

Stories of Jesus Easter to Pentecost

The Holy Spirit is Given: Pentecost

Story: Jesus gives the Holy Spirit to His children

Passage: Acts 1:11; 2:1-41;

Main idea: The Holy Spirit gives us power to believe, love and serve Jesus

Important Events to remember and celebrate:

Passover – now the Last Supper, the Lord's Supper

Jesus' death on the cross – Good Friday

Jesus' resurrection – Easter Sunday

40 days later Jesus ascended to His Father in heaven – Ascension Sunday

10 days later the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and those gathered with them – Pentecost Sunday

Before His ascension to heaven and to His Father, Jesus told the disciples and other believers to wait before they went into the world to tell the Good News.

Now the promise that Jesus had given was fulfilled.

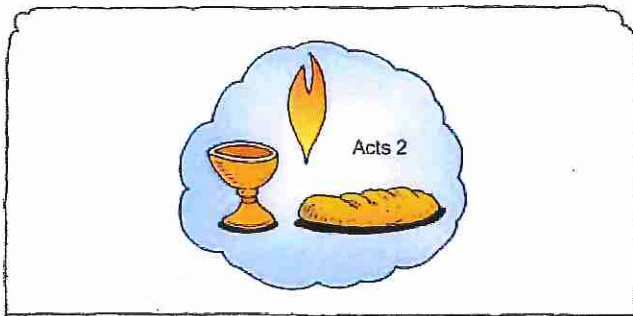
The Holy Spirit had come. He had filled the believers with faith.

This is what He does today.

We tell children that Jesus lives in hearts by the Holy Spirit.

Preschool and grade school stories and activity sheets follow.

The Holy Spirit Comes Pentecost



1. Before Jesus went up to heaven He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem. He was leaving them but the Holy Spirit was coming.



2. Ten days later Jesus' friends waited together in an upstairs room. Jesus had told them not to leave yet.



3. While the disciples and many other people waited in the room suddenly they heard the sound of a very strong wind. It was not the wind. It was not a storm. It was the Holy Spirit sent from God.



4. The people heard the noise and then they saw something that looked like a flame of fire over each person's head. The fire meant that God had sent His Holy Spirit.



5. The fire didn't burn. The flames were bright and filled the air. The Holy Spirit had come.



6. Now the Holy Spirit filled their hearts with faith and with God's love. Now they had power to trust and love Jesus.

We say that Jesus lives in the hearts of His children by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us power to believe that Jesus is God. He is our Savior and Lord.

Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes

Acts 2:1 - 41



We believe in only one true God. He is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told His disciples: "I will ask the Father,
and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever the Holy Spirit of truth."
Jesus said that soon He would leave them. He was going to prepare a home for them with His Father. The
disciples did not want Jesus to leave them. They thought that they would be all alone.

But Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to them – to live in their hearts by faith.

The Holy Spirit brings us comfort and He reminds us of Jesus and His Word.
The Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. The Holy Spirit fills our heart with love for Jesus.

Have you ever had something in your eye and you couldn't see very clearly?

The disciples were with Jesus but they had blurred vision. He was there – healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding the crowds, stopping the storms – and they were amazed, but sort of confused. They just weren't sure who He really was.

Think about what else they had witnessed:

Jesus had been crucified, just as He said.

Then He had risen again, just as He said.

40 days later He ascended, covered by clouds, into God's throne room right before their very eyes, just as He said.

And now they were waiting, they were in Jerusalem waiting.

WAITING is NO FUN! Do you like to wait? Ever? For anything?

What happens when you are waiting? Sometimes you get discouraged. Sometimes you forget why you are waiting.

Why were the disciples waiting?

Jesus had told them to GO into all the world and TELL everyone about the Savior who had come.

But He said: Not yet! He told them to WAIT in Jerusalem.

Did they remember what they were waiting for? Maybe a better question to ask is: Who were they waiting for?

Jesus had said that He was leaving the earth but He wasn't leaving them. He would be with them – in a better way than ever before.

That's hard to imagine isn't it?

Jesus told them that He would send His Holy Spirit to be with them.

The Holy Spirit was in the OT. The disciples knew some things about the Holy Spirit. Now they were supposed to wait for Him to come.

What would that be like?

They were in Jerusalem. Waiting.

Ten days had passed since Jesus ascended to the right hand of God's throne where He was ruling and reigning as King.

Jerusalem was crowded. Jews had come from all over – east, west, north, south to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. This is a celebration after the barley and wheat harvest.

The first loaves of bread were given to the Lord by the priest.

Were the disciples thinking that this would be a perfect time for the Holy Spirit to come?

Well, the Lord planned it just that way.

It happened like this:

The disciples were gathered in Jerusalem when they were overwhelmed by the sound of a rushing wind. But there was no wind. Nothing was blowing. And then it was over. It was loud, so loud that the large crowds of people heard it too.

But what remained was quite amazing. Flames of fire had descended and rested on everyone's head.

