

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR PENTECOST

SUNDAY 31st MAY 2020

Last week we looked at the story of the Ascension, when Jesus left his friends and went to be with his Father. Before he left he promised his friends that he would send a special helper.

They didn't have to wait long as ten days later when they were all together celebrating Pentecost, a Jewish kind of harvest festival, Jesus promise came true. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, God's special helper, it was with them and in them. This was the birthday of the new people of God, the Christian Church.

Getting Started

In the story we will hear how the Holy Spirit came to Jesus friends as 'something like flames' resting on each other's heads. Can you make a flame headband to wear when you read or listen to the story?



You will need a strip of card for the band (you could use a cereal packet or similar), measure this to fit your head. Find some 'fire' coloured paper and cut into flame shapes and stick it on your headband. You could colour the flames if you only have white paper, or use feathers or shiny things, or make one large flame and stick this in the middle.

The Story

Check out this 2 minute YouTube version [Pentecost Story](#) or read the story below.

With the sound of a whirlwind it came, rushing into the house where the followers of Jesus were gathered. There was a commotion and flames as the Holy Spirit came, resting on each of the disciples like a tongue of fire.

As it whooshed into the room, the Spirit filled them all with foreign languages, and the disciples spoke in words they didn't understand. Inspired, and with words gushing out of them, they went out into the streets.

It was the festival of Pentecost and Jerusalem was full of Jews from all over the world. When the disciples came out into the street, the crowds heard them speaking the message of Jesus in their own languages. They were amazed. 'How can this be?' they asked. 'All the followers of Jesus are from Galilee, but we can hear their message loud and clear in words we understand.'



Not everyone was impressed, though. Some listeners sneered, 'These people are drunk.' Peter, still filled to overflowing with the Spirit's power, stood up in front of all the people.

'We are not drunk,' he said. 'It's only nine in the morning. No, you are seeing and hearing what the prophet Joel spoke about in the Old Testament.'

Peter continued: 'Joel said, "God will pour his Spirit on all people; children will prophesy, and adults will see holy visions. The Spirit is for everyone, men, women and children; there will be signs in heaven and on earth, and these will be the last days. Everyone who calls on the Lord's name shall be saved."'

Like a fiery whirlwind it came, and the Spirit breathed new life into the followers of Jesus.

Thinking about it

It must have been amazing to experience the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; the story describes it as a strong wind and the Holy Spirit appeared like flames on people's heads. Before Pentecost the disciples were just a group of followers who had listened to Jesus and helped him in his ministry. Without Jesus, they didn't know what to do and were confused and frightened. That all changed on Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came, and the disciples were filled with the spirit of Jesus.

The story also tells us a lot about what it's like to be filled with the Holy Spirit and the different gifts that the Holy Spirit can give us. The disciples spoke in many languages so that everyone who was there could hear about God's love. Peter received wisdom and could teach and share clearly.

What is really amazing is that the Holy Spirit didn't come for the disciples and then go away. The Spirit still lives in the hearts of all those who follow Jesus, guiding us in the decisions we make each day. He is the comforter who calms our fears and fills us with hope.

Activities

How amazing it must have been on that first day when the Holy Spirit came, to be able to speak and understand other languages!

Can you draw lines to match the words with the language they are written in?

English

French

German

Spanish

Welsh

Japanese

Bonjour

Hola

Kon'nichiwa

Shwmae

Hello

Guten tag

Unjumble the letters to find the words from today's story. Use the letters above the numbers to find the special name for today.

WNID

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IFER

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4

Song

Check out this song, 'God is with me', https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZBhKp5_HwE

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for sending your spirit. Thank you for the amazing story of Pentecost and for your church Help us to share the good news and spread your love to one another. Amen.

