





**Sharing the Good News**  
**An Orthodox Christian Sunday School Curriculum**  
 Aligns with Salvation to the Ends of the Earth Curriculum for Grades 2-12  
*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Education Ministry*

Feedback on this lesson plan is welcome and encouraged [HERE](#).

Title of Lesson:	Lesson Number:	Key Phrase(s)	Grade Level
Pentecost	12	“And it came to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;” (Acts 2:17a, quoting Joel 2:28)	PreK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>K-1st Grade</b> 2nd-3rd Grade 4th-6th Grade Junior High Senior High
<i>Lesson Length: 30 minutes (main) + 15 minutes (extension)</i>			
<b>Key Ideas in this Lesson:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples, just like He promised.</li> <li>- “Pentecost” is what we call the time when the Holy Spirit came.</li> <li>- The disciples received the Holy Spirit.</li> <li>- The Holy Spirit helped the disciples to help others.</li> </ul>			
<b>Key Anchor Words and Vocabulary in this Lesson:</b>			
<p><b>Anchor words:</b> Baptism, Church, Disciples, Fire, Help, Holy Spirit, Jesus, Pentecost</p> <p><b>Vocabulary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pentecost - the time when Jewish people celebrated the harvest. Also the birthday of the Church, because it was during Pentecost that the gift of the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.</li> <li>- Holy Spirit - God, part of the Holy Trinity that is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives life, and helps us to live in a Godly way.</li> </ul>			
<b>To prepare for this lesson, you will need:</b>			

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Audio/Visual	Printed Materials	Craft/Activity Materials
<p>Computer, tablet, or phone to display:</p> <p>Gigi Shadid's song about Pentecost:  <a href="https://youtu.be/-MgxjbKk-Bk?si=3l6_OlhO5Llq4fpf">https://youtu.be/-MgxjbKk-Bk?si=3l6_OlhO5Llq4fpf</a></p>  <p>(Optional) An animated retelling of Pentecost  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBLGM3K9yMw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBLGM3K9yMw</a></p> 	<p>Lesson handouts, 1 copy per student (may be printed double sided)</p> <p>Teaching Pics F7, (Optional) F8, and S5 (Ascension, Feast Days and Services: Pentecost, and Chrismation)</p> <p>God is Good handout, 1 copy for the teacher. Teacher should learn the sign language signs before class, if desired, using the videos.</p> <p>(Optional) <i>The New Bible In Pictures for Little Eyes</i> by Kenneth Taylor; and/or <i>Children's Bible Reader</i> by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America</p> <p>(Optional) Flame-Shaped Glue Cling Craft, 1 per student</p>	<p><i>Stop, Wait, Go Activity:</i> borrowed toy traffic light or homemade version made with yellow, black, red, green colored paper and 1.5" of black adhesive velcro cut into thirds (assembly directions in lesson).</p> <p>Colored pencils.</p> <p><i>Pentecost Birthday Party Activity:</i> Pentecost cupcakes (if no allergies). Small cupcakes with a slice of strawberry "flame" perched on top of each one.</p> <p>(Optional) <i>Tongues of Fire Cookies craft:</i> baked flame-shape cookies (you can use this <a href="#">gluten-free recipe</a>); red, yellow, and orange self-drying frosting in multiple piping bags; small paper plates (one per student); writing utensils; toothpicks</p>  <p>(Optional) <i>Tongues of Fire Glue Cling craft:</i> 1 Flame-Shaped Glue Cling Craft copy per student, one sheet protector per student; writing utensils; school glue (ideally one per student); toothpicks; red and yellow food coloring (Badia brand in the Hispanic section of the grocery store is effective and inexpensive).</p> <p>(Optional) <i>Feast of Pentecost Centerpiece Craft:</i> copies of <a href="#">Pentecost Stand Up Craft</a> (printed on cardstock), 1 per student; coloring materials; tape.</p> 

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**Opening Routine:**

Open with prayer, perhaps **The Lord's Prayer** or the **Jesus Prayer**. (You may wish to follow it with a few words of your own such as, "Please help us to learn more about our faith and about You in the scriptures and stories today. Through the prayers of our holy fathers and Your most pure Mother, O Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.")

**Opening Activity: (5 mins)**

*Stop, Wait, Go Activity:* Before class, borrow a toy light-up traffic signal if you can find one; or build one out of paper.

