



### References

Acts 2; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 35-46



### Memory Verse

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"  
(Acts 2:17, NIV).



### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that God gives us skills to use in serving Him.

**Feel** grateful for the specific gifts God has given us.

**Respond** by discovering and using the special gifts God has given us.



### The Message

God gives us skills to serve Him.

# Did You Hear?

## Monthly Theme

God gives us skills for service.

## The Bible Lesson at a Glance

God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven have come to Jerusalem for the annual feast of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit fills the disciples, who begin to preach about the wonders of God, and the foreigners present all hear the message in their own languages. Peter addresses the crowd and tells them about Jesus. Three thousand people are converted that day.

### *This is a lesson about service.*

The disciples were given the gift of tongues so that as they spoke, people of different cultures and different languages heard the message in their own language. Today God continues to equip each of us for service by giving us the right gifts and skills we need to communicate His love to people of other cultures, languages, and backgrounds.

## Teacher Enrichment

**Feast of Pentecost.** This was a one-day festival where two loaves of fine flour baked with leaven were offered to God along with animal sacrifices. Pentecost was one of the three special days where all Hebrew men were expected to gather together in Jerusalem to "appear before the Lord." The reason the feast day was called Pentecost (meaning fiftieth), or Feast of Weeks, is that it was to occur 50 days (inclusive), or seven weeks, after the wave sheaf ceremony. (See "Pentecost, Feast of" in *The SDA Bible Dictionary*.)

**Jewish Dispersion.** The Jews were dispersed from the Promised Land during the exiles of the eighth and sixth century B.C. When the Assyrians carried away captives from the 10 northern tribes of Israel, many of them assimilated into other cultures and lost their identity as a Jewish nation. This did not happen, however, when the Babylonians deported the tribes of Judah and Benjamin (including the Levites). They retained their ethnic unity. Persian kings allowed the people to return home, but many remained in Babylon. At the time of the early church, there were about 150 Jewish colonies outside of Palestine. The locations included Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, northern Africa, and Egypt. Some estimate that the population of Jews outside of Palestine at the time of the early church was about 4.5 million out of about 55 million. (See "Dispersion" in *The SDA Bible Dictionary*.)

## Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

## Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
<b>1</b> Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Jesus Loves You</i>  B. <i>Barnyard Sounds</i>	people who speak different languages, words "Jesus loves you" written in different languages none
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering  Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> box covered with words/pictures of people serving others picture of Jesus for each child
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story  Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, large pieces of cardboard, several boxes with four or five small stones in each, orange/yellow/red fabric or crepe paper none Bibles, chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/markers
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Handicap Catch</i> B. <i>Skill Inventory</i>	tape or adhesive bandage, ball flame shapes in red or orange (see p. 142), pencils, chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/marker
<b>4</b> Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	A. <i>Good News</i> B. <i>Using Our Skills</i>	paper, pencils/markers skills inventory from Applying the Lesson B, chalkboard/whiteboard, chalk/marker

**\*Prayer and Praise me be used at any time during the program.**

## Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Listen to last week’s memory verse and encourage the children to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- people who speak different languages
- words “Jesus loves you” (written in different languages)

### A. Jesus Loves You

Invite people who speak a different language to come to Sabbath School or write “Jesus loves you” on a card. Have the children repeat it after them. Then teach the children to say “Jesus loves you” in sign language.

#### Words: Actions:

**Jesus** Place wrists about an inch apart and touch the right palm with the middle finger of the left hand, then the left palm with the middle finger of the right hand.

**loves you.** Make an X by crossing your arms across your chest. Point to someone.

### Debriefing

Ask: **Can any of you speak a different language? How do you feel saying “Jesus loves you” in a language you don’t know?** (strange, awkward, funny, different) **How many languages does God understand?** (He can understand every language.) **Sometimes it sounds confusing when people are speaking different languages, but God never gets confused. He understands all of us. Being able to speak different languages is one of God’s gifts to us. And that brings me to today’s message:**



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

Say that with me.

### B. Barnyard Sounds

Say: **I am going to whisper a barnyard sound in your ear. Do not tell anyone what you hear. When I count to three, I want you to walk around making the sound and see if you can find others making the same sound. There is at least one other person making the same sound, and there may be more. When you are sure you have everyone in your group, sit down together.**

### Debriefing

Ask: **What did it sound like when everyone was making their noise?** (confusing, noisy) **How easy was it to find another person making the same noise?** (We had to listen carefully.) **If we were all speaking different languages, what do you think it would be like?** (It would be difficult to understand; confusing.) **In our**

story today we are going to hear about a crowd of people who all spoke different languages but still were able to understand what one man said. God made that possible. Wouldn't it be exciting and unusual to speak so that people from many countries could understand you? Today's message tells us why God gives us skills. It says:



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

Say that with me.

