

Feast of Pentecost

The Holy Spirit comes

INTRODUCTION

Today is Pentecost, which the Jews celebrated fifty days after the Passover. Today we celebrate the birthday of the Church and hear how Jesus sent his Holy Spirit to the disciples, just as he had promised to do.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles, and then read:

Jesus said, "Let your goodness shine out like a light in the darkness, so that through you, the love of our heavenly father will touch the lives of others." (Matthew 5:16)

SORRY

Think about the words of this song, and remember that God our father will always forgive us if we are truly sorry. Sing Sorry Song 4.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

May the love of God's spirit burn in our hearts.

READING (ACTS 2:1-42)

The disciples had gathered together in Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. As they were praying together, the room was suddenly filled with the sound of a powerful wind which roared through the house. Then, what looked like small tongues of fire appeared and spread out to touch each one of them. So it was that they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

At once, in their excitement, they rushed outside to tell everyone what had happened to them. As they began to speak, they were amazed to find that they could talk in foreign languages that they had never spoken before. People from lands far and wide gathered in a crowd to listen to these men from Galilee. They were amazed and came to believe in Jesus.

So it was, from that day onwards, the disciples went around telling everyone about Jesus and

sharing all that he had taught them. They were no longer afraid, for wherever they went, Jesus went with them. Now his spirit lived inside them, and they would never feel alone again.

DISCUSSION

Ask the children to imagine they are the disciples, sitting quietly together in a room, and imagine the sounds and feelings the disciples must have felt.

What did they hear? A sudden furious wind, gusting through the room. How do they think the disciples felt when they heard and felt this mysterious wind? They probably felt surprised by its suddenness and frightened when they realized it came from inside the house.

How did the Spirit change the disciples?

—He made others understand them, even if they did not speak the same language.

—He filled them with courage and power so that they could stand up before the crowds and preach, and work miracles in God's name.

What else did the Spirit give to the disciples? He brought seven gifts: joy, love, patience, kindness, understanding, reverence (respect), courage. All these gifts helped the disciples to be able to go and spread the message of Jesus. The gifts of the Spirit help us to follow the right path on our journey through life towards heaven, and they fill us with God's goodness.

When do we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way? He comes to us first at baptism, and then his power is refreshed in us at confirmation.

ACTIVITY

Pentecost is the Church's birthday. Make one large birthday card or individual birthday cards to celebrate this special day, or wrap seven empty containers with spare wrapping paper and label each with a gift tag to represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit,
and fill our hearts with your love.
Work through us to bring Jesus
to those who do not know him,
so that we may share this love with others.