To build one:

- Cut a yellow paper rectangle about 11"x4" and glue three 2 ½"-3" black circles on it.
- Fasten one side of a ½" piece of black adhesive velcro to the center of each black circle.
- Cut one red, one yellow, and one green circle the same size as the black circles on the traffic light.
- Fasten the other side of the velcro to the center of each of these colorful circles.
- Add/remove the colored circles to indicate which light is "lit" as needed.

When students arrive, tell them that you'll be starting your class by practicing following a traffic light. Show each color in turn, and ask what traffic does on the road when that color is displayed.

Then invite students to stand and watch the light so they know if they need to stop, wait, or go. Begin with a yellow light so that students wait... then give a direction like "when the light changes, walk in place." When you "turn" the light green (removing the yellow "light" and placing the "green" one on its circle), they walk in place, continuing until you "turn" the light red, when they freeze.

After a moment, "turn" the light yellow and have them wait as you give another direction like "sit down and stand up," or "clap," or touch your head and then your toes," or "reach out to the side, then touch the ground on your other side," etc. When the light turns green, they do the activity and continue doing it until the light goes red.

Whenever the light is yellow, they wait for more directions. After giving a variety of activities, give a final direction that returns students to their seats.

**Lesson Instruction: (20 mins)**

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**A: Initial part of lesson**

Tell students that it must have seemed to the disciples that they were at a red light when Jesus ascended into heaven. Show the class the Ascension picture (Teaching Pic F7) if you have a copy to help them visualize it.

Their teacher was gone! But they were actually at a yellow light, weren't they? Jesus had told them to wait, so they were waiting. But what were they waiting for? And what did they do while they waited?

Read the handout together, to find out.

Ask:

1. What were the disciples waiting for?
2. How did they wait?
3. How do you think they felt while they waited? What makes you say that?
4. Did the disciples receive what they waited for?
5. How did the gift of the Holy Spirit help or change them?

Give students colored pencils and guide them to finish the picture on the story side of the handout as directed.

**B: Second part**

Re-enact the story together. Invite students to find a place to stand where they can move a bit. Then retell the story with their help. (Student motion directions are in parenthesis.)

1. When Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples were sad. (Look sad)
2. They walked back to Jerusalem. (Walk in place)
3. They climbed the stairs to the room where they met. (Climb stairs in place)
4. They waited. (Be still)
5. They prayed. (Pray the Lord's Prayer together)
6. They waited some more. (Be still)
7. Outside, the Jewish people were celebrating their Pentecost by coming to the temple with fruit and grain that they grew in their fields and gardens. (Walk in place "carrying" something)
8. They gave the things to the temple, to thank God for them. ("Set down" the item you're "carrying")
9. The Jewish people celebrated with music. (Sing "La, la, la!")
10. But the disciples waited in their room. (Be still)
11. Suddenly they could hear wind coming! (Blow gently)
12. It got louder! (Blow hard and loud)
13. The wind blew into the room where the disciples were! (Blow loudly and move like the wind is blowing you)
14. Then tongues of fire appeared over each one's head! (Hold a hand over your head and wiggle your fingers like flames)
15. The disciples were filled with God's Holy Spirit, and they could speak in many other languages! (Say "God is good!" in any languages that your class knows. See the "God is Good" printable for some additional languages and their pronunciations that you can add, if your class only speaks one or two languages.)
16. The disciples went down the stairs (Climb down stairs in place)
17. They told others good things about God, in their own language. (Say "God is good!" again)
18. The other people believed in Jesus. (Fold hands to pray)
19. They were baptized and everyone was happy! (Cheer and celebrate together)
20. Some people call this Pentecost the birthday of the church, because it is when the Church began. (Sing "Happy Birthday")

**C: Activity/Response:**

**Do:**

**Pentecost Birthday Party activity:** If there are no allergies in your class, share a small "Pentecost cupcake" with each student. (Make or purchase small cupcakes and perch a slice of strawberry on top, like a flame)

While you enjoy the cupcakes, (or in lieu of cupcakes if your class has allergies) watch Kh. Gigi Shadid's song about Pentecost: [https://youtu.be/-MqxjbKk-Bk?si=3l6\\_OlhO5Llq4fpf](https://youtu.be/-MqxjbKk-Bk?si=3l6_OlhO5Llq4fpf). When students finish their cupcake, play the song again and try the motions together.

Complete the activity on the back of the handout.

