



ON FIRE

Fire Rained Down

Supplies Needed: 2 Balloons



TEACHING INSTRUCTIONS

Read Acts 2:1-13 together. Read it to the children or have them take turns reading. (see student handout)

Say, “Jesus made a special promise to His disciples. He promised that after He left He would send the Helper, which is the Holy Spirit of God. That promise came true on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down and filled all the believers with God’s Spirit. Then, God’s love started spreading immediately as the apostles shared the wonderful things God had done in all the languages of people from around the world who had gathered! People were amazed and confused because nothing like this had ever happened before. The miracle of Pentecost was not just for the apostles, it is for all believers, including you. If you believe in Jesus, God wants to fill you with His Spirit, too. Let’s discuss some more interesting facts about that day.”

Read the “Did You Know” points together. Read it to the children or have them take turns. Help the children look up the Scriptures mentioned. For added fun, have them say “amen!” when they find it. (see student handout)



Say, “According to Jewish tradition, Pentecost was the time when God gave the Israelites the Law through Moses at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19 and 20). On that day, the Lord descended in fire and smoke, and the whole mountain shook (Exodus 19:18). On Pentecost, the Spirit descended with the sound of rushing wind and tongues of fire that rested on the believers. It was loud enough to grab the attention of the Jews in the area (Acts 2:6). This time, God did not come to keep people away from His holiness and give them a Law to follow. He filled believers with His holiness and they followed His voice as He spoke directly to their hearts. Because of Jesus, that’s the relationship we can enjoy with our God.”



OBJECT LESSON

Filled with Power!

Items: Two Balloons

Inflate one balloon, but do not tie it. Leave the other balloon uninflated. **Say,** “The uninflated balloon represents an unbeliever. Spiritually, they are dead, chained by sin, and powerless. The inflated balloon represents a believer in Jesus Christ who is filled with the Holy Spirit. Being filled means the power of God moves in our life. We can go anywhere and do anything He calls us to do.” Release the inflated balloon and let it fly around the room. **Say,** “This life of following Jesus in the Spirit’s power can look crazy to the unbelieving world, like a balloon flying wildly, but that’s because they don’t know Him, so they don’t understand. Let’s thank God for giving us salvation through Jesus and power in the Holy Spirit, and let’s pray He helps us follow the Spirit’s lead.”



GAMES



“Filled with Power” Balloon Race

Before the race, decide on a starting line and finish line for the balloons. Two players inflate balloons and release them from the starting line. They will fly around the room and plop on the floor. The balloon that lands closest to the finish line wins.



** Optional Memory Verse Game **

Bible Verse Catch- Acts 1:8

All you need for this game is a ball, which can be a paper ball. Have children stand in a circle. Say the first word of the verse and toss the ball to a random child in the circle. The child who catches the ball says the next word and tosses to a different kid, who says the next word and tosses it. This continues around the circle until the whole verse is said and everyone has said a word, which means you may need to say the verse twice for a big group. Once they get good at the verse, you can speed up to make it more challenging.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Why do you think God sent the Holy Spirit to fill the Church?
- 2 Read John 16:7-15. What are some things the Holy Spirit does in us?
- 3 Does someone have to believe in Jesus before they can be filled with the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? (John 7:38-39)

