



Stuck inside

We've had a lot of time at home over the last year. Lockdown has kept us in our own homes and away from other people.

In today's story the disciples were in a kind of lockdown of their own. They'd shut themselves away. They were nervous of the world outside...

It wasn't a global pandemic that kept them inside but the fact Jesus had gone.

They'd seen Him die on the cross, they'd seen Him come back to life. He'd met them, He'd walked with them, He'd eaten with them. But now He'd gone back to heaven (Acts 1). What now? What would happen to them? They'd been told to wait. So that's what they were doing. Not going anywhere...



Worth the wait

[Read Acts 2 or watch the video here.](#)
[Pentecost story clip](#)

The disciples had been waiting. It shows how much they trusted Jesus when He'd told them to stay in Jerusalem they had, despite not really understanding what was going to happen or knowing how long they might have to wait. They obviously had faith and now their trust is rewarded as He sends them a very special gift. Suddenly they don't want to be cooped up anymore- they're rushing out on the streets and telling everyone (in languages they never knew before!!) about Jesus and what He's done for them and people listen; not all of them, they face their share of ridicule but over 3,000 people hear the message of Jesus's saving love and they believe!

The church started the day as a tiny group shut away in a room, by the end of the day there's thousands of new believers. The power of God's Holy Spirit is amazing!



What do we want our children to know?

To know that Jesus didn't leave us to do life alone; He sent us the gift of His Holy Spirit.

To understand that with the Holy Spirit inside us we are filled with God's power and can do things in His strength.

To grasp that Jesus wants us to share His Good News with people around us!



Memory Verse

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." Acts 1 v8

**YOUNGER GROUPS
TEACHING**

Pass the parcel...

What does it mean for us? How can we be challenged by this story?



Well, as we begin to be allowed to mix more with friends and family we can be thinking about how we too can be sharing the good news of God's saving love with them. When we know and understand God's amazing love it's bit like pass the parcel we need to keep passing it on until everyone's had the chance of unwrapping it for themselves.

It can seem daunting but God's gift of the Holy Spirit wasn't just for the disciples- anyone who places their trust in Him is promised the gift of the Holy Spirit. It's a bit like the prize within the layers of the parcel. When its our turn to unwrap the gift of God's love, when we receive it and believe it, we get the prize of the Holy Spirit inside us which helps us to pass the parcel to the next person.

It means that as we organise meet ups and get together we can be praying that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit- we might not need to speak in another language to share that with the people we know and care for but we can be praying that He would equip us with the right words and actions to show people that love in a way they can hear and feel and accept for themselves.

This story can help us to know that God can do amazing things through us- remember the disciples weren't preachers or speakers, they weren't pastors or leaders... they were fishermen, tax collectors... ordinary men. Men who spent time with Jesus, who trusted Him and who received the gift of His Spirit. We might feel pretty ordinary, we might even feel less than ordinary but with God's message of saving love is for you, the gift of His Spirit is for you and He can use you to share the Good News of that amazing love to save others too!

TEATIME TEASERS

- Think of a few people you want to see come to know Jesus. Start praying for them now and for opportunities to share Jesus's love with them then plan some time to meet up now it's a little easier.
- The disciples trusted Jesus when He told them to wait... is there anything you are waiting for or have been praying for but seem to have no answer? Be encouraged that you can trust Jesus. Keep waiting on Him, even if the answer turns out to be no or something unexpected happens remember Jesus often has something far better in mind for us- it might be something unexpected!
- Why not plan a special Pentecost meal with your family. Spend time sharing times you have seen or felt the Holy Spirit at work, put on some music and praise God for the gift of His Spirit and pray for each person to be filled with the Spirit as they go out and serve Jesus everyday.

'Father God, Thank you for sending Jesus to save me. Thank you for your amazing love. Thank you that when you called Jesus home to heaven you didn't leave us here alone. Thanks for the gift of your Spirit to be with me, to live in me. Fill me Lord Jesus. Help me to share the Good News of your love with other people so that they might know and love you too! Amen'

Activities!

1

WHY NOT HAVE A GO AT READING THE STORY IN ACTS 2 AND THEN COMPLETING THIS FUN ACTIVITY SHEET TO HELP YOU THINK MORE ABOUT THE STORY... DON'T WORRY IT'S DEFINITELY NOT A BORING ONE!

PENTECOST CARTOON CHURCH ACTIVITY SHEET

PENTECOST

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2

BAKE A CAKE! THEN LOOK AT THE LINK BELOW TO SEE HOW THIS HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES US TO DO MORE THAN WE CAN DO ALONE- WE MIGHT HAVE ALL THE INGREDIENTS BUT IT TAKES HIS POWER TO ENABLE US TO DO SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL! (DON'T FORGET TO ADD CANDLES- IT'S PENTECOST AFTER ALL!)

PENTECOST CAKE EXPLANATION

ALTERNATIVELY BAKE PENTECOST CUPCAKES WITH STRAWBERRY 'FLAMES' TO SHARE AROUND WITH OTHER PEOPLE. PRAY AS THEY EAT THEM THEY'D BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT TOO!



3

WHY NOT CHALLENGE YOURSELF AND LEARN TO SAY 'HELLO!' IN AS MANY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

