

Hey ClubE!

I MISS you! Even though we are not gathering together in our room, we are still a community. Let's accomplish our 3 goals together this morning.

1. Watch [my short video](#) & introduction to the lesson today!
2. Sharing time! Our question today: Have you ever waited for a gift? A Christmas gift or a birthday gift? How does that feel?
3. Read the story together as a family & go through the discussion questions
4. Pray together as a family.
5. Play a game!

If you have questions or just want to share your learning, you can email me cas66852@gmail.com or text/call at 612-310-2363

STORYTIME!

It had been a few days since Jesus had gone up to heaven. The disciples were waiting for the gift that Jesus had promised of the Holy Spirit. Remember how we talked about the gift you've waited for? The disciples were waiting just like that— full of anticipation.

Let's read together from the Bible in the book of Acts to see what happened next. Open the Bible to Acts 2:2 (NirV) and read. *"Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting."*

That's kind of what it was like for the believers. There wasn't a storm outside, but they heard something from heaven that sounded like a strong wind, and it filled the room where they had gathered together.

Sit, close your eyes, what do you think that would feel like? You were so excited and then all of a sudden there was a storm.

After the believers heard the strong wind, a strange thing happened.

Open the Bible to Acts 2:3-4 (NirV) and read. *"They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. The believers were filled with God's Holy Spirit."*

Remember, Jesus had promised that He would give the disciples a gift to help them tell others about Him. This gift would help them keep going and never give up even when things seemed difficult. God had sent His Holy Spirit to be their Helper—just as Jesus had said. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives to help us in all sorts of ways. The Holy Spirit gives us strength to say no to wrong things and say yes to wise choices. God's Spirit gives us the ability to tell others about Jesus. With the Holy Spirit, we can have the determination we need to finish what we start.

Open the Bible to Acts 2:4 (NirV) and read. *"They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this."*

The believers went out to join the crowds who had arrived in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. They started telling people about who Jesus is and what He had done—just like Jesus had told them to do before He went to heaven. The people in the crowds had traveled from many different regions where a variety of languages were spoken. The people were shocked to hear the believers speaking in words they could understand. Some of the people weren't so sure about what the believers were saying. So Peter gathered everyone together and spoke to the crowd. The people listened as the Holy Spirit gave Peter the words to say and helped them understand. Peter reminded them of the amazing things Jesus had done while He was on earth. Peter explained how Jesus had died on a cross but that God had raised Him back to life!

Because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, Peter helped the people understand who Jesus is and what He had done for them. They wanted to know what they should do next.

Peter told them, "All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

That day, about 3,000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized. Anytime someone here at Hope Grove puts their faith in Jesus, it's a really big deal. We want to celebrate with them, because their life has been changed forever. Can you imagine what it must have been like for 3,000 people to put their faith in Jesus in one day? That's what happened on the day of Pentecost. Talk about a celebration! Remember, Jesus had given the disciples what seemed like an impossible mission: to tell every nation about Him. With the help of God's Holy Spirit, Peter and the other believers were able to begin the big job of telling the whole world before they even left Jerusalem! God's Spirit gives us exactly what we need. The Spirit helps us as we choose to follow God each day.

Discussion questions:

- Have you ever been scared of a storm? How do you think the disciples felt?
- The Holy Spirit is called the "Helper." Why do you think this is?
- How amazing is this gift of the Holy Spirit. What can you do with this gift? Why do we have it?
- Share one thing that you are going to do because we have the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Pray:

"God, it's so amazing to see how You gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples just like Jesus promised. When we believe, You give US the Holy Spirit, too. We know that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be determined to follow You and finish what we've started. Please help us to trust You and remember that You'll give us everything we need through Your Spirit. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

GAME TIME

Let's play a game! Today, we learned that there was a group of people who couldn't understand what the others were saying. BUT it was for a really cool reason-- the Holy Spirit!

- Encourage kids to sit in a circle so you can play the game "Telephone."

- You will whisper a phrase into one kid's ear and that person will whisper it to the person sitting next to them.
- The goal is for each person to continue the whispered phrase around the circle until the very last person attempts to say the phrase out loud.
- Make sure to tell your group whether they got the phrase correct, or let them know what the phrase should have been. Tongue Twister phrases (feel free to use your own if you have some favorites):
 1. The really rad rhinoceros ran out of raspberries.
 2. Big bully Billy better be nice to Beatrice.
 3. Sally's out of seashells, so she now sells sandwiches.
 4. Purple platypuses pick pink peonies.
 5. Hungry, hungry hippos shouldn't hang out by your homework.