## Prayer and Praise

Any  
Time



### Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing from last week's lesson study and review last week's memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



### Suggested Songs

- "Cross Over the Road" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 131)
- "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 132)
- "We Are His Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 129)
- "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 133)
- "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134)



### Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children to identify with someone who used their skills to serve God.



### Offering

Say: **When we bring our offerings, we help provide ways for others to use their skills to serve Jesus.**

#### You Need:

- box covered with words/pictures of people serving others



### Prayer

Ask the children to think of one talent or skill they have. Then ask them to name one way that they can use that ability in service. Have them write their skill on the back of a picture of Jesus. Make one or more prayer circles and invite the children to ask God to help them use their skills to serve Him.

#### You Need:

- picture of Jesus for each child

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- large pieces of cardboard
- several boxes with four or five small stones in each
- orange, yellow, and red fabric pieces or crepe paper
- Bible-times costumes

### Experiencing the Story

In advance, cut the orange, yellow, and red pieces of fabric or crepe paper into tongues of fire.

**Characters:** Divide the children into three groups.

Group 1: disciples and Peter

Group 2: crowd

Group 3: sound effects. Give this group the cardboard and show them how to fan it to make “wind,” the boxes with stones to make noise, and the tongues of fire to carry through the crowd to the disciples.

### Setting the scene:

Place Group 1 in a corner of the room, kneeling and praying. Have Group 2 walk up and down. Have Group 3 in another corner of the room.

### Read or tell the story.

The city of Jerusalem was spilling over with people. The dusty streets were clogged with noisy travelers from all over the world. People shouted and pushed their way through the crowds. Donkeys brayed. Babies cried. Thousands of Jews were visiting the holy city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

The disciples and many of the believers were gathered together, worshiping and praying to God. But no one in the group expected the very extraordinary thing that was about to happen! Nothing like it had ever happened before.

*[Group 3 makes sound effects.]*

Suddenly a strange sound came from the sky. It sounded like a strong, mighty, rushing wind. But it was not wind. The

sound entered and filled the whole house where the believers were.

Then the sound died away. *[Have Group 3 quickly carry tongues of fire across the room and lay them on the disciples.]* The believers looked at each other. They saw what looked like tongues of fire spreading out through the room, touching each person. They were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit! They were filled with God’s Spirit. It was just like the prophets of old! They could hardly believe what was happening! They began to praise the Lord.

*[Have Group 3 join Group 2.]* The crowd outside the house grew larger. “Did you hear what I heard?” they asked each other.

Then the crowd heard something different. It sounded like everyone in the house was talking and shouting at the same time. Now what? *[Mime listening.]*

“Quiet! Listen!” A man from Syria flung his arm in the air. “I hear someone in that house speaking my language!”

“Me, too!” a traveler from Egypt gasped. “Someone in that house is speaking my language!”

“Nonsense!” a rough voice spoke up. “Those people in that house are just drunk!” *[Groups 2 and 3 chant “drunk.”]*

“Drunk! Drunk! Drunk!” some unruly people chanted.

*[Peter stands up and goes to Groups 2 and 3 and mimes preaching.]* Peter and the other apostles came out of the house.

Peter began to speak in a very loud voice so everyone could hear him. “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem,” he began. “Listen to me and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk as you suppose.” *[Peter shakes head and points to other apostles.]*

Peter told the crowd about Jesus. He told them that Jesus had died for their

sins. He told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and was now in heaven. He told them that God would forgive their sins and that they, too, could receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people listened quietly. *[One by one the children kneel down.]* And many of the people believed what they heard. About 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus Christ!

### Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think you would have felt if you had heard a loud noise and felt the wind?** (afraid, startled, confused)

**What miracle happened when God sent the Holy Spirit?** (The people listening heard Peter's words in their own language; many people heard the story of Jesus for the first time.)

**We call this miracle the "gift of tongues" because everyone heard and understood what was being said in their own language. God had given Peter a way to reach people of many countries. That reminds me of our message for today:**



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

### Memory Verse

Use the following to teach the verse. Repeat until the children know the verse.

<b>I will</b>	Point to self.
<b>pour out</b>	Pouring action.
<b>my Spirit</b>	Blow outward as if making wind.
<b>on all people.</b>	Point to everyone.
<b>Acts 2:17, NIV</b>	Palms together, then open.

