



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.





Make "believer" puppets with your child, and let your family members' hands fill them.

Help your child design puppets on lunch bags. Use markers, construction paper, glue, and yarn. Use the puppets to retell the Bible story. Celebrate that God gave the Holy Spirit to the disciples and that God gives the Holy Spirit to us.



ASK @ How did God give the Holy Spirit to the people in the Bible passage?

@ How can you thank God for giving you the Holy Spirit?

Daily Challenge

This week, your child learned that God gives us the Holy Spirit. He or she

committed to one of the following Daily Challenges to tell others that God gives us the Holy Spirit. Help your child weave faith into life this week and follow through on the challenge!

1. Have a parent turn on a fan in your bedroom, and then thank God together for sending the Holy Spirit.
2. Retell today's Bible passage to your friends at school, and explain that God gives us the Holy Spirit.
3. Read a Bible passage with a family member, and then thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit.

What I Learned Today...

Bible Time: This week's Bible passage (Acts 2:1-21) tells us that God gives us the Holy Spirit. When Jesus' followers were together, a strong wind came from heaven and filled the place. They saw flames of fire above their heads, and they were filled with the powerful, refreshing Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped them speak in other languages. A crowd gathered around them to hear! Peter told the crowd to remember that God had promised to "pour out" the Holy Spirit, who would fill people and help them remember how much Jesus did for them because he loves them.

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



Make hard-boiled eggs with your child as a reminder that God is three in one—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, just as the egg is three in one—the shell, egg white, and egg yolk. As you eat the eggs, discuss these questions:

ASK @ How does this refreshing snack remind you that God is three in one?

@ Why did God give us the Holy Spirit?

