

SESSION 6
LEAD IT: HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

Through this session students will...

- See what happened to the apostles when they obeyed Jesus' instructions regarding the Holy Spirit.
- Evaluate whether they want the same thing to happen to them.
- Search for anything that might be holding back the work of God's Spirit.

MATERIALS: Group

- Whiteboard and markers

MATERIALS: Each Student

- Student journal pages for Session 6
- Session 6 Scripture sheets
- A Bible and pen (Students should bring their own Bibles. You can decide if you would like them to use a physical Bible or a Bible app like, "YouVersion.")
- Colored pencils/highlighters

Leading Up to the Session:

Believe it or not, we are nearing the end of this study! Take a minute to consider what your group needs to do to finish strong. Are there any attitudes in the group that need addressed? Is there anything holding you back from being the group that God needs to accomplish His mission?

You may want to debrief with other adult volunteers helping you with this study. It helps to have a fresh set of eyes helping you see issues that you haven't noticed from the teaching position. The closing sessions could be even more powerful if you can identify and eliminate issues that are holding your group back.

You may have noticed that we've regularly reminded you to stay in contact with your prayer team. We firmly believe that your prayer team is crucial to the success of the series. You may have identified a couple things from your Prep It that you'd like your prayer team to pray for. Take a minute to communicate any specific or special needs to your team.

Prayer

After your group has gathered open your time in prayer. Pray that your group will be soft to God's conviction and open to responding to Him.

Review

Share with your students that this session is the second of two parts. The previous session was a fact-finding mission concerning the apostles, while this session is a *fact-applying* mission concerning your group.

Discuss these questions to review your previous session:

How would you describe the apostles when they were hanging out with Jesus?

-usually confused, didn't quite get it

What did Jesus stress in His final conversations with the apostles?

-The work of the Holy Spirit


What are some things you learned about the Holy Spirit?

DIGGING IN

Before your students get into Acts 2, ask a volunteer to read Acts 1:1-8 from a Bible as a refresher for the group on the role of the Holy Spirit (they read verses 4-8 in the last session). Also encourage them to take note of the instructions that Jesus gave the apostles concerning what they are to do once He leaves.

Take a moment to explain the details of the Feast of Pentecost to your students. Below you will find a refresher from your personal prep. As you talk with your group share about the power that came as a result of the Spirit. Remember, the idea here isn't to get into a debate about the gifts of the Spirit, but rather to acknowledge the legitimate power that came through the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was a feast that the Jews celebrated in Jerusalem 50 days after Passover. Jesus was crucified during Passover, which is why such large crowds had gathered in Jerusalem. Pentecost was a celebration of the Jews receiving God's Law at Mt. Sinai (think back to Session 2). The 50 days between Passover and Pentecost is significant because it marked the span of time (7 weeks) between Israel leaving Egypt and Israel arriving at Mt. Sinai.

Have students read Acts 2:1-18, 22-24, and 36-41 (all found on their Scripture sheet). Encourage students to mark any reference to the apostles, maybe with the sign of the fish . Next, have them mark any reference to any other group or people (including the Jews, others, etc.) with a separate color or mark.

As students finish up, call for their attention and record what they learned about the apostles and other people on the whiteboard. Don't worry about being as detailed as the lists below, but we did underline a few key observations you may want to be sure to draw out from your students. Encourage students to follow along while filling in the diagram found on their journal pages under Digging In.

The Apostles

were all together
-the Holy Spirit Came Upon them
-they spoke in languages
-declared the wonders of God in languages
-identified the crowd as those who crucified Jesus
-called them to repentance
-promised the gift of the Holy Spirit

Other People

-were staying in Jerusalem
-were God-fearing Jews from every nation
-gathered around in bewilderment when they saw the commotion
-amazed, accused apostles of being drunk
-asked what this means
-were soft hearted
-3,000 repented, accepted Jesus and were baptized

Once you feel comfortable that your group has assembled a fairly complete list, discuss the following questions as a group.

How well did the Apostles follow Jesus' instructions from Acts 1? Honestly, were you a little concerned that they might not?

