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# Game and Lesson Introduction

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**Lesson Opening:** In this story, the Holy Spirit helper came to the disciples, just like Jesus had promised. The events of Pentecost are remarkable: flames on heads, speaking in other languages, enthusiasm and excitement...this could only come from God! Celebrate the story. Sprinkle some of these bonus items in before, during, or after the Scripture exploration.

Here are some potential activities to enjoy...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- Try your hand at some language fun! Pick a foreign language, and learn some new words in it. Learn about the culture and people who speak that language, too.
- Make a fun craft to accompany the story (see ideas below). You can also make some "blown painting" by using a straw to spread paint across a paper (hint: cover your work area well!)
- Light some candles! With supervision, of course...
- Have a windy race...Using a straw, see how fast you can blow a ping-pong ball or pom-pom from one side of a room to the other!
- Fill a balloon with air...let it go, and see where it lands! With multiple people, see whose balloon can reach farthest across a playing area.
- Some people call Pentecost the birthday of the church. Celebrate with party favors and classic birthday games (pin the cross on the steeple? Get creative!).

Explain that Jesus had promised, before going to Heaven, that He would send the Holy Spirit for the disciples. He kept that promise, and in this lesson we will explore how Pentecost energized people to spread the Gospel good news. This message was not just for the early church, but for us, too, as we shine God's love to one another.

**Ask:** The Holy Spirit entered like a rushing wind...what is so important about air? (It gives us life! We have to breathe...God gives us life, too!)



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# Snack Ideas for this Lesson

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Make yourself a "flame in a cup" with some fire-colored fruits or veggies like strawberries, oranges, carrots, and peppers.

- Have some flaming hot Cheetos!
- It's the birthday of the church...enjoy some cupcakes!
- Top crackers with orange and yellow cheese
- The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove...how about some Dove chocolates?!

