

The power and Light



- Theme:** The power of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost Sunday
- Object:** A flashlight and batteries. (A small LED is recommended.)
- Scripture:** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Do you know what special day this is? This is Pentecost Sunday. It's the time when we remember that before Jesus returned to heaven, he promised that his Father would send a helper — the Holy Spirit — to live inside of those who follow him. He promised that the Holy Spirit would give them the power to do great and mighty things.

It happened just as Jesus said it would. On the day which is called Pentecost, the disciples were all together in one place. The Bible tells us that there was a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the place where the disciples were gathered. Then, there were flames of fire that appeared and rested upon each of them. When these things happened, the disciples were filled with power and began to preach and teach about Jesus. They were able to do things that they had never done before because of the power of the Holy Spirit in them.

This morning I have brought a flashlight to help us understand just how important the Holy Spirit is. The flashlight is not very large, but it sure puts out a bright light, doesn't it? I have several of these flashlights around the house. There is one in the kitchen, another in the family room, the bedroom, and the bathroom. If the electricity goes off and it is dark, these flashlights help me find my way around the house. They provide an emergency lighting system.

What do you think gives this flashlight the power to light up a room? Of course, the flashlight has a battery inside that gives it power. Without that power inside, the flashlight just doesn't work. That reminds me of the way the Holy Spirit works in our life. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Our Scripture lesson today tells us that on the day of Pentecost people were filled with the Holy Spirit so that they could do mighty things as the Spirit gave them the ability. It is the same power of the Holy Spirit that enables you and me to let our light shine in the world. Just as a flashlight must have batteries to give it power, the Holy Spirit is our source of power to live for Jesus.

Heavenly Father, thank you that you have sent us the power of the Holy Spirit. Please fill us up each day with the Holy Spirit that we would have the power to live for Jesus and let his light shine in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: ["The Power and Light"](#)

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

FLASHLIGHT HUNTING: Before class time, the teacher will hide slips of paper in a room that will be darkened during the HUNT. The children will use a flashlight to find the slips of paper with words from today's lesson, such as follow, heaven, Spirit, Holy, power, light, Jesus, speak, etc. If time

permits, one child can use the flashlight to find one slip of paper and then hand the flashlight to the next child to find a paper and continue until all the children have had a chance to use the flashlight.

BALLOON FILLING: Give each child a balloon. The children will blow up their balloon and hold it tight until all of the balloons have been filled. When all of the children have filled their balloons, the teacher will give a signal and ALL balloons can be let go to FLY all around the room. Explain to the children that on Pentecost, the followers of Jesus heard the sound of a mighty rushing wind.

HOLY SPIRIT SHAKER: Give each child can be given a small plastic water bottle to be filled with popcorn kernels, rice, or dried beans. Use markers to decorate the bottle with words from today's lesson. Orange and red strips of tissue paper may be glued or taped to the bottom of the bottle to represent flames. The children can shake their bottles as they run a race together.

HOLY SPIRIT PINWHEEL: Let the children make a simple pinwheel using the [template](#) provided. After the pinwheel is completed, let children run and watch their pinwheel move with the wind - or place them in front of a fan. Discuss the fact that even though they can't SEE the wind, they know it is there because they see the pinwheel moving. Compare that to the Holy Spirit moving in our life. ([Simple Pinwheel Template](#))

FLAME KITE: Provide the children with orange and red construction paper on which they may draw or trace and cut out flames to place on kite shaped cut out made of poster board. This can be a group activity as children add the flames, the string and words from today's lesson about Pentecost! Hang the kite in the class room.

PENTECOSTAL POWER POSTER: Using large cut out letters, tape letters spelling HOLY SPIRIT on a poster. Let the children decorate the poster with words from today's lesson and add pictures or stickers for a more exciting poster to be remembered!

Filled With the Holy Spirit

Theme: Being filled with the Holy Spirit. Pentecost Sunday

Object: Enough balloons to give one to each child.

