

# 2025 | **LESSON FOR OLDER CHILDREN** (Third – Fifth Grade) **APRIL 21–JUNE 8**

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## Objectives:

- Learn more about the Pentecost Special Offering and who it helps.
- Understand what it means to be “at-risk.”
- Explore how the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and Christian Scriptures (New Testament) connect through the story of Pentecost

## Materials:

- Whiteboard or Flip Chart
- Sharpies or Dry Erase Markers
- Pentecost Special Offering Poster
- Pentecost Coin Boxes
- Bibles (preferably different, easy-to-read translations)
- Red and Yellow Paper Bookmarks (1 red and 1 yellow per child)
- Activity Materials (from the Pentecost Activities Sheet)

## Welcome and Introduction

(5–7 minutes)

### Say:

“Pentecost is coming up soon, and today we’re preparing for that special day. We’re going to learn more about the Pentecost Special Offering — how it helps others — and explore a connection between two parts of the Bible: the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures.”

### Ask:

- “Does anyone know what the word *Pentecost* means?”

- “Have you heard about the Pentecost Offering before?”  
(Allow time for responses, affirming their answers.)

### **Explain:**

“We’ll start by reading from the Bible and learning about Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost in the New Testament, where he talks about something the prophet Joel said long before in the Old Testament. We’ll also think about what it means for someone to be ‘at-risk’ and how we can help.”

## **Scripture Time:**

(10–12 minutes)

### **Step 1: *Finding and Bookmarking the Scriptures***

1. Ask the children to find the book of Joel in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).
  - Once they find it, have them place their red bookmark in Joel 2.
2. Then, guide them to find Acts in the New Testament.
  - Once they find it, have them place their yellow bookmark in Acts 2.

### **Step 2: *Reading the Scriptures***

- Joel 2:18–19, 27–29: Ask a volunteer to read aloud.
- Discussion Questions:
  - “What feelings do we hear God expressing in these verses?”
  - “Have you ever thought about God having feelings like we do?”
  - “Can anyone name a time when Jesus showed emotions?”  
(If no one responds, assure them it’s OK and mention that you’ll revisit this topic another time.)

### **Step 3: *Understanding Pentecost***

#### **Explain:**

- “Pentecost is a holiday celebrated by both the Jewish and Christian faiths, but for different reasons.”
  - “In the Jewish faith: Pentecost (Shavuot) celebrates the wheat harvest and receiving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, 50 days after Passover.”
  - “In the Christian faith: Pentecost marks the day the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus’ followers in Jerusalem. On that day, Peter preached a sermon, quoting the prophet Joel. Everyone who heard him understood how important those words were because they had also participated in the Shavuot celebration. By the end of the day, 3,000 people were baptized as followers of Jesus!”

## Looking at the Pentecost Poster

(10–12 minutes)

### Step 1: Focus on the Poster

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the words in the Pentecost logo: *Children at Risk – Youth – Young Adults*.

### Step 2: Define “At-Risk”

Ask:

“What do you think ‘at-risk’ means?” (Write their answers on the whiteboard or flip chart.)

If they get stuck, use these prompts:

- “If a child is homeless, are they at risk?”
- “What kind of risks do children face if they live far from a grocery store?”
- “Could a child who is homeless have trouble doing well in school?”

### Step 3: Discussion

Ask:

“Can you think of ways our congregation can help children who are at risk?”

Write their ideas on the whiteboard. Encourage practical responses:

- “We could collect food for families who don’t have enough.”
- “We can raise money for school supplies.”
- “We can give to the Pentecost Offering to help kids in need.”

## Who Else Does the Pentecost Offering Help?

- In addition to helping at-risk children, the Pentecost Offering supports youth and young adults.
- **Who are young adults?** They could be college students, people who finished college, or those who didn’t go to college at all.
- Young adults may also experience food insecurity, and congregations can support them by running food pantries.

Did you know?

- A congregation keeps **40%** of the Pentecost Offering it receives, including the coins the children collect.
- Other Special Offerings, like One Great Hour of Sharing and Christmas Joy, do not allow congregations to keep a portion.

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## Why This Matters

- The four Special Offerings of the PC(USA) support people in need worldwide, not just in the U.S.
- When we give, we follow God's call to care for others, regardless of age or location.
- The Pentecost Offering helps provide homes, food, and education — important needs for all of God's children.

**Final Thought:** “How can each of us contribute to helping others through this offering?”

## Closing Prayer

**Say:**

“Let's take a moment to pray together.”

**Prayer:**

“Loving God, we thank you for the gift of Pentecost and for sending your Holy Spirit to guide us.

Help us to remember those who are in need, especially children, youth, and young adults who face hardships.

Open our hearts to be generous and caring, so that we may share your love with others.

Bless our efforts in supporting the Pentecost Special Offering  
and inspire us to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.”

**Activities are found on the Pentecost Activities Sheet.**



### QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact us at

**800-728-7228, ext. 5047**

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[pcusa.org/oghs/resources](http://pcusa.org/oghs/resources)