

Lesson #2-37

Many Gifts, One Spirit

Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

3rd - 6th

Key Verse:

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
1 Corinthians 12:7

The Point:

Each of us is given gifts by the Holy Spirit to serve others.

Making Connections:

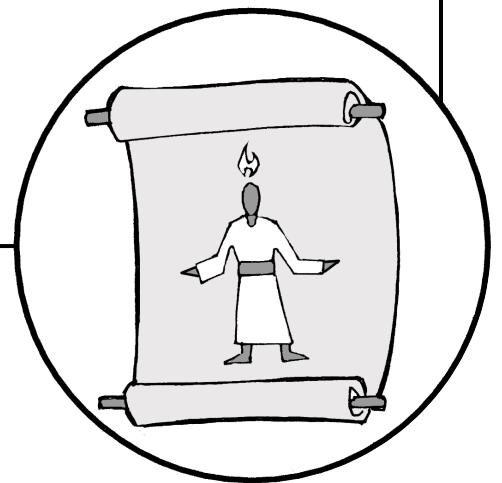
The Power of God's Love

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What is Shavuot?

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Into the Story

Gift Cards

Practice surprise gift giving.

5 min.

- † Index cards
- † Red pens

Bible Nuts & Bolts

What is Shavuot?

Learn the connection between Shavuot and Pentecost.

5 min.

- † Bible
- † Gift wrapped box

Learning the Story

God Given Gifts?

Act out a story of gifts from God, including the Holy Spirit.

10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #2-37.A
- † Highlighters
- † Optional: robes or costumes

Living the Story

A Gift of Love

Wrap gift boxes filled with God's love.

15 min.

- † Activity Sheet #2-37.B
- † Small, empty boxes
- † Cardstock
- † Wrapping paper
- † Ribbons
- † Tape
- † Scissors

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

Fill Us Up

Show how the Holy Spirit fills us up.

10 min.

- † Mural paper
- † Marker
- † Construction paper
- † Glue

Floating Flames

Keep the 'flames' of the Holy Spirit afloat.

10 min.

- † Red balloons
- † Stopwatch

Pinwheel

Create a pinwheel to show the power of the Holy Spirit.

5 min.

- † Construction paper
- † Markers
- † Scissors
- † Glue sticks
- † Pencil with eraser
- † Push pin
- † Optional: beads or buttons

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story

5 min.

- † None

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

The gifts of the Spirit are only useful when they are employed to build up the body of Christ. In love, we serve one another, and by doing so out of love, we are made whole.

Story Summary:

Many Gifts, One Spirit

In Acts 1, just before our Bible readings for today begin, Jesus tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, where they will soon be filled with the Holy Spirit and with God's love and grace. In Acts 2, historic events are happening as a new relationship between God and God's people is established. Pentecost signifies this new era, the dawning of the age of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a gift given to us for the Glory of God among all people and nations.

The Point

Each of us is given gifts by the Holy Spirit to serve others.

The two passages for today are interconnected, and we discover that we can use the passage in 1 Corinthians to explain more about what is meant by the giving of the Spirit in Acts. Acts 2 is about gifts given to us by and through God, while 1 Corinthians is about using our gifts to honor God and love and serve our neighbor.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What is Shavuot?

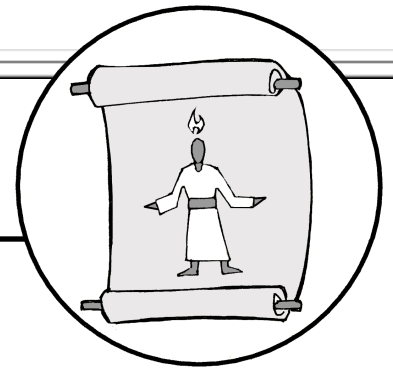
Shavuot is a Jewish festival that commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses. It is also known as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost. Shavuot takes place seven weeks, or fifty days, after Passover. Shavuot is one of three pilgrimage festivals, the other two being Pesach (the Passover) and Sukkot (The Festival of Booths). They are called pilgrimage festivals because participants were expected to journey to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate. The first Shavuot after the death and resurrection of Jesus has special importance among Christian traditions as it was the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in Jerusalem. Christian traditions celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the church and a celebration of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

The Corinthians argued over whose spiritual gifts were more valuable to the community, but Paul argued that each gift was necessary and valuable. Today we argue over whose gifts are more valuable: the pastor, altar guild, Sunday school teacher, custodian, musician, or office administrator! If everyone was an administrator, we would have a lot of organization, but no music. If everyone was the musician, who would teach or clean? Our fellowship is found in our ability to see each other's gifts, to build each other up, and therefore to build up the community.



