

MAIN POINT:

Acts: The Holy Spirit Empowers

After Jesus died and rose again, He spent time on earth with His friends. They talked and ate meals together. Then Jesus told His disciples to go to Jerusalem to wait for the One He had promised. So the disciples went to Jerusalem where they met others for prayer and fellowship in a house. Suddenly, a sound like a rush of wind filled the entire house, and what looked to be fire in the shape of tongues settled above each person in the room. This was the gift that Jesus had promised them: the Holy Spirit. When they opened their mouths to praise God for this incredible gift, they began to speak in different languages—languages they had never spoken before. The Holy Spirit had enabled them to speak these languages. They used this new gift to speak to the crowds of people that had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Pentecost. The crowds were amazed to hear their own foreign languages being spoken.

When Peter came out to address the crowd of people, he told them that Jesus was killed by evil men, He had risen from the dead and ascended to Heaven. The people in the crowd, being convicted by the Holy Spirit, cried out to Peter asking what they needed to do to be saved. Peter shared the Gospel message with them: turn from sin, turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

About 3000 people who heard Peter's message that day believed and devoted themselves to the disciples' teaching. This was the beginning of the church.

Through Pentecost, we learn that the presence and power of the Holy Spirit lives inside all believers. He helps us use our spiritual gifts, unites all believers, helps us to pray and guide us. Also, Pentecost reminds us that the church matters and is part of God's plan to reach the nations. Believers come together to share life together, teach one another, to have community and pray. The Holy Spirit is with all believers, helping us to grow in Him and to use us to reach those who don't know Jesus.

FAMILY DISCUSSION:

1. **If you had to go back in time to experience an event in history, what would it be?**
(Share your own answer. Encourage your student to answer.)
2. **Let's read Acts 2:1-12 together.** (Read passage.) **What words/phrases stood out to you?**
Verse 4 talks about the Holy Spirit. Who is the Holy Spirit for? What is His purpose?
(When a person makes a decision to repent of their sins and follow Christ, the Holy Spirit fills them. The Holy Spirit is God – part of the Trinity – and gives us Spiritual Gifts. He helps us pray, intercedes for us with God the Father. He guides us, convicts us, and helps us be more like Jesus. -> Listen and thank everyone for
How have you seen the Holy Spirit working in your life?
3. **Verses 5-12 talk about people hearing their own language. How do you think the people visiting Jerusalem described their experience at Pentecost to people back in their home towns?** (Listen and share.)

4. Pentecost was the beginning of the first church gathering. What does it mean to be the gathered church? How can we build up, contribute to, and encourage the gathered church? (By using our Spiritual Gifts, praying for one another, sharing what we have.)

5. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly and clearly explained the Gospel to a large group of people. If your friends at school, students on your sports team, or kids in your neighbourhood asked you to explain your faith to them (who Jesus is and why you follow Him), what would you say? (*Encourage answers.*)

FAMILY PRAYER:

I am going to read some passages of scripture to focus us on our mission as followers of Jesus. Then I will bless you.

*“In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)*

“So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end” (Matthew 28:19-20)

(Student’s name), may you know that you are part of God’s plan to see people come to know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. He will equip and empower you to be His witnesses wherever you go. May the Holy Spirit guide your thoughts, words, and actions as you go today. God loves you and wants to use YOU for His glory!