### Bible Study

Say: **Open your Bibles to Acts 2:32. Let's read the good news that Peter gave everyone.** Have adults assist as needed. **Yes, "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact." That's the good news! Jesus is alive!**

Form four groups and give each group one of the texts below. Allow time for each group to read the Resurrection story. Pair readers with nonreaders and have adults help where necessary.

Matthew 28:1-10

Mark 16:1-7

Luke 24:1-12

John 20:1-9

Using a chalkboard or whiteboard, compare the stories. Ask: **What was the first thing that happened? What happened next?** Use different colors (if possible) to mark the differences.

### Debriefing

Ask: **What do these small differences tell us?** (The different writers remembered different things, just as we will all remember slightly different things after Sabbath School.)

**Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?** (Jesus died for our sins. Because He lives, we can go to heaven.)

**What did Peter and the disciples begin to do when the Holy Spirit came?** (They began to preach about Jesus.) **God still wants us to serve Him and tell others about Him. Let's say our message together:**



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

### You Need:

- Bibles
- whiteboard/  
chalkboard
- chalk/markers

# 3

## Applying the Lesson

**You Need:**

- tape or adhesive bandage
- ball

### A. Handicap Catch

Have the children sit in a circle. Using tape or an adhesive bandage, tape some of the children's thumbs and index fingers together. Instruct others to keep one hand behind their back. No one should be able to use both hands.

Have the children throw the ball to each other. Then remove the tape or bandage and allow the children to use both arms and thumbs.

#### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**What was it like to play catch with only one arm and no thumbs? How did it feel when you could use both?**

**What do you think when someone asks you to do something, but you don't know how, or you don't have everything you need?**

**Jesus is just the opposite of this game. When He asks us to do something, He promises to help us. He promises to give us the tools and abilities we need to do the job.**

Let's say our message together:



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

### B. Skill Inventory

Say: **Let's think about the different skills we have. If you think of a skill that someone has, call out the skill and the person's name, and we will put it on the board.**

(You will use this list in Activity B of Sharing the Lesson.)

Add names if more than one person has the same skill. Make sure that everyone's name appears on the list.

#### Debriefing

Distribute materials (see page 142 for flame shapes.) Ask: **How can we use our skills to serve Jesus?** Allow response time.

**Copy your skills onto your flame and keep it to remind you of today's message.**

**If God asks us to do something, He will always give us the skills to do the job, just as He gave Peter and the disciples what they needed.**

Let's say our message together:



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

**You Need:**

- flame shapes in red or orange (see p. 142)
- pencils
- chalkboard/whiteboard
- chalk/marker

## 4

## Sharing the Lesson

### A. Good News

Help the children create a "Good News" leaflet. Have them write/draw the good news about Jesus' resurrection and that God loves everyone. Have them make individual leaflets or contribute to one that may be copied.

**You Need:**

- paper
- pencils/  
markers

### Debriefing

Ask: **With whom would you like to share the good news?** Allow time.

**One thing God has given to everyone is the ability to share the good news that Jesus is alive. We can do it in different ways.**

**This week we can serve God by sharing our good news leaflet and being like Peter, willing to tell others about Jesus.**

**Let's say our message together:**



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

### B. Using Our Skills

Use the skills inventory from Applying the Lesson B or make a skills

inventory list. Ask the children to think about ways to use their skills as a class in a service project for others.

Form small groups to plan different parts of the project. Allow time.

Ask each group to report to the class. Then make a plan that includes everyone and what each person can do. Agree on a time to put your plan in action.

**You Need:**

- skills inventory from Applying the Lesson B
- chalkboard/  
whiteboard
- chalk/marker

### Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

**What do you think about using your skills to serve God?**

**What happens when we are willing to use our skills for Him?** (He will give us more things to do. He will bless us. Others will be blessed through us.)

**Do you think God will be with us while we use our skills to tell others about Him? Let's say our message together:**



**GOD GIVES US SKILLS TO SERVE HIM.**

### Closing

Have the children stand in a semi-circle and face the skills inventory list. Pray that God will help each one to find ways to use their skills effectively for Him.

## Did You Hear?

### References

Acts 2; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 35-46

### Memory Verse

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people” (Acts 2:17, NIV).

### The Message

God gives us skills to serve Him.