Scripture: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

As you see, I have a balloon today. You can have a lot of fun with a balloon. I have seen some people who can take a long, skinny balloon and make it into the shape of different animals. Have you ever tried that? If you have a round balloon, you can toss it up into the air and see how long you can keep it up without it hitting the ground. I have even played a game in which you tie a balloon to your ankle and play "stomp the balloon" with other children. That is a lot of fun.

Look at the balloon I am holding. I think it is a very nice balloon. It is a pretty color, red is one of my favorite colors, and by looking at the shape of it, I think it would be a very nice round balloon. There seems to be something lacking in the balloon. Can anyone tell me what this balloon needs? You are right. It needs to be filled with air! Before a balloon can fulfill its purpose, someone must breathe some life into it.

I think this balloon can help us to learn something about the church. Today is a very special day. It is a day we call Pentecost. Do you know what happened on that the day of Pentecost? It was the day that God sent his Holy Spirit to breathe life into His church so that the church would be all that God intended for it to be. Before God sent his Holy Spirit, the church was lifeless -- like this balloon. The church was not witnessing and telling people about Jesus. After the Holy Spirit breathed life into the church, people began telling everyone they saw about Jesus. It didn't even matter if they spoke the same language. They told everyone about Jesus and they understood. Thousands of people were added to the church. The church became alive

and was doing the things God had commanded.

I have a balloon for each of you. I want you to take the balloon and -- as you breathe life into it -- remember that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, you and I need the Holy Spirit to fill us so that we can be all that God wants us to be.

Let us pray.

We thank you, Lord God, for sending your Holy Spirit. We thank you for breathing life into the church and we thank you for giving your spirit to all who believe. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

scripture Reading: Acts 2:1-21

BALLOON POPPING: Let all the children blow up a balloon and see who can POP the balloon first, after the teacher says GO!

BALLOON FILLED ROOM: The teacher will have many balloons already blown up and in a separate room or designated area. When the teacher says GO, the children can begin stomping on all the balloons until all the balloons have been popped. Make sure the other classrooms in the church have been alerted that the balloon popping will occur during classtime!

BIBLE VERSE BALLOONS: Place one word from the Bible verse in separate balloons. Let children pop a balloon and when all the little pieces of paper with Bible verse words are popped out of all the balloons, the children will tape or glue the words IN ORDER on a poster board with a large balloon tracing on the board. Let the children color the big balloon after the Bible verse has been glued in order.

BALLOON AIR FUN: As the teacher tells the story, let the children blow short breaths of air into their balloon and talk about being FILLED with the Holy Spirit. Then tell children that if we aren't FILLED with the Holy Spirit, then we'll be LIFELESS and let the balloons fly around the room until they all land on the floor without the air in them!

CRAFT STICK CHURCH: Give each child enough craft sticks and glue to build a church. The children can pretend to BLOW air into the church as the HOLY SPIRIT breathed life into the church on Pentecost. Display the churches on a table and ask the children to pray for all the churches in our country to be FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

CHALKBOARD TESTIMONIES: Let the children use various colors of chalk to write their names on the board as ones who want to tell OTHERS about Jesus. Tell children to draw their names inside a picture of a balloon that they draw with their chalk and attach all the balloons with strings to a LARGE CHURCH drawing in the middle of the chalk board.

UNSCRAMBLE WORD FUN: Give the children separate words in envelopes provided by the teacher. The words will say BE ALL THAT GOD WANTS ME TO BE. The children will tape or glue the words in order on a piece of construction paper with a drawing of a balloon on it. After they have taped or glued all of the words on the balloon drawing, they will cut out the balloon and add a curly ribbon to the balloon. Let the children hang their balloons around the room.

PILLOW CASE ART: Give each child a pillowcase and fabric pens to write BE ALL THAT GOD WANTS ME TO BE on the pillow case. They will then decorate the rest of the pillow case with balloons to remind children of the Holy Spirit in their lives and to remember today's Bible lesson. (Remember to send a note home with the children for parents to soak the pillowcases in cold salt water to set the paints, before washing).

BONFIRE LESSON: Older children might enjoy their Bible lesson today around a small bonfire. As they take turns BLOWING AIR into the fire, they'll see the fire "come to life" and the teacher can share our lesson today on the Holy Spirit.