

The Holy Spirit Comes Down

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Acts 10:44-48

Church Season
Easter 6

Lesson Focus
Peter was God's strong leader.

Bible Memory Verse
**Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?
Acts 10:47**



Tear here for easy use!

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids play a real icebreaker game.	Activity Pages 	Pencils, frozen socks
Opening Conversation Kids review previous week, build relationships, and learn the new Bible Memory Verse (BMV).	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None
Opening Prayer Kids pray that faith will come to all people.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
The Holy Spirit Comes Down Story Kids hear Peter's amazing proclamation.	Spark Bibles, Leaflets	None
The Strong, Silent Type Kids read about a young man seeking to make peace between different groups.	Leaflets	None
The Holy Spirit Comes Down (Eventually!) Kids help the Holy Spirit get to Peter through a challenging maze.	Leaflets	Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids learn facts about flying.	Leaflets	None
Spirit Spinners Kids create a spinning disc.	Leaflets	Glitter glue pens, scissors, pencils, glue, cardstock, ruler (optional), craft knife (optional), puffy paint (optional), other craft supplies

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids review the BMV and look at the Faith on the Go! options.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids pray to not get in the way of God's Spirit.	Family Pages 	Spray bottle



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Prior to class, soak old socks in water then freeze either completely flat or all contorted. After kids arrive, you may give each a frozen sock or give one per team of two or three kids. **When I say go, your challenge is to be the first to get the frozen sock on a foot!**

Spark Resources
Activity Pages



Supplies
Pencils
Frozen socks

Opening Conversation

Who was able to try a Faith on the Go! activity this past week? Tell us what you did. Allow some time for sharing.

Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse from last week? If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. Guide the kids to help them remember parts they don't.

Have you ever felt like an outsider, like you weren't sure you were really meant to be included in something? Invite kids to share thoughts. **Here's a secret: everyone has felt like that at some time! It's not a very good feeling, is it?**

Have you ever been on the other side of that experience, knowing that someone else feels like an outsider? Invite kids to share thoughts. **For instance, if you have a birthday party and know you can't invite everyone, what do you do?** (*Secretly distribute invitations, ask others not to talk about it, and so on.*) **How does it make you feel to have to do that? Wouldn't it be great if no one ever had to feel like an outsider again?**

Let's hear about your week. Tell us about one moment you felt like you were on top of the world and another when you felt like a total outsider. Give each kid a chance to share about his or her week.

Let's check out this week's Bible Memory Verse. It's Acts 10:47. This is found on page 1217 in the Spark Bible. Read through the BMV a few times, then see if kids can say it without using their Bibles.

Encourage kids to put I Memorized It stickers in their Bibles.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Tear here for easy use!

Opening Prayer

For our opening prayer, I'd like you to think of as many nations or tribes or ethnicities as you can. I'll start with one simple prayer and you throw out all the groups of people you can!

Let us pray:

Jesus, you came for all people! May your Spirit come down upon . . . Invite kids to name peoples now: Cherokees, Canadians, Bushmen, Bengalese, Swedes, Saudis, and so on. **Jesus, you came for all people. Amen.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

The Holy Spirit Comes Down Story

Did you ever hear someone say something and realize later that it was a really big deal? Encourage kids to share. **Reading today's story about Peter is like that. Just reading it or hearing it in church, you might not realize what a big deal it is.**

So here's the scoop: Peter was a really faithful Jew who believed Jesus was God's son. But he also followed rules and traditions of the Jewish people, just as Jesus did. Those rules covered all aspects of daily living: who you could eat with (other people who followed the same rules), whose house you could enter, and so on. People who didn't follow the rules were considered "ritually unclean."

But God sent a message to Peter that changed everything. The message was that Jesus was for all people, not just those who lived by the rules. It was as if everything you ever knew had been turned upside-down. You wouldn't know what to believe. But Peter was cool about it. He essentially said, "If the Holy Spirit comes to all these outsiders, who are we to get in the way?"

Let's see how he said it. Turn to Acts 10:44-48. This is found on page 1217 in the Spark Bible. **Let's go around the group, each person reading one verse slowly. And let's read verse 47 twice.**

Read and discuss the I Wonder questions on the front page of the leaflet.

