

GOD SENDS HIS HOLY SPIRIT!

Scripture: Acts-Jude

Materials Needed:

Visuals for story/pp

Promise cards of Jesus written out

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—After Jesus went into heaven, the disciples waited in Jerusalem until God gave His Spirit and wrote His law of love in their hearts as promised in Jeremiah. Through the disciples and Paul, many believed in Jesus, but when the Jews wanted to go back to the Law-system, the Gentiles were continuing to live in their old ways, persecution was increasing, and Jesus wasn't returning immediately, God sent letters to the believers to instruct them on how to live out His law of love.

To Realize—God sent His Spirit so that believers could live His law of love from their hearts while accomplishing His plan, and He explained how to do that in every situation.

To Respond by—living out God's law of love in the power of the Spirit in every situation as God accomplishes His plan through them.

Setting up the Story:

Can you complete this sentence: "Let my people go, so that they can..." (worship me.) When was this said? Do quick review of Passover. God commanded in the Law that the Passover be one of three annual holidays for the Jews. The second holiday was called Feast of Firstfruits—actually it's part B of the Feast of Firstfruits (technically called Feast of Weeks--Shavout). (Go in to power point on Feast details).

Scripture

Telling the story:

- I. Jesus Tells His Disciples to Wait for the Holy Spirit
 - A. Jesus Goes Back to Heaven
 1. Promises to come again
 2. Tells them to wait
 3. Tells them to be his witnesses

As you tell the story:

John 14:2 Example: the Bridegroom goes to prepare a place for the Bride.

Acts 1:4,5

The ask questions about the kingdom because they know who He is: the king from David who will reign forever.

Acts 1:8

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Disciples Wait in Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ten days after Jesus ascended 2. Gathered together 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. The Holy Spirit Comes 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Pilgrims come to Jerusalem for Feast of Firstfruits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 50 days after Passover 2. Celebrated giving God first/best 3. Celebrated giving of the Law 	<p>Storytell details.</p> <p>Law was on stone; idolatry was in their hearts.</p> <p>Jeremiah 31:33 Storytell</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Problem of Idolatry 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. Promise of a New Covenant on Heart 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Spirit Comes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With wind and fire 2. Speak different languages 3. Giving money 4. 3,000 added 	<p>Storytell</p> <p>Acts 2:7-11 (blessing to the nations)</p> <p>Acts 2:45 Who was making them do this?</p> <p>Acts 2:41</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. God Sends Letters to Believers 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Many Believe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul's conversion 	<p>There was one man that God handpicked to be his witness. Jewish man with extensive</p>

2. Paul's journeys	knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures.
B. Problems Come Up	Law background; wanted to have the Law plus Jesus. Thought others should become Jewish first before believing in Jesus. Is that what living God's law of love meant?
1. Jews want to incorporate Judaism	
2. Gentiles hang on to old ways	No law. Lived in immorality and idolatry. Pagan practices. If free from the penalty of breaking the law (i.e., no consequences) why not continue doing whatever you want?! Is that what living God's law of love meant?
3. Persecution	From Jewish leaders; from Gentile leaders (Romans). How could the believers live loving lives in the midst of such adversity? Disciples were being killed. The believers who had never actually seen Jesus were paying a high price to believe that this Savior was who the disciples were testifying to. II Peter 3:8-10
4. Jesus' return is delayed	

Concluding the Story:

What did God do for these dear believers? Through His Spirit, He wrote letters to those who had believed in Jesus and He explained to them what it meant to live His law of love.

It doesn't mean more religion. It doesn't mean doing whatever you want. It IS worth hanging on to no matter what. II Peter 1:3-everything for life and godliness.

I looked through each of the letters to the believers in the New Testament. In each letter, there is a reference to loving God and loving each other. That is what God's Spirit is teaching us. Why? Because He wants us to be able to say like David, "I DELIGHT to do your will, O God. Your law is written on my heart." Do you delight to do God's will? If doing what is right is a burden or drudgery, ask God to put His love in your heart by His Spirit. And if you already delight to do his will, ask God to grow you in that love. What does that look like in our daily lives? That is the process we are in right now!

Let's pray.