

WEEK 21 | MAIN LESSON, ACTIVITY AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ages 5 to 11 | Read-Aloud Lesson | Scripture-Centered | Apologetics-Rich | Christ-Centered

SECTION 1

LESSON OVERVIEW

Week	21
Date	May 24, 2026
Title	The Holy Spirit Arrives: God Reverses Babel
Scripture	Acts 2:1-41
Timeline	Jesus has died, risen, and ascended. Ten days ago, He told His followers to wait in Jerusalem. Today the wait ends. God sends His Spirit and the Church is born. What God scattered at Babel, He begins gathering back at Pentecost.

God sent His Holy Spirit to bring all people back to Himself through Jesus.

SECTION 2

OPENING BIBLE FOUNDATION

Do you know what the most amazing book in the world is? It is the Bible. Not because it is old. Not because it has a pretty cover. It is amazing because it is true. God used more than forty different people to write it over hundreds and hundreds of years. Some of them were kings. Some were farmers. Some were fishermen. Some were sitting in a palace. Some were sitting in a prison. But every single one of them wrote down exactly what God told them to write.

And when you put all sixty-six books together, they all tell one big story. That story is about God rescuing people and bringing them back to Himself through Jesus. Today we are going to read something that happened right in the middle of that story. Something that changed the entire world forever.

SECTION 3

MEMORY VERSE

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people."

Acts 2:17

TEACHER: Introduce the verse clearly. Say: "This is a promise God made hundreds of years before today's lesson through a prophet named Joel. Today we are going to watch God keep that promise. Let's say it together." Lead the class in a repeat-after-me. Say each phrase slowly: "In the last days... God says... I will pour out my Spirit... on all people." Then say the whole verse together twice.

SECTION 4 SETTING THE SCENE

We have been on a long journey together through the Bible. We watched God create the world. We saw Adam and Eve choose their own way over His. We followed Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the people of Israel out of Egypt and into the wilderness. We heard God give His law on Mount Sinai. We watched the Tabernacle, God's tent, being built so His presence could dwell with His people. We have been walking toward something. Something that God has been promising since before Moses was born.

Today we arrive at one of the most important days in the entire Bible. Jesus has already died on the cross for our sins. He has already risen from the dead. He has already appeared to hundreds of people over forty days. He has given His disciples their mission. And then He rose into the sky. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for a gift He was going to send them. The disciples did not know exactly what the gift would look like. They just knew Jesus promised it. So they waited. Today is the day the gift arrives.

As you listen, pay attention to two things. First, notice the sounds, the sights, and how each person reacts. Second, listen for a connection to something we learned all the way back in Genesis 11 at the Tower of Babel. Because what God does today is directly connected to that moment. Let's read what happened.

SECTION 5 MAIN LESSON NARRATIVE

Have you ever waited for something so important that every single minute felt like an hour? Close your eyes and picture this. You are in a room in the city of Jerusalem. Around you are about one hundred and twenty people. Friends. Family. People who followed Jesus together. You have been here for ten days. The same room. The same waiting. You have been praying. Talking. Wondering. Jesus told you something was coming. Something big. He called it a gift. He said to wait for it here. And so you wait.

Outside the city, something unusual is happening. Jerusalem is packed. It is a Jewish festival called Pentecost, one of the three great festivals where Jewish people from all over the world travel to the holy city. People have come from Egypt, from Rome, from Greece, from Persia, from Arabia, from fifteen different regions and countries. They all speak different languages. Different dialects. Different customs. They have no idea that today, this ordinary morning, is going to become the most important day since Jesus walked out of that empty tomb.

Inside the room, the disciples are still praying. The morning air is quiet. And then it happens.

A sound fills the house. Not a soft sound. Not a gentle whisper. It is a sound like a massive, violent, rushing wind. Like a storm. Like a great river crashing through. The sound fills every corner of the room. And then everyone sees something. Above each person in the room, a small flame appears. A tongue of fire, resting right over their heads. Can you picture one hundred and twenty people with fire resting above them? Not burning them. Just resting. Present. Alive.

Now, you need to remember something. In the Bible, fire has always been a sign of God's presence. When Moses saw the burning bush in the desert, God was there. When the people of Israel walked through the dark wilderness after leaving Egypt, a pillar of fire led them at night. God was there. When God came down to Mount Sinai to give His law to Moses, the whole mountain was on fire. God was there. Fire meant one thing in the Bible: the holy God is present.

But now, something is different. The fire is not on a mountain. It is not in a tent. It is not in a temple built with human hands. The fire is resting on people. On every single person in that room. God is saying something with that fire. He is saying: I am not keeping My presence locked away in one building in one city. I am coming to live inside My people. Every one of them.