Lesson Plan



Into the Story (5 minutes)

Gift Cards

Practice surprise gift giving.

You will need:

- † Index cards
- † Red pen or marker

Before class:

1. Write words or phrases from the verse of the day on enough index cards for each student in the class, plus extras for yourself and any new students or guests.

During class:

1. As the students enter the classroom, give each one of the cards you have prepared. When all students have arrived, gather together in a central point in the room, and hold up a card of your own.
2. **The cards you all received when you entered the room are yours to keep. They are my gifts to you, and the words that you see on them are part of the verses of the Bible that we are going to talk about today.** Ask the students to each read the word or phrase on their card out loud for the rest of the class.
3. **What a joy it is to talk about the word of God! My hope for you is that by reading these words and other words in the Bible, you will learn and grow in God's word today and every day.**
4. **It is a wonderful feeling to give and to receive gifts from others, but even better than gifts to and from others are the gifts that God has given us. God gives us each one of us our own special gifts that are unique and specific for each and every one of us. God gives us these gifts out of love, and wants us to use these gifts to love and serve others.**

5. **Even greater than the gifts God gives us each individually is the gift that God gave all of us on a day called Pentecost. This is the day that God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. And this is the day that marks the beginning of the Church.**
6. **God has given us the Holy Spirit and God gives us our own special gifts, and God wants us to share our gifts with others in the spirit of love and friendship.**

Bible Nuts & Bolts (5 minutes)

What is Shavuot?

Learn the connection between Shavuot and Pentecost.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Gift wrapped box

Before class:

1. Gift wrap a box with a lid.
2. Place the Bible inside the box.

During class:

1. **I brought a gift for our class today. What do you think I have in this box?** Allow participants to guess.
2. Open the gift box and remove the Bible. **I have the greatest gift that has ever been given—a Bible!** For thousands of years, God’s people have celebrated the gift of the Bible. Many Jewish people celebrated the gift of the Torah. The Torah is the first five books of the Bible. Let’s look in our Bibles to help us remember what books are in the Torah. *[Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.]* They celebrated the gift of the Torah during a holy day called Shavuot [sha-vo-oat].
3. Acts 2:1 says, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.” So Pentecost was already a celebration for the Jewish people, celebrating the giving of the Torah to Moses. Shavuot (meaning “weeks”) or Pentecost indicates the number of weeks or days (7 weeks or 50 days) after Passover until the beginning of this festival.
4. The disciples were celebrating the giving of the Torah when they were given the Holy Spirit. God has been giving God’s people gifts through which they become able to do the work to which they were called. Jesus’ resurrection compelled them to tell the good news, and this gift of the Holy Spirit gave them the strength and power to do so.

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

God Given Gifts?

Act out a story of gifts from God, including the Holy Spirit.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-37.A
- † Highlighters
- † Optional: robes or costumes

Before class:

1. Make copies of Activity Sheet #2-37.A.

During class:

1. Before passing out copies of the script and highlighters to your students, either assign roles to individual students or allow students to select their roles.
2. After roles are chosen, pass out scripts (Activity Sheet #2-37.A)
3. **Now that we have decided who will play what role, go through your scripts and highlight your part.** If you are using costumes, have students put them on at this point.
4. Gather the students in a central area of the classroom, and guide the lead characters to stand in visible locations where the rest of the cast and the students in the classroom not participating in the skit can see them.
5. Actors perform the skit for the rest of the class.
6. After the skit, gather all students together for a short discussion.
 - **What gifts has God given you?**
 - **How can you share God's gifts with others today and every day?**

Living the Story (15 minutes)

A Gift of Love

Wrap gift boxes filled with God's love.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #2-37.B
- † Small, empty boxes
- † Cardstock
- † Wrapping paper
- † Ribbons
- † Tape
- † Scissors

Before class:

1. Print one copy of Activity Sheet #2-37.B for every four students onto cardstock.
2. Optional: Students could hand-write the poem onto cardstock.

