together. Then have them individually fill in the answer to the first question of the "Peter Explains the Power" activity and share their answers with their partners. Then have kids find new partners to answer the second question and so on until they've answered all four questions.

Say: **Peter explained that God had sent the Holy Spirit and that many powerful things would happen. Peter knew that the power they had received that day was from God. Later in this chapter in verse 41, we can read that because of the power of the Holy Spirit about 3,000 people believed in Jesus that day.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some questions you have about the Holy Spirit?
- What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us?

Say: **We need the Holy Spirit just as much now as people did back when Peter was preaching. We can take comfort that ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT and thank him for helping us.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Windsock Craft

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **To help remind us that the Holy Spirit is available to help us do things for God, we're going to make windsocks. Then you can take them home and hang them up outside where they can blow in the wind.**

Give each child a foam cup and scissors, and set out the other craft supplies. Ask kids to cut the bottom out of the cup. Then let them decorate the cup with crayons or markers. Ask kids to glue the streamers to one end of the cup. On the other end of the

cup, have kids punch holes on opposite sides and thread yarn to make a handle from which to hang the cup.

Say: **When you see the windsock blowing in the wind, you can think of the wind and other things that we believe in even though we can't see them.**

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some things the wind can do?
- How is the wind like the Holy Spirit?
- What are some things you can do for God with the help and power of the Holy Spirit?

Say: **The wind can help remind you of the power of the Holy Spirit in your lives. You can remember that ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us do things for him.**

## Power Prayer

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Say: **Jesus taught us many things, and ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT to help us remember those things. When you feel as if you are in situations that are hard for you, you can remember that you have the Holy Spirit to help you.**

**Think about how the Holy Spirit is with you always. We're going to have a quiet time of reflection. First we'll listen to this song about the Holy Spirit, and afterward I'd like you to quietly thank God for the Holy Spirit, and ask him to show you opportunities to seek the Holy Spirit's help.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics page, and play "The Spirit Gives Me Life" (Romans 8:10b) (track 19 on the CD). Lead the children in singing along with the CD.



**God is with me wherever I go.  
Christ is in me, and I know that I know  
'Cause he gave his life.  
He lived and died.**

**And now the Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God.  
The Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God. Yeah!  
The Spirit gives me life.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*



**Power Prayer Supplies**

CD player  
copies of the lyrics page  
(at the end of this lesson)

**Teacher Pack**

CD: "The Spirit Gives Me Life" (Romans 8:10b) (track 19)



### The Spirit gives me life. The Spirit gives me life.

“The Spirit Gives Me Life” (Romans 8:10b) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

After kids finish singing the song, play it again quietly, dim the lights, and allow time for quiet reflection.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were some things you thought of that the Holy Spirit can help you with?
- How can you rely on the Holy Spirit for help?

Say: **Our song says that the Spirit gives us life. When the Spirit first came to the Christians in Acts 2, it brought life as thousands of people developed a relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit can work in our lives too because ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT. He can help with any of the things you reflected on.**

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth  
pens

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let's think this week about the difference the Holy Spirit can make in our lives.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Spend time listening for the Holy Spirit this week. When you think you hear the Spirit leading you, follow the leading!**
- **Talk to someone about Jesus this week. Before you do, pray that the Holy Spirit would help you say the right words—words that person needs to hear.**
- **Just as the Holy Spirit helps us, we can help others. Ask your parents how you can help this week—whether it's doing an extra chore, helping with your siblings, or helping in some other way they come up with.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.



## Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **When Jesus went back to be with his Father, God wanted us to have another helper here on earth. We have that help because ► GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT, and he can help us as we follow through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God sending us the Holy Spirit. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer, thanking God for sending us the Holy Spirit and for being with us always.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**The Spirit Gives Me Life (Romans 8:10b)**

God is with me wherever I go.  
Christ is in me, and I know that I know  
'Cause he gave his life.  
He lived and died.

And now the Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God.  
The Spirit gives me life, it gives me life, it gives me life  
Because I have been made right, I've been made right with God. Yeah!  
The Spirit gives me life.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**The Spirit gives me life.**  
**The Spirit gives me life.**

"The Spirit Gives Me Life" (Romans 8:10b) by Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

