

# HOLY SPIRIT CAME AT PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-13

## STRUCTURE

**Key-person:** Holy Spirit

**Key-location:** Upper room in a house in Jerusalem

### Key-repetitions:

- Manifestations of the Holy Spirit: sound of wind (Ac 2:2); tongues of fire (Ac 2:3); filled each believer (Ac 2:4); enabled believers to speak in other languages (Ac 2:4); each listener heard believers speak in his native language (Ac 2:6-8).
- People's actions/reactions: Jesus' followers were praying together (Ac 1:12-15; 2:1); some in the crowd were amazed (Ac 2:12); others joked (Ac 2:13).
- Hear/heard: people heard the wind sound (Ac 2:2); each person heard the apostles speaking in his own native language (Ac 2:6); people asked how could they hear the apostles speaking their native language (Ac 2:8).
- Filled: sound of wind filled the house (Ac 2:2); Jesus' followers filled with the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:4).
- All/each: tongue of fire touched each person present (Ac 2:3); all of Jesus' followers filled with the Holy Spirit (Ac 2:4); Holy Spirit gave each ability to speak in different languages (Ac 2:4); each listener heard the apostles speaking in his own language (Ac 2:8).

### Key-attitudes:

- People's awe of the Holy Spirit.
- Jews' confusion over strange events.
- People's amazement at hearing common men speak their language.
- Scorners joking that the apostles were drunk.

### Initial-situation:

The disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven. Then the disciples returned to Jerusalem where they went to a second-story room and devoted themselves to prayer. About 120 of Jesus' followers were together in an upstairs room in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

### Initial-problem:

Suddenly, a sound like violent, blowing wind came from heaven.

### Final-situation:

Listeners heard the apostles speaking in their native language. Some were amazed and asked, "What does this mean?" Others joked, "They're drunk on wine."

## BIBLE STORY

Pentecost is the fiftieth day after Passover Feast Day. It was the day of Pentecost. About 120 of Jesus' followers were praying together in an upstairs room in Jerusalem (Ac 1:12-15; 2:1).

Suddenly, a sound like violent, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the house where they were staying. Jesus' followers saw what looked like tongues of fire that separated and touched each person present. All of Jesus' followers were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave them ability to speak in different languages (Ac 2:1-4).

God-fearing Jews from every nation were present in Jerusalem. They heard this wind-like sound and a crowd gathered. Each person heard the apostles speaking in his own language. Amazed, the people asked, "Galilean men are speaking! How does each one of us hear them speaking in our own native language? What does this mean?"

Some listeners joked, "They're drunk on wine" (Ac 2:5-13).

## GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

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| 1. What catches your attention in the story?                  | 5. How did the characters face their problems?                                       |
| 2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand? | 6. How have you faced similar problems?  |
| 3. Who are the main characters in the story?                  | 7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you? |
| 4. What problems did the characters face?                     | 8. What does the story tell about God?   |

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus' followers do between Jesus' ascension and the day of Pentecost?
2. What strange things happened when the Holy Spirit came on Jesus' followers?
3. What difference should it make in the believer's life that he has received the gift of the Holy Spirit?
4. What happened that attracted the crowd to the disciples?
5. What were the different reactions of people to the strange events that accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit?
6. How do people tend to react when God does something unexpected?
7. Would someone like to share how you reacted when God did something unexpected in your life?

## LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to all of his followers.** All were full of the Spirit (Ac 2:4). The Spirit came to live inside of each believer (Jn 14:17). The Spirit does not come upon a person, and then later leave him, as often happened in the Old Testament. (See Judges 6:34; 14:6, 19; 15:14, and Exodus 35:30-31.) The Spirit always inhabits the believer, not in a sporadic way. The Holy Spirit inhabits all within

the true church (1 Cor 3:16; 12-13), while in the Old Testament, the Spirit only inhabited exceptional individuals. The presence of the Spirit fills the church with the power to spread the gospel.

2. **Pentecost was a historical event and will not be repeated.** Pentecost was a historical event, just as the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus were historical events. Just as the believer does not expect a repetition of the birth, the death, or the resurrection of Jesus, one should not hope for a new Pentecost.
3. **The Holy Spirit began to correct the confusion of the languages that happened in Babel** (Gen 11:1-9). On the day of Pentecost, Jews from every nation were present in Jerusalem, and each one heard the apostles speaking in his own language (Ac 2:7-11). Each church should be a community where the confusion of languages in Babel is corrected. In the church, there is no distinction of non-Jew (*Greek*) nor Jew. They are all the same (Gal 3:28). The leadership of the church at Antioch was composed of a mixture of races and nationalities (Ac 13:1-2).
4. **People react differently to God's manifestation of power.** Two reactions are recorded to the events of Pentecost: (1) Some were amazed and asked "What does this mean?" (Ac 2:12). (2) Others joked, "They're drunk on wine" (Ac 2:13).

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### Interactive Sharing

If you had been in the crowd on the day of Pentecost, would you have reacted more like the people who became amazed and asked "What does this mean?" (Ac 1:12), or like those who joked and said, "They're drunk on wine" (Ac 1:13)? Why?