During class:

1. **In the story today, we talked about gifts: gifts given by God, gifts to be shared with others, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. God has given us many gifts to use for good, and to share with friends, family, church, and the world. Every single one of us is given gifts from God, but sometimes our gifts are hard to see. Today we are going to make gifts that are filled with love that we can share with others.**
2. Pass out boxes, ribbons, wrapping paper, and prepared note cards.
3. Encourage students to open the boxes and look inside and notice they are empty.
4. Distribute Activity Sheet #2-37.B and invite one student to read it out loud to the rest of the class. If you prefer to have hand-written gifts, invite the students to copy the poem onto cardstock.
5. Assist the students in wrapping the boxes as needed.
6. Depending on the size of the boxes, help students tape the note cards to the top, side, or bottom of the gift.
7. **These gifts are so much more than empty boxes! These are gifts full of love. These are gifts to give to others that bring love and joy and faith in unseen yet very important ways.**
8. **Bring your gifts home today, and give to someone special. Just as God gives us so many gifts, give your gifts to others with a generous spirit.**

Additional Activities

Fill Us Up (10 minutes)

Show how the Holy Spirit fills us up.

You will need:

- † Mural paper
- † Marker
- † Construction paper in a variety of colors
- † Glue

During class:

1. **The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit fills us up. But what exactly does that mean? Is it like filling a gas tank? A mug? A bucket? In some ways it is something like that, but since the Holy Spirit is invisible, it is hard to imagine.**
2. Ask for or select a student volunteer. Unroll the mural paper on the floor and have the student lie down on the paper. Trace the outline of the student on the mural paper. Gather the class around the tracing.
3. **This shape represents all of us.**
4. Pass out the pieces of construction paper, instruct students to rip them into pieces. **And this brightly colored paper represents the Holy Spirit.**
5. **Working together, let's fill up this body with the Holy Spirit!**
6. Encourage students to glue the pieces of the construction paper inside the outline, working together until the entire shape is filled.

Floating Flames (10 minutes)

Keep the ‘flames’ of the Holy Spirit afloat.

You will need:

- † Red balloons
- † Stopwatch

Before class:

1. Check to make sure that no students have latex allergies.
2. Blow up at least enough balloons for each student in the class and extras as well, if possible.

During class:

1. **Our story today tells about God filling the people with the Holy Spirit. When we read the Bible, we see that the Holy Spirit is described in many ways. The Holy Spirit is described as the wind. The Holy Spirit is described as a dove. The Holy Spirit is even described as flames of fire! The Spirit is not a fire that can burn people, but a fire of love and goodness.**
2. Hold up a balloon.
3. **These are our pretend flames of fire, representing the Holy Spirit. We are going to work together as a class to keep our pretend flames afloat. God has given us this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, and it is our joyful honor to keep it alive and well in our hearts and with others.**
4. Toss balloons in the air and encourage students to work together to keep them afloat as long as possible.
5. After they have had some time to practice, start a stopwatch and record how long the class can keep the balloons afloat. As soon as one touches the floor, stop the time and start the game again.
6. Repeat as often as time allows.
7. After the game, gather the students back together.
8. **We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, the flames of fire that do not burn but that bring us joy and faith and love. Thank you, God, for the gifts we are given, and most of all for the gift of the Holy Spirit!**

Holy Spirit Pinwheels (5 minutes)

Create a pinwheel to show the power of the Holy Spirit.

