

Bible Story 3: THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-47

MEMORY VERSES: Romans 15:13 or 2 Timothy 1:7

BIBLE STORY:

In Jerusalem, the twelve disciples and a group of believers were together in a house on the day of the **Feast of Pentecost**. Without any warning, there was a loud sound. It sounded like a very strong wind blowing inside the house. What they saw was like tongues of fire separating and landing on each person present. Each person was filled with the **Holy Spirit** from heaven, enabling each one to speak in another language.

Outside were gathered God-fearing Jews from different nations. They heard the loud sound. They were amazed to hear the people inside the house speaking in their own homeland language. They asked, "How can these Galileans speak in our own native language? What does this mean?"

Others said, "They're drunk! They have had too much wine to drink!"

The disciple Peter stood up and replied, "Why it's only nine in the morning. They're not drunk! Long ago the prophet Joel said, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people.' What he said would happen has come to pass!"

Peter continued speaking, "Through Jesus, God worked miracles, did amazing things and gave signs. You put Jesus to death by nailing Him to the cross. But God raised Him from the dead. King David spoke about the resurrection of the Messiah, the Promised King. God has raised Jesus to life. In fact, today we are witnesses of it. We have seen Jesus with our own eyes! All the people of Israel should know beyond a doubt that God made Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and **Christ**."

After hearing this, the people were deeply touched. They asked, "What must we do?"

Peter answered, "**Repent** of your **sins**. Receive forgiveness of your sins through Jesus. Accept Jesus as Lord of your life. Be baptized."

About 3,000 people believed in Jesus as their Lord and were baptized. The believers helped those in need. Also, the believers met together in the temple courts to worship, ate together in homes, and praised God together.

Daily God added to the number of believers in Jesus.

Feast of Pentecost

was a Jewish religious observance, thanking God for the summer harvest. It was also known as Feast of Harvest.

The Holy Spirit

is the Spirit of God who:

- Guides people to God's truths;
- Dwells within the believer;
- Empowers the believer to live like Jesus;
- Enables the believer to be a witness of the Good News of Jesus.

Christ

means anointed one. It is a name for Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, the Promised King (Matthew 16:16).

Sin

is a person:

- Doing what God commands not to do;
- Behaving or thinking in a way different than God.

Repent

means to turn away from sin and to turn to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Ask questions appropriate for your group of listeners.)

PERSONAL QUESTIONS:

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

GENERIC QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Who were the main characters in the story?
4. What situation did the people face? What happened?
5. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS:

1. As the twelve disciples and believers were together in a house, how did the Holy Spirit make its presence known?
2. Outside the house, why were the people from different nations amazed?
3. What did Peter say to the crowd about Jesus?
4. After hearing about Jesus, the people asked, "*What must we do?*" What did Peter say?
5. Today, what must a person do to become a believer in Jesus?
6. The new believers helped those in need. What are some ways we can help others in need?
7. The new believers worshiped together, prayed together and had fellowship together, such as eating together in their homes. Today, should the believers do the same thing? Why?

LIFE LESSONS: (Choose Life Lessons appropriate for your group of listeners.)

1. The Holy Spirit enables the believer to be a witness about Jesus.

The Holy Spirit enabled the disciples and believers to speak about Jesus in the native language of the people outside the house. Today the Holy Spirit continues to help believers tell about Jesus, so others will understand.

2. Forgiveness of sin comes when a person repents of his sin and turns to God.

Peter said because Jesus died on the cross for our sins and God raised Jesus to life, each person can receive forgiveness of sin. How? Each person must repent, turn away from doing what God commands not to do, and turn to God.

3. A believer should have fellowship with other believers.

After the people became believers, they met to worship together, to praise God together, to pray together, and to eat together in homes. Even today, believers should join together with other believers for worship, prayer and fellowship.

PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES:

(Choose an activity or activities appropriate for your group of listeners.)

TV / RADIO INTERVIEW:

Do an impromptu TV/Radio interview.

- The leader takes the part of a TV/Radio commentator who interviews people who are in the story. This can be the leader or someone else in the group.
- Ask volunteers to act the part of a person in the story, responding in their own words to the questions asked.

Examples of persons in the story being interviewed:	Examples of questions commentator may ask:
■ One of the disciples in the house that heard the loud noise and saw the presence of the Holy Spirit	■ People told us that there was a loud sound in the house where you were staying. What happened?
■ One of the God-fearing Jews from a different nation who was outside the house	■ You were one of the people outside the house that heard a loud sound. What happened?
■ One of the persons outside the house that thought these disciples were drunk	■ You were outside the house too. What do you think happened to the people who were inside the house?
■ The disciple Peter	■ Are you and the others drunk? What happened? Who is Jesus?
■ One of the new believers	■ What did you do after Peter told you about Jesus? About how many people came to believe in Jesus? What are you as a believer doing now?

SHARE YOUR STORY:

- Ask for volunteers to share their personal story how they came to know Jesus. Allow those who are from another country to share their story in their heart (native) language.
- Ask for volunteers to tell how someone shared Jesus to them through their actions and words.
- Talk about ways believers can share Jesus with others through their words and actions.

HELP ENCOURAGE OTHERS:

- Make cards of encouragement. Give these to someone sick, an older person, a family member, friend, neighbor, and/or someone else who will be encouraged by your card(s).