And then the disciples start to speak. But they are not speaking in their own language. They are speaking in languages they have never studied. Never learned. Languages from other countries and cities and parts of the world. It pours out of them. They cannot stop. The Holy Spirit fills them completely and they declare the wonders of God in language after language.

Now here is where you need to remember something from a very long time ago. Way back in Genesis 11, all the people on earth spoke the same language. And they had a terrible plan. They were going to build a tower so tall it would reach the sky. Not to worship God. To make themselves famous. To live life without needing anyone above them. It was pure pride. Pure rebellion. And what did God do? He confused their languages. All at once, no one could understand anyone else. One language became dozens and dozens of languages. The people scattered across the earth, divided into different nations and cultures and countries. The one human family was broken apart because sin had fractured everything God made.

That happened thousands of years before Acts 2. But here is what most people miss. When God scattered those nations, He did not just forget them. He chose one people, Israel, as His own special portion, through whom He planned to eventually reclaim every nation He had scattered. The divided world was not His final word. Jesus was His final word.

And now at Pentecost, God is proving it. People from all of those scattered nations are standing in Jerusalem. And the disciples are speaking to every one of them in their own language. Do you see what God is doing? He is reversing Babel. He is gathering what sin divided. He is saying through every language spoken that morning: no nation is too far. No person is too lost. Jesus came for all of you. Come home.

This is exactly why our memory verse matters so much. Let us say it together. "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." All people. Not just one nation. Not just people who grew up in the temple. All people. Every language. Every country. Every background. Every person who hears and believes.

Outside the building, the crowd hears the sound. They come running. They press in. And they are absolutely speechless with wonder. Because every single person in that crowd, no matter where they came from, hears the disciples speaking in their own native language. People from fifteen different regions hear the wonders of God declared in the language of their own hometown. Some look at each other with wide eyes and say: what does this mean? That is a very good question.

But some people in the crowd shrug it off. They say: these people are just drunk. That is the easy way out when you see something you cannot explain. If you say they are drunk, you do not have to deal with what is really happening. Some people today do the same thing. They hear about the Holy Spirit and they say: that sounds

made up. That sounds like people getting carried away with emotions. But Peter is about to make sure everyone understands exactly what is happening.

Peter stands up. Remember Peter? He was the one who told three different people on the night Jesus was arrested that he had never met Jesus. He was so scared he lied three times. But that frightened Peter is gone. This Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit and he stands in front of thousands of people without trembling once. That alone should tell us something. Only God can change a person from the inside like that.

Peter speaks loudly and clearly. He says: do not be confused. These people are not drunk. It is nine o'clock in the morning. What you are seeing is exactly what God promised through His prophet Joel hundreds of years ago. Then Peter quotes our memory verse: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." He says: this is that day. Look around you. This is what it looks like when God does what He promised.

Then Peter preaches about Jesus. He tells them the truth, all of it. Jesus did miracle after miracle among you. You saw it with your own eyes. You cannot say you did not know He was from God. And yet you handed Him over to be killed. But here is what you need to understand. God knew this was going to happen. It was part of His rescue plan from the very beginning. Jesus did not die by accident. He died on purpose, for sinners, to pay a debt none of us could pay ourselves.

And then God raised Him from the dead. Not just as a nice ending. As a declaration. As proof. Death could not hold Him. Sin could not defeat Him. Jesus is alive right now, exalted and seated at the right hand of God the Father. And the Holy Spirit you are seeing and hearing today? Jesus sent Him. The Father promised the Spirit. Jesus made it possible. The Spirit arrived. Three Persons, one God, working together for your rescue.

Some people today wonder whether this really happened. Did Luke make it up? Is this just a religious legend? Those are not bad questions. God does not ask us to turn off our minds. He gives us reasons to trust. Luke was a careful writer. He was a doctor who paid attention to facts. He listed the names of fifteen specific regions whose people were standing in Jerusalem that day. He recorded what people said, how many believed, and what happened next. The early church spread from this single morning to every corner of the known world within a few decades. You do not build a movement like that on something that never happened.

The people who hear Peter are cut to the heart. That means the truth hits them like nothing ever has before. They feel it deep inside where excuses cannot reach. They cry out: what should we do? And Peter answers plainly: repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you. For your children. And for everyone God calls to Himself, in every generation.

That day, about three thousand people say yes to Jesus. Three thousand people baptized. Three thousand lives changed forever. The Church is born. Not in a palace. Not with a government announcement. Born in a crowd gathered around ordinary people filled with the extraordinary God.

And here is what this means for you. The Holy Spirit that fell on those disciples is the same Spirit God gives to every person who trusts in Jesus. Not just the people who were there that day. Not just special Bible characters. You. If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit lives inside you. He helps you understand what God is saying in the Bible. He helps you know right from wrong. He gives you courage when you are afraid. He changes you from the inside out, slowly and surely, into someone who looks more and more like Jesus.

