

▶ LESSON 6.2: THE CHURCH BEGINS

STUDENTS STUDIED:

- » Acts 1 and 2
- » Acts 3 and 4
- » Acts 5
- » Acts 6 and 7

ADDITIONAL READING:

- » Ephesians 5:15–21

STUDENTS MEMORIZED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING VERSES:

- » Acts 1:8*
- » Acts 2:42
- » Ephesians 5:17–18

Students Learned the Following Definitions:

HOLY SPIRIT: third person of the Trinity. He convicts us of sin, comforts us and guides us to be more like Christ.

PENTECOST: originally an agricultural festival celebrating the Feast of Weeks/Feast of Harvest 50 days after Passover (Exodus 23:15; 34:22–23). Christians celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter, recognizing the day the promised Holy Spirit came and formed the Church (Acts 2).

GOSPEL: “good news”; originating from the Greek New Testament word *euangelion*, which gives us the English words evangelical and evangelism; specifically speaks of the news of salvation through Christ (Romans 1:1–4, 16; Ephesians 1:13)

SADDUCEES: a small group of Jewish aristocrats who held the priesthood and ruling influence in the Sanhedrin; they derived their authority from the activities of the Temple, rejecting doctrines not in the law.

SANHEDRIN: the Jewish religious high court, consisting of 71 members and dominated by the priestly Sadducees with a Pharisaic minority⁸

TRINITY: God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit existing in one substance, one power and one eternity.⁹

STONING: killing by attacking with rocks and stones, usually at the hands of an authoritative religious or legal group, or sometimes by a mob

MARTYR: a person who dies for their faith or values

DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
Students learned about the Holy Spirit’s arrival during Pentecost and how He indwells Christians forever.	Students explored what life was like for the early Church and thought about how they could live boldly for Jesus.	Students delved into the importance of honoring the Holy Spirit, a member of the Trinity.	Students took a closer look at what absolute truth means and how it impacts the life of a Christian.
They read about Jesus’ promise to His followers that the Holy Spirit would come upon them, making His arrival during Pentecost. Then they thought about how the Holy Spirit’s arrival impacts their lives.	They contemplated Peter and John’s boldness to declare Jesus to anyone they met, despite being persecuted for their faith, and how the apostles’ courage impacted fellow believers to pray to be bold, too.	They also learned about the consequences experienced by Ananias and Sapphira, a couple who willingly lied to the Holy Spirit and were killed for their sin.	They considered the life of the first Christian martyr, Stephen. They read how he set aside earthly desires in pursuit of sharing the truth — God’s Word — with the people around him, even when they didn’t want to hear the truth.

IDENTITY INSIGHT:

When I trust in Jesus, I am a new creation. The Holy Spirit dwells in me, teaching me how to live for Christ and boldly witness.

Students circled which verse they chose to memorize.

ACTS 1:8*

ACTS 2:42

EPHESIANS 5:17-18

DISCUSSION

► SHARE

Think about an area of your life where the Holy Spirit is helping you to become more like Jesus. Share your experience with the group.

► ASK

The Holy Spirit actively worked in the lives of the first Christians in amazing ways, but He is still active in the lives of Christians today. Most importantly, He shows people the truth of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 2:14). Ask students if they would like to share how the Holy Spirit showed them they needed Jesus.

► ACT

Encourage students to find a Christian mentor at their local church who is willing to talk about the Holy Spirit with them and read John 14:15-31 together.

TEACHING NOTES:
