



# Jesus Sends Power From God

Acts 2:1-21

BIBLE BACKGROUND  
FOR LEADERS



## Passover

Fifty days after the Passover celebration, the Jews celebrated the Feast of Weeks, otherwise known as Pentecost. Jerusalem was crowded with Jews from many surrounding areas who had gathered in the holy city for the feast. Many spoke languages other than the Aramaic and Greek that were most common in Palestine at that time. God set the stage for a miraculous display of his power through the Holy Spirit.

We could take a long time discussing the sound, the tongues of fire, and who was present for all this as described in Acts 2:1-3, but what's important to glean from this passage is that the Holy Spirit came upon Christians in a new and powerful way, enabling them to better spread the good news about Jesus. They were filled with God's Holy Spirit.

## Speaking in Other Tongues?

We could also take a long time explaining the term "speak in other tongues" (Acts 2:4), but instead we'll simply examine the event described in this passage. The disciples were able to speak so that people from many different nations could hear them in their respective languages. Speaking in a language that the speaker had never learned does not necessarily mean that what is spoken is a message from God. In this passage, however, we're given the evidence to verify God as the source of the message: The disciples were "declaring the wonders of God."

## Peter: A Changed Man

Notice who takes the lead in verse 14 and the powerful message he gives. Could this be the same Peter who, only seven weeks earlier, had three times denied even knowing Jesus? The same Peter who had hidden with the other disciples behind locked

doors for fear? Indeed it is. Peter's experience with the risen Christ and his being filled with the Holy Spirit made Peter a new person.

## The Jesus Connection

Peter had no delusions about the source of the power. God sent the Holy Spirit to empower his people to further his kingdom. Jesus had told his followers before he ascended to heaven that they were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. They needed the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news.

When God has something big for us to do, he'll empower us to do it. And God may use us in remarkable ways if we're willing to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Pray and ask God how he wants to use your life for his glory. Trust him to empower you to accomplish his plans. You can write your prayer here.

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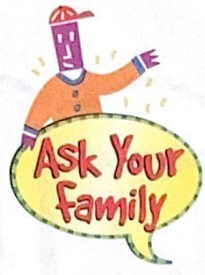
## What I learned today:

**Bible: Acts 2:1-21**

Not long after Jesus went back to heaven, his disciples were all in a room together. Suddenly, they heard the sound of a mighty wind, and they saw what looked like tongues of fire separate and rest on each of them. And then, just as suddenly, they were filled with God's Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in different languages! That was a good thing, because there were lots of people who had come to Jerusalem to worship, but they couldn't hear the good news about Jesus because no one spoke their languages. But because God sent his Holy Spirit, everyone could learn about Jesus!

**Key Verse:** The Holy Spirit will teach you (adapted from John 14:26).

**Bible Point:** God gives us the Holy Spirit.



- © Why did God give us the Holy Spirit?
- © How can the Holy Spirit help our family know more about Jesus?
- © How can we trust the Holy Spirit more this week?

### Daily Challenge

Today kids committed to one of the following Daily Challenges. Help your child weave faith into life and follow through on his or her challenge! (Have kids circle their choice below.)

- Turn on a fan in your bedroom, and thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit to help you!
- Use your Pentecost Pinwheel to retell to someone what happened when God sent the Holy Spirit.
- Read a Bible passage with a family member, and then thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help you understand his Word!



**Practice Pentecost** Make up a fun new language of your own. Then play a game with your family, and ask your family members to guess what you're saying. Then tell them what happened on the Day of Pentecost. (Don't forget to use your Pentecost Pinwheel to remind you!) Explain that when God sent his Holy Spirit, everyone was able to understand each other!