Ask a volunteer to read Look It Up! on the second page of the leaflet. Luke 3:21-22 is on page 1132 in the Spark Bible.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

The Strong, Silent Type

Have you ever felt uncomfortable when you noticed that people of different cultures or races that are hanging out in the same place have separated or are not mixing? Sometimes people have a fear of the unknown, of people who look or talk or act differently. Let's read a story about a guy trying to deal with just that. Read The Strong, Silent Type on the front of the leaflet, then discuss the following questions. **What does it feel like in our bodies when we are in an uncomfortable situation?** (*Our stomach might flop, our throat tightens, we get sweaty, and so on.*) **How do you deal with cultural differences between people near you? How can churches welcome all sorts of people?**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

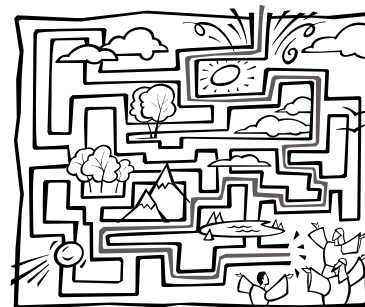
The Holy Spirit Comes Down (Eventually!)

Do you ever wonder what the Holy Spirit looks like? Feels like? Encourage discussion. **No one knows, but we imagine it like the wind, touching everyone, or like a dove, flying down to where we are. Check out The Holy Spirit Comes Down (Eventually!) on the second page of the leaflet and see if you can help the Holy Spirit get to Peter and the crowd.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)



Fun Facts

Invite kids to read Fun Facts on the third page of the leaflet. Break into small teams. Ask kids to find something to clank. **Leaflets down! I'm going to ask you some questions. If you think your team knows the answer to the question, make a clanking noise!**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

What was the name of the first spaceship? (*Sputnik 1*)

What country sent Sputnik into space? (*The Soviet Union*)

How long would it take a plane flying 400 miles per hour (about 644 kilometers per hour) to reach the sun? (*about twenty years*)

Bonus question: What would happen if a plane flew toward the sun? (*It would melt!*)

What year was Sputnik 1 launched? (*1957*)

What is the only mammal that can fly? (*a bat*)

27.6 seconds is the record flight time for what? (*a paper airplane*)

Does an astronaut's suit weight 80 pounds (36 kilograms), 280 pounds (127 kilograms), or 800 pounds (363 kilograms)? (*280 pounds [127 kilograms]*)

What is a snipe? (*a bird*)

About how many miles can a snipe fly without resting? (*4,200 miles [6,759 kilometers]*)

Spirit Spinners

Direct kids to Spirit Spinners on the third page of the leaflet. Follow the directions below to create Spirit Spinners. Challenge kids to get creative on design and engineering, adding craft supplies to change the four elements of flight: lift, weight, thrust, and drag.

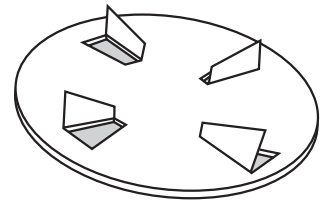
- Step 1: Cut out the spinner pattern. Do not cut the dotted lines; these are fold lines.
- Step 2: Fold the dotted lines so the flaps bend upward.
- Step 3: Decorate the top and bottom of the disc using the glitter glue pens and other supplies.
- Step 4: Dry, then fly!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

- Glitter glue pens
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Glue
- Cardstock
- Ruler (optional)
- Craft knife (optional)
- Puffy paint (optional)
- Other craft supplies



Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

It's nice when God sends us clear signals about how we should be living our lives as followers of Christ. Sometimes those messages come through people like Peter! And maybe they will come through someone like you.

Anyone remember today's BMV? Let's say Acts 10:47 together.

Check out the Faith on the Go! options on the back page of the leaflet. What options would kids like to try this week?

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Closing Prayer

For our closing prayer, I'll say a prayer petition and you all respond "Who are we to get in the way?"

Let's pray:

God, your Spirit falls on all people. (*Who are we to get in the way?*)

Jesus, you came for everyone. (*Who are we to get in the way?*)

Spirit, you pour out your love on the world. (*Who are we to get in the way?*)

Peter was right to say, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing?" (*Who are we to get in the way?*)

Spray water above kids.

Amen!

Be sure to send a leaflet and a Family Page home with each kid.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Spray bottle with water