*Have you ever had to wait for something you really wanted? You asked your mom or dad, and they said you had to wait awhile.*

*Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples, but they had to wait. When the Holy Spirit came, it was not at all what they had expected.*

The city of Jerusalem was spilling over with people. The dusty streets were clogged with noisy travelers from all over the world. People shouted and pushed their way through the crowds. Donkeys brayed. Babies cried. Thousands of Jews were visiting the holy city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

The disciples and many of the believers were gathered together, worshipping and praying to God. But no one in the group expected the exciting thing that was about to happen! Nothing like it had ever happened before.

Suddenly a strange sound came from the sky. It sounded like a strong, mighty, rushing wind. But it was not wind. The sound entered and filled the whole house.

Then the sound died away. The believers looked at each other. They

saw what looked like tongues of fire. Spreading through the room, the fire touched each person. The Holy Spirit! The believers were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit! They were filled with God’s Holy Spirit—just like the prophets of old! They could hardly believe what was happening! And they began to praise the Lord loudly.

The crowd outside the house grew larger. “Did you hear what I heard?” they asked each other.

Then the crowd heard something different. It sounded as though everyone in the house was talking and shouting at the same time. Now what?

“Quiet! Listen!” A man from Syria flung his arm in the air. “I hear someone in that house speaking my language!”

“I do too!” a traveler from Egypt gasped. “Someone in that house is speaking my language!”

“Nonsense!” a rough voice spoke up. “Those people in that house are just drunk!”

“Drunk! Drunk! Drunk!” some unruly characters chanted.

Peter and the other apostles came out of the house. Peter began to speak in a very loud voice so everybody could hear him. “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem,” he began. “Listen to me, and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk, as you suppose.”

Peter then told the crowd about Jesus. He told them that Jesus had died for their sins. He told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and was now in heaven. He told them that God would forgive their sins. He promised them that they, too, could receive God’s gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people listened quietly. And many people believed what they heard. About 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus Christ!



The Holy Spirit will fill your life, too. He will help you to tell others about Jesus. With whom will you share the good news?

## Daily Activities

### Sabbath

- The Holy Spirit has been compared to the wind. If possible, go for a walk with your family to a windy place and watch things move in the wind. As you walk, talk with your family about Bible stories you know that mention the Holy Spirit.
- Sing some thank-You songs. Then thank God for sending His Spirit to be with your family.

### Sunday

- During family worship, read and discuss Acts 2:1-13. What did you learn about the Holy Spirit? Look on a Bible map and find the places mentioned in verses 9-11.
- Cut out 10 flame shapes. Write the words of the memory verse on the flames. Mix them up, then put them in the right order. Do this several times. Use this to teach the verse to your family.
- If it's a windy day, take a friend kite flying and tell them how the Holy Spirit is like the wind. If it's not windy, see how many ways you can create a breeze.
- Thank God for the ways the Holy Spirit is with you.

### Monday

- Read and discuss Acts 2:14-22 during worship today. Then read Joel 2:28-32. How are these texts alike? Why do you think Peter used these words?
- Prepare a pitcher of juice for your family. As you pour it out, tell about God pouring out the Holy Spirit on the disciples.
- Fanfold a piece of paper and decorate it. How does the breeze from fanning yourself remind you of the Holy Spirit?
- Sing a song about the Holy Spirit. Then thank God for the many blessings He gives you.

### Tuesday

- For worship today, read and discuss Acts 2:23-41. How many people were baptized? How many people go to your church? How many more than that were baptized by Peter? Divide

the number of people who go to your church into the number baptized. How many churches like yours could Peter and the apostles have formed after the Holy Spirit came?

- Think of four different ways to illustrate the Holy Spirit and share them with your family.
- The Holy Spirit is also called a helper. Find three ways to help someone else today. Ask God to help you do so.
- Review your memory verse.

### Wednesday

- Read John 16:13 with your family. Ask them: How will the Holy Spirit guide us? Ask each person to tell about a time the Holy Spirit helped them.
- During worship, light a candle and look at the flame. Draw a picture of the flames coming to the disciples at Pentecost. Ask your family: Why doesn't the Holy Spirit come to people as flames today?
- Think about your pastor. Ask God to bless him or her with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### Thursday

- Read Acts 2:37-39 with your family today. When Peter talks about "people far off," whom does he mean?
- How many things in your home create wind? (For example: hair dryers.)
- Name different ethnic groups who live in your town. Learn to say "God loves you" in a different language. Ask an adult for help.
- Thank God for His never-ending love.

### Friday

- During family worship, read and discuss Acts 2 again. What have you learned about the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit mean to your family?
- Say your memory verse together and sing "This Little Light of Mine" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 134). Then ask God to be with your family as you celebrate the Sabbath.