



09.05.10/Acts 2

Opening Activity

Ask the children if they've ever heard someone speak in a foreign language that they didn't understand. Ask them to imagine instantly being able to understand that language without ever having had to learn it. Would it be surprising? Would they be excited? In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit comes upon the people gathered for the feast and gives them the gift of tongues—except they can understand what's being said! When the Holy Spirit moves, big things happen!

Read Acts 2

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: "'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, "'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'" "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'" Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day



about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Discussion

On the day of Pentecost, the apostles and many of Christ's disciples were gathered together in a crowd of people. The feast of Pentecost was held in remembrance of God giving the law to Moses on mount Sinai, and there were people from many countries attending. The Holy Spirit came into the crowd and gave those who followed Jesus the gift of speaking other languages. They were confused because they were all from different places, but they could understand the sayings in their native language. Some people said that those who did this had just had too much wine, but Peter, who loved and followed Jesus, stood up and explained what happened. He said that this was God pouring out His Holy Spirit onto those who loved Him, and that any who repented of their sin and believed in Jesus would be saved, and that they would also receive the Holy Spirit! Many people decided to accept Jesus' salvation that day, and they began to live their lives to honor God.

Question 1

Why was it significant for the Holy Spirit to come on the day of Pentecost?

The day of Pentecost was symbolic for the people because it reminded them of the day when Moses received the Ten Commandments (part of the Law) from God on mount Sinai. God gave the laws to Moses and to the people to show that it's too hard to live a perfect life, and we just can't do it on our own. The only one who lived a perfect life is Jesus! It's significant that the Holy Spirit came on this day because when we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit actually lives inside of us and helps us to live like Jesus lives! The Holy Spirit is God's presence within us; He helps us understand God's will for our lives, He helps us to pray, and He shows us how to honor God. He's amazing!

Question 2

What did Peter say we have to do to be saved and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Peter explains that in order to be saved, the people would need to repent. Repenting is admit to God that you are a sinner without Him and that you trust Jesus to save you and change your life. Peter also says, "be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ." The people didn't need to be baptized in order to be saved, but Peter wanted people to know that baptism is a very natural response to Jesus' gift of salvation. When we accept Jesus' gift of salvation, we get baptized as a way to say to everybody who sees it, "I believe in Jesus!"

Question 3

How do others know we have the Holy Spirit within us?

In this passage, we see that the presence of the Holy Spirit brings the special gift of tongues to the people who were there. When we trust Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives within us and gives us gifts so that we can help build His kingdom and tell more people about His love for us. Different people are given the different gifts of teaching, speaking in tongues (like today's passage), healing, praying, organizing things, and more. Isn't it great that when we love God He lets us help him care for others! God is hard at work through the people who love Him! We can do nothing on our own without Him, but when we are saved and He lives in us, we can do whatever He asks us to do!



Wrap Up

The law of the Old Testament proves to us that we can never save ourselves, but Jesus has saved us, and if we believe in Him, we too can have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, guiding and directing our lives and teaching us how to love others and build God's kingdom. If you would like to know more about trusting Jesus or you would like to begin trusting Him now, make sure to talk to your parents about it. Let's thank Jesus for giving His Holy Spirit to everybody who believes in Him and allowing them to help Him care for others!