



SESSION AIM

Help the group understand how Jesus promised the Holy Spirit, prepared His disciples, and established the foundation for the coming of the Church.



BIG IDEA

Before Pentecost, Jesus promised the Spirit, prepared His disciples, and instructed them to wait for power from on high to fulfill His mission.



RESOURCE CLUSTER:
The Launch of the Church



WORKBOOK SECTION:
“Before Pentecost: The Promise and Preparation (Matthew – John)” pp. 22–32



SUGGESTED TIME:
45–60 Minutes

TEACHING FLOW (Follow These Steps in Order)

1



READ SCRIPTURE

- Read key passages together.
- Invite God’s Spirit to guide understanding and teaching.

KEY PASSAGES

Matthew 28:18–20
John 14:15–31
John 15:26–27
Acts 1:4–5

2



EXPLAIN WORKBOOK SECTION

- Present the doctrinal content from the workbook.
- Move through the section: promise → preparation → instruction.

WORKBOOK REFERENCE

“Before Pentecost” pp. 22–32

3



EMPHASIZE KEY TRUTHS

- Highlight the theological emphases of this period.
- Keep Christ and His mission at the center.

SEE RIGHT COLUMN

Key Emphases for This Lesson

4



USE VISUALS TO TEACH

- Use timelines and charts to clarify chronology and relationships.
- Let visuals reinforce key truths.

RECOMMENDED VISUALS

See Right Column and RC Visuals

5



CLARIFY COMMON CONFUSIONS

- Address likely misunderstandings.
- Strengthen accuracy and clarity.

SEE RIGHT COLUMN

Common Confusions

6



FACILITATE DISCUSSION

- Use the discussion questions to engage the group.
- Encourage thoughtful participation.

SEE BELOW

Discussion Questions

7



APPLY AND RESPOND

- Guide the group to apply truth to life and mission.
- Close in prayer and commitment.

SEE BELOW

Application and Prayer Focus

KEY EMPHASES FOR THIS LESSON



Jesus Promised the Holy Spirit
The Spirit would come as the Helper (John 14:16–17, 26).



Jesus Prepared His Disciples
He taught them about the Spirit, His work, and their mission.



Jesus Instructed Them to Wait
They were to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4–5).



The Mission Was Already Given
The Great Commission came before the power to fulfill it.



The Foundation Was Laid
Promise, preparation, and instruction precede the outpouring.

COMMON CONFUSIONS

- The Spirit was not active before Pentecost.**
The Spirit was active throughout Scripture but had not yet been poured out in this new way.
- The Great Commission waited until Pentecost.**
The command came before; the power came at Pentecost.
- The disciples fully understood everything.**
Many things were not clear until after the resurrection and the Spirit’s coming.

RECOMMENDED VISUALS

- Matthew → John → Acts 1 Timeline Promise, Preparation, Instruction
- The Promise of the Spirit (John 14–16) Key Passages Chart
- Before and After Pentecost Comparison

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What promises did Jesus make about the Holy Spirit?
- 2 How did Jesus prepare the disciples for His coming and ascension?
- 3 Why was it important for the disciples to wait in Jerusalem?
- 4 How do promise, preparation, and instruction work together in God’s plan?
- 5 What does this teach us about obedience and timing in God’s purposes?
- 6 How does this foundation lead to the events of Pentecost?

APPLICATION

- Trust the promises of Jesus fully.
- Be prepared through His Word and teaching.
- Obey His instructions and wait on His timing.
- Remember that the mission comes with the power of the Spirit.
- Live in expectation of God’s purposes.

PRAYER FOCUS

Thank the Father for the promises of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Spirit to help us trust, obey, and wait well so we can fulfill God’s mission in the power He provides.

RELATED RC RESOURCES

WORKBOOK
“Before Pentecost: The Promise and Preparation (Matthew – John)” pp. 22–32

GLOSSARY TERMS

- Holy Spirit
- Promise
- Preparation
- Ascension

VISUAL THEOLOGY

- Matthew–John–Acts 1 Timeline
- Promise of the Spirit Chart
- Before and After Comparison

ARTICLES & MEDIA

- The Preparation of the Disciples
- The Promise of the Spirit
- Waiting in Jerusalem

FUTURE ADDITIONS
Videos, podcast episodes, and teaching media will be added.



IMPORTANT REMINDER: Fireproof Studies resources are designed to work together as interconnected theological learning tools rather than isolated documents. The more you use the tools together, the deeper and clearer your understanding—and your teaching—will become.

