

# **KICKOFF!**

## **WEEK 1 — PENTECOST**

### **OCTOBER 4, 2026**

#### **Main Point:**

Jesus promises that when we tell others about Him, the Holy Spirit will give us the right words. And on the first day of the church, that's exactly what happened

#### **This Week's Message:**

We will learn about how the church first started on the day of Pentecost. Jesus told His followers to wait for a special gift, and when the Holy Spirit arrived, they were given the power and words to share the good news of Jesus with the world.

#### **Scripture:**

Acts 1:3-11, Acts 2:1-41; Luke 12:11-12

#### **This Month's Memory Verse:**

*"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."*  
*John 13:34-35 (NirV)*

**Provided Videos: See [www.glendalechristian.org/summitvolunteerresources](http://www.glendalechristian.org/summitvolunteerresources)**

- Game Video
- Bible Story Video
- Review Quiz Video
- Worship Video: Kids
- Worship Video: Runnin
- Worship Video: Praise You Anywhere

## **Suggested Order of Service:**

1. Game Video – 3 Min
2. Icebreaker Activity – 5 Min
3. Message – 25 Min Total
  - a. Lesson – 15 Min
  - b. Bible Story Video – 2 Min
  - c. Discussion Time – 5 Min
  - d. Review Quiz Video – 3 Min
4. Memory Verse Activity – 10 min
5. As time allows:
  - a. Work on Take-Home Page
  - b. Worship Videos

## ***GAME VIDEO:***

Pumpkin Shuffle

## ***ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY***

### **Game of Telephone!**

Have all students sit in a circle, pick a leader or student to come up with a phrase and be the “messenger.” Speak the phrase quietly into the ear of the person to their left, going round-robin until the very last person, to the right of the messenger, stands up and shares what they believe the message was. Typically, it will be completely different than what the messenger said. Share a laugh and pick a new messenger.

## ***LESSON:***

### **Main Point:**

Jesus promises that when we tell others about him, the Holy Spirit will give us the right words. And on the first day of the church, that’s exactly what happened

### **Scripture:**

Acts 2

### **Introduction**

Let’s take an opinion poll. American football, or the football game Americans call soccer. Which one do you like better? Who likes soccer football? Who likes American football? Well, no matter which type of football you prefer, they both start the same way – with a kickoff. Before kickoff, you’re just waiting around for the game to start. But when the kickoff happens, the action begins!

The book of Acts tells us about how the church kicked things off. After Jesus was resurrected and went into Heaven, there were a few days when the disciples were just waiting around. But once things kicked off, there was a whole lot of action!

*Play Bible Story Video Here*

### **Transition**

Have you ever tried to tell a funny joke, or explain a movie to a friend, but you completely choked and forgot the words? Or you wanted to speak up about something that wasn't fair, but you got nervous about what others would think, so you fumbled your words? Or maybe you had a feeling – maybe a good one, or maybe a bad one – and you wanted to tell someone about it, but you just couldn't find the right word to describe what you were feeling.

Everyone, whether they're 10 years old or 100 years old, finds themselves at a loss for words sometimes. But what if I told you that someone can help you with that? That Someone is called the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit showed up all the way back on the very first day "The Church" started.

### **Staring at the Sky**

Jesus had been put on the cross. Everyone thought He was dead for good. But He rose from the grave! Then He showed up and appeared to His disciples. The band was back together and everything was good!

The sweet little disciples, those wonderful guys, were hanging out with Jesus and He told them not to leave Jerusalem. He told them to wait for the gift that they were going to receive. And of course, the young dudes did what young dudes always do: they wanted to finally be the big dogs in town. They asked Jesus, "Is this finally the time when we're going to beat up all the bad guys and take over the world?"

Jesus told them that they needed to calm down and wait for the power that He would deliver to them. Just like Jesus, they were going to be the ones to deliver the message that He had been delivering in front of them. It was their turn to step up and be the leaders. Jesus went up into Heaven, and they did what young guys often do: They looked up into the sky like little turkeys. Finally, two angels in white had to

give them a little nudge, and let them know Jesus was going to come back, but it was time for them to get moving.

### **A House On Fire**

Later on, there was a special day we now call Pentecost. All of the disciples were with each other in a house, and suddenly a burst of wind entered the house and filled it up. Like an inside tornado. Then, they saw these flaming tongues resting on them, and they started speaking other languages. This was the Holy Spirit; the power of Jesus moving through them. The disciples may have imagined their new powers would be big strong muscles, or awesome battle gear. But instead, they were given the power to speak different languages. Interesting.

At that time, there were Jewish people visiting from all over the place. And they spoke a bunch of different languages. They were visiting Jerusalem to celebrate a holiday called Shavuot. And when they heard the disciples speaking about Jesus in their own languages, they were amazed!

They started gathering to listen, and a large crowd formed. Usually, different languages divide us. If you go into a different country, it can be scary and isolating if they speak a different language. But this time the exact opposite happened: Everyone understood what the disciples were saying.

Of course, there were haters. Some people thought they were above this, and accused the disciples of being drunk.

### **Peter's Courage to Speak to Thousands. (A giant stadium)**

Then one disciple named Peter stood up with total boldness. Before this, Peter was afraid to do anything that might get him into trouble. But with the Holy Spirit, he stood up and started boldly speaking to the crowd. Even though Peter might have been fearful earlier in his story, that was no longer the case. The Holy Spirit spoke through him and delivered a message that cut directly to the heart of the crowd. They asked "So what do we do?" and Peter told them to turn away from the lives they knew, one where life was about having more, and giving others less, and instead, be baptized into the new world of Jesus. On that day there wasn't just a

crowd of 30 or 300 whose lives were changed, there were 3,000 people who decided to be baptized.

This event started something that spread throughout history. We can look back and see that this was the moment that the "Church" was born.

## Teaching

This story shows us that although Jesus went up into Heaven, that doesn't mean He left us alone to figure things out. Actually, it's the opposite. In the Gospel stories, the stories about Jesus' life on Earth, He was in one place at one time speaking to one crowd. But what happened after that? He gave the power of the Holy Spirit to *everyone*. Jesus speaks through you, and through me, and through people in Mexico, China, Thailand, Norway, England, Peru, Chile...anywhere. You name a place, and Jesus is there, and speaking through His people.

The Holy Spirit gives us power, so that when we want to tell people about our faith, we don't need to be scared of what they think, or if we have the right words, or if we're even smart enough. Just like those guys in the early church, the Holy Spirit will show up and give us the words.

## Transition

It can be intimidating to talk to others about Jesus. We might worry that people at school or on our sports teams or clubs will make fun of us, just like some of the people made fun of the disciples at Pentecost.

But before Jesus went to The Cross, He actually promised this help to His followers.

### ***Luke 12:11-12***

*When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.*

Jesus Himself says that no matter who you are speaking to, don't worry, I've got you.

Jesus doesn't ask us to have all of the answers. Jesus doesn't *need* us to have all of the answers. He asks us to have the courage to speak about our faith, not as a way

to tell people they're wrong or they're dumb, but to share with them the different way of life that Jesus offers us and wants for us.

Are you willing to speak up?

### **SIMPLE PRAYER**

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us in our lives. It can be difficult sharing about you when it might mean others don't accept it, or might even make fun of us. Jesus, give us the strength to speak our faith, and trust that You will give us the words to say.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

## ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

1. If you could speak the language that any animal could understand, what would you choose and why?
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples to wait for? (His special gift)
3. Describe what it looked and sounded like when the Holy Spirit arrived.
4. What was the "special power" the disciples had once the Spirit came?
5. Imagine it was your first time in Jerusalem from a far away country, and you happened to show up right when this was happening. What would you think?
6. Peter used to be afraid of getting in trouble, but then he stood up in front of a huge crowd! Do you think it's scary to stand up and talk to a big group of people? Why?
7. What is an area of your life where you need the Holy Spirit to give you the words?

## ***REVIEW VIDEO***

## ***MEMORY VERSE CARD GAME ACTIVITY:***

*"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."  
John 13:34-35 (NirV)*

Printed cards are provided for the memory verse games. There are 3 stacks of cards – one is easier, one is harder, and one is words that are not in the verse to make it harder for kids as needed. See the Memory Verse Card Games Guide for a variety of games you can choose from to help your students memorize the verse in fun and interactive ways.