That is what Jesus meant when He said it was better for them that He go away. If Jesus stayed on earth in one place, He could only be in one place at a time. But when He sent the Spirit, God could be everywhere His people are. In Saginaw. In Egypt. In Japan. In a hospital room. In a school cafeteria. In your bedroom when you are scared at night. The Spirit is there.

Let us say our memory verse one more time, because now you have seen it happen. "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." He said it through Joel. He kept it through Jesus. And He is still keeping it today for every person who comes to Him.

SECTION 6

WHY WE CAN TRUST GOD'S WORD

God made a promise through Joel hundreds of years before Acts 2. He kept it exactly as He said He would. That is one of the most powerful reasons we trust the Bible. The same God who wrote the prophecy also wrote the fulfillment. He does not miss. He does not forget. He does not change His mind.

Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, was a careful historian. He named specific places, specific people, and specific numbers. When writers make things up, they stay vague. When they are recording what actually happened, they give you details you can check. Luke gives you details.

If a friend says: "I don't think that really happened," you can say: "Luke named fifteen specific groups of people who were there that day. He wrote down exactly what Peter said and how many people responded. That is not how made-up stories get written. And everything he wrote connected to promises God made hundreds of years earlier. That kind of connection does not happen by accident."

SECTION 7

WHAT THIS SHOWS US ABOUT JESUS

Jesus told His disciples plainly: it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Holy Spirit will not come. The Spirit's arrival at Pentecost is proof of two things at once. First, Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to the Father, exactly as He said He would. Second, Jesus keeps His promises. Every one of them.

Pentecost is also the moment God begins reclaiming the nations. Sin scattered humanity at Babel. Jesus paid the price of that scattering on the cross. The Spirit's presence in people from every nation is the declaration that the rescue is underway. The gospel is for the whole world because Jesus is the Savior of the whole world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

The Gospel: Jesus lived a perfect life. He died on the cross to pay for the sins of every person who would ever believe in Him. He rose from the dead on the third day, defeating sin and death forever. Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus receives forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, and the gift of eternal life with God.

SECTION
8

GOD REVEALED AS TRINITY

Acts 2 shows us all three Persons of the Trinity working together. God is one God in three Persons. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. They are always distinct. They are always one. They are always fully God.

At Pentecost: The Father made the promise through Joel. The Son Jesus made the promise possible by dying and rising. The Holy Spirit arrived as the promise fulfilled. Three Persons, one plan, one rescue, one God. When Peter says in Acts 2:33 that Jesus received the promised Holy Spirit from the Father and poured Him out, we are watching all three Persons of the Trinity at work at the same moment.

SECTION
9

LIFE APPLICATION

The Holy Spirit is not just a Bible history fact. He is present and active in the life of every person who trusts Jesus today. Here is what that means for you this week.

When you feel scared at school and you do not know how to stand up for what is right, you can ask the Holy Spirit for help. He gave Peter courage to stand in front of thousands of people. He can give you courage to stand in front of three.

When you read the Bible and a verse confuses you, the Holy Spirit is there to help you understand. He inspired the Bible. He knows what it means.

When someone in your family is hurting, you can pray and ask God to bring His comfort. God is not far away and indifferent. He sent His own Spirit to live inside His people because He wants to be close.

And when you meet someone who seems like they are too far from God to ever come back, remember Pentecost. God reversed Babel. He gathered people from fifteen different countries in one morning. There is no one He cannot reach.

SECTION
10

DEFENDING THE TRUTH

Q: If a friend says: "The Holy Spirit isn't real. That's just emotions."

A: You can say: "The Holy Spirit isn't a feeling. He is God living inside people who trust Jesus. Peter was terrified the night Jesus was arrested. After the Holy Spirit came, he stood in front of thousands of people and preached without being afraid at all. That kind of change does not come from emotions. It comes from God."

Scripture to remember: John 16:7

Q: If a friend says: "Why would God care about people who speak different languages?"

A: You can say: "Because Jesus died for every person in every nation. That is the whole point of Pentecost. God used the same languages He divided at Babel to tell every nation that Jesus came for them. He cares about everyone."

Scripture to remember: Acts 2:17

SECTION
11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Core Questions for All Ages**1. What two signs told the disciples the Holy Spirit had arrived?**

The sound of a rushing wind that filled the house, and tongues of fire that rested on each person.

2. How did the people in the crowd react when they heard the disciples speaking?

Some were amazed because they each heard their own language. Some mocked and said the disciples were drunk.