You will need:

- † Construction paper
- † Markers
- † Scissors
- † Glue sticks
- † Pencils with erasers
- † Push pins
- † Optional: beads or buttons

Before class:

1. Make a sample pinwheel to use as an example for the class.

During class:

1. **The Holy Spirit is invisible, but it is very real. Sometimes it can be hard to understand the power of the Holy Spirit. One way to understand the Holy Spirit is to think of it as the wind. It is invisible, but it is strong. We cannot see it, but we can feel it.**
2. **It is hard to understand something we cannot see, but there are some ways to be able to see the power of something that we cannot see. For example, we can see the power of the wind when we watch a pinwheel spin.**
3. Pass out a piece of construction paper to each student.
4. **Cut two identical squares from your piece of paper. On each of your squares, write the words, “Holy Spirit.”**
5. **Glue the undecorated sides of the two squares together by spreading the glue across the entire back of each square, not just the edges.**
6. **Cut halfway from the edge towards the middle from each of the four corners of the glued together double square. Pull the four corners in towards the center without creasing the paper. Glue the corners together in the middle.**
7. **Push the pushpin into the center where the corners are glued together, and push the pin through the paper into the eraser of a pencil. Be careful not to push too tight in order to allow the pinwheel to move freely.**
8. Optional: If desired, put a bead or small button between the paper and the eraser in order to let the pinwheel rotate better and keep the pin point from going through the other side of the eraser.

9. **When your pinwheel is complete, blow on the edges in order to make it spin! Loosen the pin if the blades do not turn freely.**
10. After everyone has tested their pinwheels, gather students back together in a circle.
11. **Even though the wind is invisible, we know it is real and powerful. In the same way, even though the Holy Spirit is invisible, we know it is real and powerful. We may not be able to see the Spirit, but we can see how the Spirit acts in the world around us.**

Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

Sending the Story (10 minutes)

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit, and beginning the church for all of us. We give thanks for all of the gifts you have given us. We give thanks for all the different people in your kingdom and the way that you love us all the same. Help us to see the gifts in others and help us to use our own gifts to love and serve our neighbors. In your name we pray. Amen.

God Given Gifts

Act out a story of gifts from God, including the Holy Spirit.

Characters:

Luke

Jesus

Disciples 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6

Luke: Hi there! My name is Luke, and I wrote the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts has a lot of interesting facts in it and a lot of information about Jesus and God, including one of my favorite stories, the story of Pentecost, the day God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus: Ten days ago, I was crucified, died, and was buried.

Disciples: Ten days ago, Jesus told us to go to Jerusalem and wait there for the Holy Spirit.

Luke: The disciples did what Jesus told them to, and went to Jerusalem to wait, but they were not the only ones there that day, because it was Pentecost, a day of feasting and celebration. Pentecost was a very important day in Jewish culture. It was a day for the Jewish people to gather and give thanks to the glory of God. It was a day where the people gave gifts and offerings to God.

Jesus: We celebrate Pentecost, because that is the day God gave a wonderful, glorious gift to all people.

Disciple #1: And what a gift it was!

Disciple #2: When suddenly

Disciple #3: from up above

God Given Gifts

Act out a story of gifts from God, including the Holy Spirit.

Disciple #4: we heard a noise

Disciple #5: that sounded like

Disciple #6: a rush of mighty wind!

Luke: This wind filled the area where the disciples were gathered, but that wasn't all that happened. The wind was then followed by what seemed to be tongues of fire that rested on the disciple's heads.

Disciples: *(Touch heads and look surprised.)*

Jesus: All who were gathered there were filled with the Holy Spirit and suddenly able to speak in other languages.

Disciples: *(Babbling in many languages, smiling, hugging, joyfully nodding.)*

Luke: God gave the ultimate gift that day, the gift of the Holy Spirit. But God didn't stop giving gifts. God keeps on giving to God's people.

Jesus: God gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to everyone, equally, but God doesn't stop there. God still gives individual, specific, unique gifts to each and every person. God gives gifts that are special and one of a kind, and meant to be shared with others.

Luke: Jesus wanted to be sure that all of God's people understood that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate gift, and that God gives us other gifts as well. Gifts that are meant to be shared.

Jesus: God, my father, gives many different kinds of gifts to many different kinds of people, but God gives the Holy Spirit to all of us.

God Given Gifts

Act out a story of gifts from God, including the Holy Spirit.

Disciple #1: So, we all have the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus: Yes.

Disciple #2: But our own gifts can be different?

Jesus: Yes.

Disciple #3: I think my gift is always telling the truth.

Disciple #4: My gift is knowledge.

Disciple #5: My gift is faith.

