


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 20

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 20: Receivers Of The Promise

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>God Sends The Promised Holy Spirit</p> <p><i>Acts 2</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• A roll of tape• Assorted noisemakers, shakers, whistles and party clappers• Three small slips of paper• Four large sheet of paper, with the words “filled with power” written in permanent marker on each one
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”</p> <p><i>Acts 1:8, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>I have received power from heaven.</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, "Who Is Jesus?"

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Jesus has the power of the Holy Spirit to do the works of God. HE went away into heaven so that he could send the Holy Spirit to live inside of us so we could receive the power of the Holy Spirit too!

Jesus had to die on the cross, be raised to the dead, and then ascend into heaven to be able to send us the Holy Spirit.

40 days after Jesus rose from the dead, something happened.

Distribute a variety of party noisemakers to students to help bring the Bible story to life. Leave one group of students, about a quarter of the group, without any noisemakers. Assign the following noise cues to children according to the noisemaker they receive (you may adapt which noisemaker goes with each cue according to your props.) Instruct the students without noise makers to speak jibberish or words in a foreign language when they hear their cue word.

Cue Word	Action
LOUD or NOISY	Whistles or other party noisemaker
LANGUAGES	Speak in jibberish or foreign language
SPIRIT	Shakers or maracas
WIND, FIRE, CLOUD or STORM	Party clappers

Show students a Bible and tell them that this true story can be found in Acts chapter 2.

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a NOISE from heaven like the roaring of a mighty WINDstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of FIRE appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy SPIRIT and began speaking in other LANGUAGES, as the Holy SPIRIT gave them this ability.

At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud NOISE, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own LANGUAGES being spoken by the believers.

They heard the LOUD WIND and saw the FIRE were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native LANGUAGES! Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking LOUDLY in our own LANGUAGES about the wonderful things God has done!” They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, preached to the crowd. What you see was

predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:

**'In the last days,' God says,
'I will pour out my SPIRIT upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.
In those days I will pour out my SPIRIT
even on my servants—men and women alike—
and they will prophesy.
And I will cause wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below—
blood and FIRE and CLOUDS of smoke.
The sun will become dark,
and the moon will turn blood red
before that great and glorious day of the Lord arrives.
But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.'**
**Peter's LOUD words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other
apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"**

**Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be
baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you
will receive this gift of the Holy SPIRIT. This promise is to you, to your
children, and to those far away, who speak all kinds of different
LANGUAGES—all who have been called by the Lord our God."**

Let's look at this another way.

Call up 3 volunteers.

Let's say, I am filled with power.

Tape a large piece of paper on yourself that says, "Filled with power."

**I am doing great things - things that you have never seen before, or even imagined
were possible.** Explain that Jesus did many amazing things: He cast out evil spirits, healed a
paralyzed man, calmed the storm, walked on water, and taught with great authority!

Stand close to the volunteers. Then, ask the children to share

**You love being near me because of my awesome power and incredible teaching.
Being near me is very good - there's no doubt about that. And because you are near
me, I can even give you some of my power, sometimes, to do certain tasks.**

Hand each volunteer a small piece of paper from your pocket.

But you are not filled with power; you only have it sometimes. Everyone look at me and look at my 3 friends. Notice our power.

Then, let's say the time has come for me to leave.

Walk away from them.

But when I leave, I will send you my power.

Pick up three "filled with power" signs and return to tape them on each volunteer.

You will be filled to the brim with power - enough power to do everything I had ever done, and then some! Now everyone look at the volunteers. Were they better off before I left, or now?

Take student responses.

Now they are filled with power! It was better for them that I left and sent them power!

In the same way, the resurrected Jesus ascended into heaven and returned to the Father so that we could be filled with God's power: the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit gives us the power to walk free of sin, to obey God, to worship him and make him known! We'll talk about this more in small groups.

Review the Bible verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1:8, NLT*

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.