What does fire do? It purifies – if you want to have pure gold, then you put gold into the fiery furnace. All of the impurities are burned away and all that remains is gold. Fire burns away the bad and leaves the good. Think about what the fire might have been purifying.

Something else happened too. The disciples started praising God in different languages, not languages they knew but languages that those who had come to Jerusalem spoke. The foreigners were astonished. And so were the disciples. How could this be? Only the Lord could do something so marvelous.

Peter then spoke to the crowd, the crowd that had gathered because of the rushing wind. He assured them that what Joel, a prophet in the OT had said, was being fulfilled. Joel had said that the Holy Spirit would come into hearts and fill them with faith.

Peter told the people that God had shown them miracles and signs and wonders through His Son Jesus. Jesus had been put to death, but death could not keep Him. Now was the time to "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ." Everyone who repented and believed on the Lord Jesus would be saved. If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Now the disciples knew what Jesus meant. The Holy Spirit had come and come into their hearts. For the first time the Holy Spirit came to live *inside* His children. The Holy Spirit puts faith into hearts. You can't believe on your own.

You know, you and I don't need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

If you repent and believe in Jesus, if you call on His name to save you, then you have the Holy Spirit already.

You can't repent and believe if the Holy Spirit is outside of you.

The fire is not on your head, it is in your heart.

Sin is being burned away. You are being purified. Your faith is growing. You love Jesus and trust in Him. You love His Word, the Bible. And you want to know Him more. Your love for others is growing too.

The blurred vision was now crystal clear.

The Holy Spirit opened the disciples' eyes and He opens our eyes to see Jesus clearly.

The Holy Spirit fills hearts with faith.

Acts 2

Pentecost: Empty / Filled

MAY 31, 2020

¹When the **day** of **Pentecost** came, they were all together in one place.

²Suddenly a **sound** like the blowing of a violent **wind** came from heaven and filled the **whole** house where they were sitting.

³They saw what seemed to be **tongues** of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak** in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven.

⁶When they **heard** this sound, a crowd came **together** in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his **own** language.

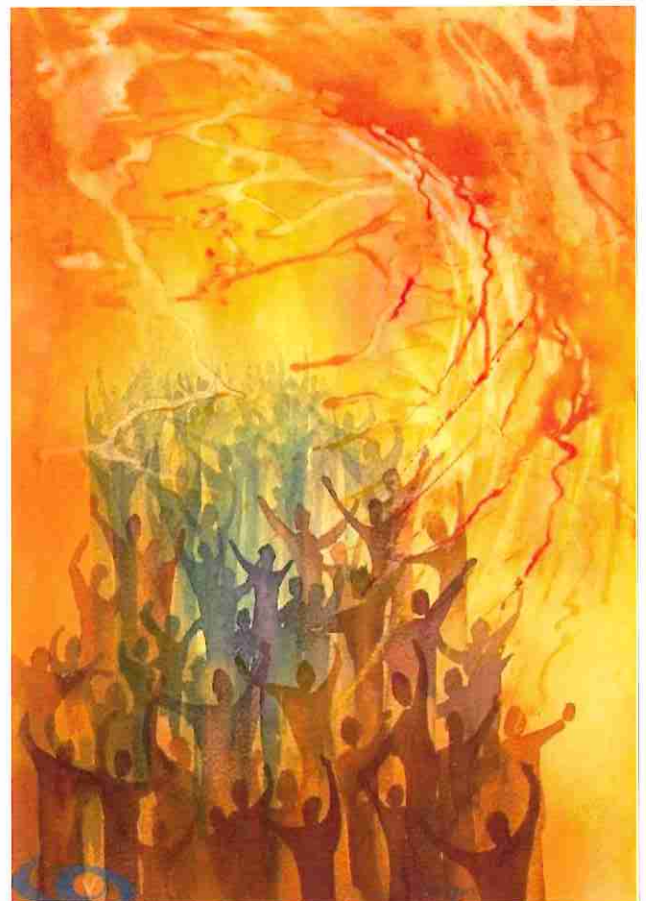
⁷Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"

⁸Then how is it that each of us **hears** them in his own **native** language? --we hear them declaring the **wonders** of God in our own tongues!" ¹²Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹I will show wonders in the **heaven** above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the **moon** to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T
T	O	N	G	U	E	S	P	O
H	E	A	R	D	M	O	E	G
W	H	O	L	E	O	U	A	E
H	E	A	R	S	O	N	K	T
H	E	A	V	E	N	D	N	H
N	A	T	I	V	E	X	O	E
W	O	N	D	E	R	S	W	R

As Jesus went up to His throne in heaven, the Holy Spirit came down. The tomb was empty because Jesus conquered death. The tomb was empty but hearts were full. Jesus filled their hearts and He fills our hearts with His Holy Spirit. The fire of the Holy Spirit sets our hearts on fire with love for Him and for others. Now Christ shines in us and through us to the world that needs the light of Christ.



PENTECOST: RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BELIEVING IN JESUS

Help the people get to Peter