3. What did Peter say was happening that day?

Peter said God was keeping His promise from Joel: to pour out His Spirit on all people. He also preached that Jesus had risen and been exalted, and that the Spirit was proof.

4. Why does speaking in other languages remind us of what happened at Babel?

At Babel, God confused one language into many and scattered the nations. At Pentecost, the divided languages were used to bring all the nations back to God through Jesus. It was a reversal.

5. What did Peter tell people to do when they asked what they should do?

Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, and they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Optional Deeper Questions**6. Why did Jesus say it was better for the disciples that He leave?**

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would not come unless He went away. If Jesus stayed on earth, He could only be in one place. With the Spirit, God could be present with every believer in every place at the same time.

7. How does our memory verse connect to what happened in Acts 2?

Acts 2:17 is a quote from Joel, a prophet who lived hundreds of years before. God promised to pour His Spirit on all people in the last days. Pentecost was the day that promise was kept. God said it and He did it.

8. What does it mean that the people were "cut to the heart"?

The truth of Peter's message hit them so deeply they could not dismiss it. They realized they had rejected the very person God had sent to save them. That deep recognition led them to ask what they could do.

9. If the Holy Spirit lives in us, what difference should that make in our lives?

The Spirit helps us understand the Bible, gives us courage to do right, changes us to become more like Jesus, helps us pray, and shows us how to love other people. He is not just a belief. He is a presence.

SECTION
12

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

Activity Name: "Languages of Pentecost" Map

Purpose: Help children visualize God gathering people from every nation back to Himself and connect Pentecost to the reversal of Babel.

Supplies: One blank world map per child (printable), colored markers or crayons, one index card per child.

Time Needed: 10 to 12 minutes.

Preparation Before Class: Print a simple blank world map with country outlines. Have markers available at each table.

Step 1: Give each child a blank world map and markers.

Step 2: Read aloud the list of nations from Acts 2:9-11: Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, Libya, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Help children circle or color approximate locations on the map.

Step 3: Then have each child draw an arrow from each circled area pointing toward Jerusalem, the center of the map.

Step 4: On their index card, have them write the Big Idea: "God sent His Holy Spirit to bring all people back to Himself through Jesus."

Step 5: Debrief: Hold up the finished map and ask: "If you were from one of these places and you heard someone speaking your language declaring that Jesus was alive, what would you have thought?"

Scripture Connection: Acts 2:5-11. Every arrow on the map represents a person who was separated from God. Every arrow pointing to Jerusalem represents God calling them home.

Younger Children (5-7): Simply let them color the map and help them draw the arrows. Focus on one big idea: God wanted everyone to hear about Jesus.

Older Children (9-11): After the arrows, ask them to write one sentence explaining how this map connects to the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11.

SECTION
13

OPTIONAL REVIEW GAME

Game Name: Pentecost Lightning Round

Purpose: Reinforce the key events and memory verse in a fun, active way before class ends.

Supplies: None required. Optional: a soft foam ball to toss to whoever answers.

How to Play: Ask the review questions rapidly. The first child to raise their hand answers. If they get it right, they earn a point for their table. Play for 5 minutes.

Q: *What festival was happening in Jerusalem when the Spirit came?*

A: Pentecost

Q: What two signs showed the Spirit had arrived?

A: Rushing wind and tongues of fire

Q: What language did the disciples speak in?

A: The native language of whoever was listening

Q: Who stood up and preached to the crowd?

A: Peter

Q: How many people believed that day?

A: About three thousand

Q: What Old Testament story does Pentecost reverse?

A: The Tower of Babel

Q: Say our memory verse together.

A: Acts 2:17

SECTION 14

TEACHER CLOSING

We have covered a lot today. From a room full of waiting disciples to three thousand people saying yes to Jesus in one morning. From the scattered languages of Babel to the gathered voices of Pentecost. What God broke apart because of sin, He began putting back together through His Son.

If you have already trusted Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit lives in you. That is not just a fact to memorize. It means you are never alone. Not at school. Not when you are scared. Not when you make a mistake. Not ever. God is with you.

And if you have never trusted Jesus, today is a good day to think about it. Peter's words that morning are still true right now: repent and believe in Jesus Christ, and you will receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. That promise is for you too.

Let us say our memory verse one last time together. "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." That includes you. Let's pray.

PRAYER: *Father, thank You for keeping every promise You ever made. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for us and rise again. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit so we are never alone. Help us carry what we learned today with us all week. In Jesus's name, amen.*

SECTION 15

TAKEAWAY TRUTH

God sent His Holy Spirit so that no person in any nation would ever be too far from Him.

SECTION
16

APPROVAL GATE

Main Lesson, Activity and Discussion complete. Wait for approval before creating Step 3: Parent Take-Home Sheet.