



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.



Provide a straw and a variety of lightweight objects, such as cotton balls, tissues, or feathers. Show your child how to blow the objects across the table.

Encourage your child to see which objects go farthest, highest, fastest, and slowest. Mention that the Holy Spirit gives us power to tell others about Jesus, just as blowing through the straw gave each item the power to move.



What I Learned Today...

Bible Time: As you read the Bible verses (Acts 2:1-21) to your child this week, emphasize that the Holy Spirit is a friend given by God to help each of us. Point out that God loves your child so much that he wanted to give the Holy Spirit as a friend to teach and comfort and to help your child tell others about Jesus.

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



On a windy day, take your child outside to explore how the wind moves a pinwheel or a kite. As you



both watch things blow in the wind, talk about how the wind feels—is it cool? Or is it a warm wind? Ask your son

or daughter if the wind is blowing in his or her face. Suggest turning to face the other direction so your child can see that the direction the wind is blowing doesn't change.

Remind your child that the Holy Spirit came to teach us and give us direction.

Talk about how the wind is like the Holy Spirit. We can't see the wind, but we can feel what it *does*.



Daily Challenge

This week, your child learned

that God gives us the Holy Spirit. Your child committed to one of the following challenges to remember that the Holy Spirit helps us. Help your child weave faith into life this week and follow through on the challenge!

- When you're nervous or scared, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.
- Help your brother or sister with something, then tell him or her that the Holy Spirit helps us.

Thank you, God, for sending the Holy Spirit to help [child's name] share Jesus. Amen.