Disciple #6: My gift is healing.

Jesus: Just like all of you, all of God's people have unique and wonderful gifts, from working miracles to prophecy to speaking in many languages and more. It is important to remember that all of your gifts are from the Holy Spirit. And to remember that you are all called to show love for your neighbor with the gifts you are given.

Disciples: We will remember to give and share our gifts with each other, today and every day.

Jesus: It's always a good idea to remember these things! God gives gifts to all people—gifts for the common good, plus gifts meant to be shared with others. Remember to share your gifts, and remember that God gives us all gifts out of love for us and for the good of the church.

Luke: And so it was that the church began on that Pentecost after Jesus' death, a beginning marked by God's gift of the Holy Spirit given to all of us.

A Gift of Love

Wrap gift boxes filled with God's love.

This is a very special gift
That you can never see.
The reason it's so special is
It comes to you from me.
Whenever you are lonely
or even feeling blue,
You only have to hold this gift,
And know I think of you.
You never can unwrap it,
The ribbon will stay tied.
Just hold the box up to your heart:
It's filled with love inside!

-Author Unknown

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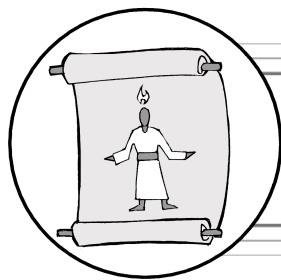
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Many Gifts, One Spirit

Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

I Learned:



The Story @ Home

3rd - 6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2019-2020)

Lesson #2-37

Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Last Week

Paul focused his teaching on clarifying the concept of resurrection. The Corinthians were arguing about this belief, and Paul points out that it is not a matter of just raising the dead, but of new life in God's kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57).

This Week

This week is the final reading in this year's lectionary. The end is shown to be a beginning, in which the Holy Spirit comes to the community of believers. The 1 Corinthians text describes how the Spirit gives each of us gifts so that we together can be a complete body of Christ (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13).

Story Summary

In Acts 1, just before our Bible readings begin, Jesus tells his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, where they will soon be filled with the Holy Spirit and with God's love and grace. In Acts 2, historic events are happening as a new relationship between God and God's people is established. Pentecost signifies this new era, the dawning of the age of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost means the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a gift given to us for the glory of God among all people and nations.

Practice: Fellowship

The Corinthians argued over whose spiritual gifts were more valuable to the community, but Paul argued that each gift was necessary and valuable. Today we argue over whose gifts are more valuable. But if everyone was the musician, who would teach or clean? Our fellowship is found in our ability to see each other's gifts, to build each other up, and to build up the community. Make a commitment as a family to worship with your church family this summer.

The Point

Each of us is given gifts by the Holy Spirit to serve others.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

What is Shavuot?

Shavuot is a Jewish festival that commemorates the giving of the Torah (Law) to Moses. It is also known as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost. Shavuot takes place seven weeks, or fifty days, after Passover. Shavuot is one of three pilgrimage festivals, the other two being Pesach (the Passover) and Sukkot (The Festival of Booths). They are called pilgrimage festivals because participants were expected to journey to the temple in Jerusalem to celebrate. The first Shavuot after the death and resurrection of Jesus has special importance among Christian traditions as it was the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples in Jerusalem. Christian traditions celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the Church and a celebration of the Holy Spirit.

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about our theme of The Power of God's Love?
- ✚ What does this scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

Many gifts, one Spirit
Talk about which spiritual gift you feel you have.

Monday—Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-26

One body, many members.
Which part of the body are you? Why?

Tuesday—Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

You are the body of Christ.
Talk about how you can use your gifts to help in the church.

Wednesday—Read Ephesians 1:15-23

Thanksgiving for faith.
Share one thing about each person for which you are thankful.

Thursday—Read Ephesians 2:1-10

GRACE can be thought of as **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**. How does this help you think about the gift of grace?

Friday—Read Ephesians 2:11-22

Made one in Christ.
Make a family mural with photos of people from around the world. Pray for the people represented in these images.

Saturday—Read Ephesians 6:10-17

The armor of God.
Use large sheets of paper to create the armor depicted here. Dress someone in the armor.