

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:1-12, Gal 5:22

Prepare to hear the Word:

- Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Passover, was the Jewish Harvest Festival and there would have been many Jews in Jerusalem.
- We celebrate Pentecost on the fiftieth, and last, day of Easter Season.
- The symbols of Wind and Fire remind us that the Holy Spirit fills us and inspires us to become 'other Christs' who can continue Jesus' work.
- The apostles spoke in different languages, this is a reference to the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis when all the people began speaking in strange languages but they did not understand one another

You will need:

- Bone felt for underlay in house.
- Red felt underlay for when the Holy Spirit comes.
- Village background
- Puppets - for Disciples and for crowd.

When children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story, place the gold box/bag, containing the materials you will need, carefully beside you.

Place Bible beside you.

This story comes from our special book, the Bible.

Lay out the felt material as underlay in front of you with the village backdrop.

Before Jesus returned to his Father, he told his friends that the Holy Spirit be with them always.

Place disciples on the bone coloured felt in a group gathered together

On the day of Pentecost Jesus' friends were gathered together in one room.

Wave arms around gently above the disciples

Suddenly what seemed like a strong wind shook the house

Place hands above the heads of the disciples

Then they saw what looked like small flames above each other's heads.

Place the red felt underlay on the bone felt. Say with reverence and allow time for silence

They knew that the Holy Spirit had come.

Move figures around so that they are on the on the red felt

All of them started to speak in languages that they hadn't spoken before. But everyone could understand what they were saying.

Move figures around so that they are talking to one another

But what really convinced them that it was the Holy Spirit was that – THEY FELT DIFFERENT. They were not frightened any more. They were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Add a number of other figures

A big crowd had gathered outside.

Place one of the figures outside with the crowd

Peter was filled with courage. He went out and told them about Jesus.

There were other ways that people could see that the Holy Spirit had come too...

When the Holy Spirit was there, they were full of, peace, joy and happiness. They were loving, kind, patient and faithful in all they did.

The Word of the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

I Wonder:

- I wonder how the disciples felt when the wind filled the room?
- I wonder how the disciples felt when they saw the flames above their heads?
- Peter was the leader of the group, I wonder how he felt?
- I wonder how the crowd felt as they listened to Peter?
- I wonder who you would like to be in this story?

The Coming of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:1-12

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak. Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said:

Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.

Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, "What does all this mean?"

Galatians 5:22

22God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful,

Prepare to hear the Word: Teachers

Luke's account in Acts 2:1-12, records the dramatic events experienced by Jesus' disciples at the first Pentecost after Jesus' death. All Jesus' followers, which could have been a group of about 120 disciples (Acts 2:1-), were together in a house in Jerusalem. Those gathered together suddenly heard a sound like a strong wind which filled the house and they saw tongues of fire resting on each of them. The language reflects biblical stories of God's appearance and picks up on John the Baptist's expectations that Jesus would "baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Luke 3:16) Following this event the disciples began to speak in other tongues, but everyone who heard them could understand what they were saying. Unlike the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis, when all the people began speaking in strange languages but they did not understand one another.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians he identifies the effect of the Holy Spirit on the believers, the Fruits of the Spirit, they were loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good and faithful.