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*Think:* Kh. Gigi's song said "It's my turn, it's my turn, to pass on down what I have learned..." What good news about God do YOU know that you can share with others? What ideas do you have about how to share it?

*Make:*

Craft options:

- *Tongues of Fire cookies craft:* Before class, bake flame-shaped sugar cookies (for example, see this one that can be made with regular or gluten-free flour <https://www.theessentialmother.com/blog-2/gluten-free-sugar-cookie-recipe>) and prepare red, yellow, and orange self-drying frosting, dividing each color into several piping bags (see same recipe).

Knot the open end of the piping bag and do not cut off the tip until you are ready for the students to decorate their cookies (or the frosting will begin to harden before class begins). Be sure you have at least two cookies per student.

At craft time, have each student write their name on the edge of a plate. Put each student's cookies on their plate. Clip off the tips of the piping bags and pass them out to students to share.

Allow time for students to decorate their cookies. They may wish to swirl the colors of the flames together with toothpicks. When their flames are decorated, students set their plate aside for the frosting to begin to dry.

At the end of class, students take the cookies with them. Instruct them to share at least one cookie with someone else, while telling that person that God is good and that is why they wanted to share with them.

- *Tongue of Fire glue cling craft:* Give each student a copy of the Flame-Shaped Glue Cling Craft printable page. Have them write their name on the top of the page, then slip the page into a plastic sheet protector. On the plastic, have students trace the outline of their flame with school glue, then "color it in" with more glue. They should have a layer of glue that covers the entire area, but is not too thick. Encourage them to use a toothpick to pop any bubbles that appear.

Next, either you or the student can drip red and yellow food coloring here and there on the flame (around 15 drops total, more yellow than red), and the student can gently stir the coloring into the glue, using the toothpick.

The colors should swirl and mix together. Students can use their toothpick to create beautiful flame squiggles inside their flame. When they're satisfied with the color mix, set the glue-cling flame aside to dry until the next class. When they take their flame home, they can peel it off of the sheet protector and stick it to glass. Encourage them to put the flame on their window or mirror, to remind them that the Holy Spirit is with them, filling and helping them, as He was for the disciples at Pentecost.

### **Closing Activity: (5 mins)**

**Summary:** Today we learned about Pentecost, which is when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples, just like Jesus had promised. The Holy Spirit filled the disciples and helped them to be able to help others learn about Jesus. Some people call Pentecost the birthday of the Church.

**Application:** We are like the disciples, because the Holy Spirit comes to us and helps us, too. He comes to us at our Chrismation! (Show Teaching Pic S5, Holy Chrismation, if you have a copy.)

What do we say at every Chrismation? As he anoints the person being chrismated, Father says, "The seal of the Holy Spirit!" And what do we say? "Seal!" We are asking the Holy Spirit to come to live in that person.

But that's not the only time we ask the Holy Spirit to come, is it? Can you think of any other times that we ask for His

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help? We ask the Holy Spirit for help every time we pray “Oh Heavenly King...” (Start saying the words and see if anyone joins you in the prayer. Pray the whole thing if some children know it already.)

Just like the disciples, we should be helping others and teaching them about Jesus. How can you do that today?

Closing prayer: Could be the Lord’s prayer again, or simple words like, “Thank you, Jesus, for sending the Holy Spirit to the disciples at Pentecost. Thank you for sending Him to help us, too. Please help us to help others to know about You and love You. Through the prayers of Your Holy Apostles, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.”

**To extend this lesson for additional time...**

*Additional activity ideas:*

1. *Read Pentecost stories.* Read *The New Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* stories about the early Church: “The Holy Spirit Comes,” p. 358; “Peter Preaches about Jesus,” p. 360; and/or *Children’s Bible Reader* related story: “Pentecost”, p. 268.
2. *Watch an animated retelling of Pentecost.* Play the Youtube video “The Amazing Story of Holy Spirit at Pentecost” for the students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBLGM3K9yMw> (about 6 minutes).
3. Share *Teaching Pic F8, Feast Days and Services: Pentecost* (Descent of the Holy Spirit), and its accompanying information.
4. *Play Stop, Wait, Go.* Return to the traffic light activity, only this time give each student the opportunity to “run” the light for one light cycle; changing the lights in order, and giving one direction to their fellow students as they wait.
5. *Feast of Pentecost Centerpiece Craft.* Color, fold, and tape to assemble this centerpiece that students can take home to display at the Feast of Pentecost:  
<https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/websiteattachments/Pentecost%20popup.pdf>

**Background Resources for Teachers:**

- Teachers may find General Teaching Strategies and Classroom Considerations included in the back of this packet to be a beneficial resource while preparing for this lesson.

