

Name: _____

Date: _____

CHURCH BEGINNINGS AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Water baptism is for the remission of sins. God has promised the Spirit as our Helper, and wants the church to grow in love, truth, and unity.
<i>Knowledge of God</i>	God is Spirit and truth.
<i>Good Work</i>	Rely on the Holy Spirit to strengthen and help us as our personal Teacher. After baptism, we must say “no” to sin and put on Christ. We can be witnesses of the Lord by relying on the Holy Spirit.

A. Jesus’ Command, Promise, and Ascension (Acts 1:1–11)

After spending three years with Jesus, the apostles were abruptly separated from Him when He was crucified. Many had already returned to their old lives when Jesus appeared before them again three days later, alive and risen. He then spent forty days with them teaching and instructing them (Luke 24:46–49), and when He departed once again, this time they were neither afraid nor idle. Instead, they obediently gathered in Jerusalem, praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5).

B. The Holy Spirit’s Arrival (Acts 2:1–13)

The day the Holy Spirit arrived was the Day of Pentecost, which meant that not only were Jesus’ followers gathered together, but also “devout men, from every nation under heaven,” who had returned to Jerusalem to celebrate the Pentecostal feast (Acts 2:5).

C. Peter Speaks Boldly (Acts 2:14–41)

This day was a turning point in the history of the church. Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, preached boldly of God’s plan of salvation through the death of Jesus Christ. His words were so powerful that those who listened were cut to the heart and humbly asked Peter what they should do (Acts 2:37). That same day, around three thousand were baptized and added to the early church.

D. The Church Grows (Acts 2:41–47)

There were many components to the growth of the church. Key among these was that the early church studied the truth and followed Jesus’ teachings. Further, they abided in the truth in unity. This is only possible because of prayer, through which God opens the doors to the gospel and directs our hearts and minds to His will (Col 4:2–4).

Life Application

1. Why Do I Need the Holy Spirit?
 - a. The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper and Teacher
 - b. The Holy Spirit Strengthens Us
2. Why Do I Need Water Baptism?
 - a. Say “No” to Sin
3. We Are All Witnesses of the Lord

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 1 Homework Assignment

Church Beginnings and the Arrival of the Holy Spirit

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Acts 2:38):

1. What steps are necessary to receive the Holy Spirit?
2. What did the disciples do after returning to Jerusalem following Jesus Christ's ascension? What can we learn from them?
3. What are two key lessons we should remember regarding the promised Holy Spirit?
4. What are the key components of the early church's growth?
5. What are the effects of water baptism?
6. Have you ever felt the power of the Holy Spirit guiding you? If you have not yet received the Holy Spirit, have you ever felt God's guidance at a particular time in your life?