What was the initial reaction of the crowd after the Holy Spirit came?

What was the crowd's response to what Peter said?

How were Jesus' promises in Acts 1 fulfilled in Act 2?

DIGGING DEEPER

Share in your own words:

The events of Acts 2 made a huge impact in the lives of the apostles and everyone around them. In fact, ever since God's Spirit descended on that day, things have never been the same. As we read further into the story, we get a better understanding of how this transformation impacted the attitudes and lifestyles of the apostles and new believers of those early days. In fact, I'd like to give you some solitude time to do just that—to read further into the story.

Point out the Scripture under Digging Deeper on students' Scripture sheets. Invite students to find a place of solitude to read deeper into the Acts story. They will need their Scripture sheets and two colored pencils. Once they have found their spot, have them look for the following as they read the passages:

Circle any descriptions of the apostles or believers, including those that indicate character or attitude.

Underline every action of the apostles and new believers.

When most have finished (it's okay if some haven't and be sure to communicate that) call your group back together. Using your whiteboard draw two columns similar to the diagram below. In the first column at the top, write "Descriptions"; in the second column write "Actions." Ask your group to look over what they marked and share the descriptions and actions that stand out to them. Encourage students to follow along by filling in the chart found in their student journals under Digging Deeper as you record their responses on the board. The chart below notes possible observations; don't worry about being this detailed.

Descriptions

- glad, sincere hearts
- enjoyed each other's company
- bold
- courageous
- spoke truth
- confident
- compelled to speak about Christ
- apostles were unschooled, ordinary
- incredibly unified
- spoke the word of God boldly
- testimonies had power

Actions

- devoted themselves to teaching, prayer, prayer, fellow-ship, and breaking of bread
- apostles doing many miracles
- met every day
- proclaimed Jesus
- spoke the truth
- taught people
- prayed
- could not quit speaking about Christ
- numbers grew to 5,000
- put in jail / released from jail
- spoke the Word of God boldly
- testified to the resurrection of Jesus with great power
- could not help but speak of what they had seen and heard

TAKING IT INWARD

As a group discuss the following questions.

Compare and contrast some of the Apostle's descriptions and actions from the last lesson with the list above.

How have things changed?

- From timid to confident
- From jealous and squabbling to enjoying each other, working as one body
- From clueless/didn't "get it" to understanding and devoted

What would you attribute this change to?

- The Holy Spirit

Can you imagine what it must have been like to be a part of this exciting time in the life of the church? Have you ever experienced anything similar? If so, what led up to that experience?

Have students read over the lists of descriptions and actions that they listed in the activity above and write in the space provided their responses to these questions:

What three characteristics and three actions would you like to see displayed in your own life?

What three characteristics and three actions would you like to see displayed in our group?

Ask for volunteers to share their responses.

Then discuss these questions as a group:

What characteristics/actions seemed to come up the most often?

What do these responses reveal about us?

Why do we want to possess these characteristics?

Why do we want to imitate these actions?

Do we want to experience the transformation that comes through the Spirit?

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

Perhaps your group is sensing the need for the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. This could be a turning point in your group. For this reason we have intentionally left the close of this session open-ended. The questions below are simply a guideline; you may want to go a completely different direction.

- Share observations from your personal prep with your students. You may want to refer to your observations of the characteristics from Acts 2 that you feel your group exhibits, that it lacks, and actions it needs to take to accomplish the mission God has called you to.
- Take a moment to share with your students how the concepts of obedience and repentance are the first steps in experiencing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Ask students to consider their personal level of obedience as well as the group's level of obedience. What observations about obedience do they have? Ask students if there is anything that the group needs to repent of. Are there things that they need to individually repent of?
- Now take some time to make it practical. What are some of the apostles' actions that you can begin to enact in your life?
 - Set aside daily time for prayer
 - Commit to meeting together for accountability
 - Share with one another to help meet needs
 - Have a weekly meal time
 - Continue to study God's Word together even after this series ends
 - Encourage each other to seek the Holy Spirit each day