After **Jesus** ascended into heaven, the **disciples** stayed together, praying and waiting for the Helper that Jesus had promised to send to them. So, on the day of **Pentecost**, a day when Jewish people celebrated the harvest, the disciples were sitting together, praying and waiting. They were happy and peaceful. Suddenly, there was a sound that came down from heaven. It sounded like a big, fast wind! It filled the whole house where they were. Flames of **fire** appeared on each of the disciples. This fire did not hurt them. It showed that God's **Holy Spirit** had come to fill them and **help** them. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples to talk in languages they could not speak before! Many people from other countries were in Jerusalem for Pentecost, and they spoke many other languages. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples to speak in those languages, so that everyone could understand what the disciples said as they praised God and told about His Son, Jesus. The other people were surprised that the disciples could speak their language. They listened, and they learned about God. St. Peter stood up and told everyone that God was helping the disciples to speak so that everyone could understand. Then he told the people all about Jesus: how He is God, and He had died and then came alive again. The people asked what they should do so they could follow Jesus, too. Peter helped them to know how to follow Jesus. 3,000 people became disciples through **baptism** that day! They began to learn more about following Jesus, and they all had communion and prayed together. This Pentecost was the beginning of the **Church**.

**Finish the picture of the disciples at Pentecost.**

Draw windows in the room where they sit.

Draw what they're sitting on.

Draw wind coming through the windows.

Draw the Holy Spirit's fire over their heads.



# Sharing the Good News: Pentecost, page 2

## Anchor Words



Match the disciple to the person who can speak to them.

Draw a line to match each speaking disciple to the person who understands their language.

Then copy the person's letter into the box under the disciple.

You will find the secret word that tells when this happened!

# God Is Good

Here is how to say “God is good” in a variety of languages.

American Sign Language: “God is good!”

(sign for “God is” here: <https://www.handspeak.com/word/922/>)



(sign for good: <https://www.handspeak.com/word/926/>)



Dutch: “God is goed!” (GHOAT iss GHOOD; G has a throaty sound, almost as if you're clearing your throat)

French: “Dieu est bon!” (DYOU eh BOHN)

German: “Gott ist gut!” (GOHT ist GOOT)

Greek (modern): Ο Θεός είναι καλός, Ο Θεός είναι Καλός (Oh THEYohs AYnigh KAHlohs)

Haitian Creole: “Bondye Bon!” (BONDjay BENnyoo)

Italian: “Dio è buono!” (DIYOU eh bwohnoo)

Khmer: “Pre’ah trong laor nas!” (PRAY-ah trawng la-aah nah)

Latin: “Deus est bonus!” (DAYoos est BOHnoos)

Norwegian: “Gud er god!” (GOOd are goo)

Polish: “Bóg jest dobry!” (BOOhk yest DOHbray)

Portuguese: “Deus e bom!” (DAYoos eh BOHM)

Q'eqchi' (a Mayan dialect of Central America): "Mas chabil li Kacua'!" (mahs chahBEEL lee kahGWA, quickly cut the A sound because of the glottal)

Romanian: "Domnul e bun!" (DOHMnool ay boon)

Russian: "Bog dobry!" (bohG DOHbree)

Spanish: "Dios es bueno!" (deeOHS ehs BWEHnoh)

Swedish: "Gud är god" (GYOUD ay GHOULD)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Flame-Shaped Glue Cling Craft

Write your name on the top of this page, then slip the page into a sheet protector. On the plastic, trace the outline of the flame with a bottle of school glue, then “color it in” with more glue. Drip red and yellow food coloring here and there on the glue-covered flame, then gently stir it into the glue with the toothpick. The colors should swirl and mix together. Set your glue-cling flame aside to dry until next class. When you take your flame home, peel it off of the sheet protector and put it on your window or mirror, to remind you that the Holy Spirit is with you, filling and helping you just like He did for the disciples at Pentecost.





# Sharing the Good News: Lesson 12

## Craft and Song QR Codes

“Pentecost” by Gigi Shadid



Animated Pentecost Story



Gluten Free Cookie Recipe



Pentecost Stand-Up  
Craft PDF



Sign Language for “God  
Is” Video



Sign Language for  
“Good” Video

