

Flames of Fire

Acts 1:4-11; Acts 2; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 35-46

Have you ever had to wait for something that you really wanted? Did time seem to drag, or did it fly by? Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy Spirit, but He didn't tell them when. He just told them to wait in Jerusalem. While they waited, time passed slowly. They wanted to tell others about Jesus, but something was missing.

Peter stood in the window. The bright morning sunshine warmed his face. *I wonder if it will happen today*, he thought. He

turned around. He looked at his friends behind him in the big room. Some of them were praying together. Some were talking quietly. All of them were waiting. Waiting for what Jesus had promised.

"Do not leave Jerusalem. Wait for the gift I told you about," Jesus had said. "In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

That was one of the very last things Jesus had told His disciples before He went back to heaven. Peter would never forget that day! One moment he had been listening to his beloved

Jesus. The next, Jesus was just taken away! Taken away to heaven! Peter and his friends had just stood there with their mouths open. And then suddenly two angels had been there beside them. "Don't stand staring up into the sky like that!" the angels said with smiles on their faces. "Jesus is going to come back again one day in the same way you saw Him go."



The Message

The Holy Spirit helps us enjoy worshiping with others.

Memory Verse

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!”

(Psalm 133:1, NIV).

And so Peter, and James, and John, and Mary (Jesus’ mother), and Jesus’ brothers, and the other believers were waiting. They weren’t exactly sure what would happen. “When the Holy Spirit comes, you will be filled with power,” Jesus had said. But what did that mean?

Suddenly Peter grabbed the windowsill. What was that? The whole house filled with the sound of a strong, rushing wind! Peter’s eyes opened wide in astonishment. What looked like flames of fire appeared in the room. Little flames touched each person. Everyone there was filled with the Holy Spirit. Everyone began to speak in other languages!

There were many strangers from other countries in the city that day. They had come to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem. A huge crowd quickly gathered outside around the house. They had heard the roar of the mighty wind. And now they heard the people inside the house speaking in their very own languages! “How is it that these people can speak our languages?” they asked one another.

Peter stood in front of the crowd and began to speak to them. He told them about Jesus. He

told them about Jesus’ life. He told them about Jesus’ death. He told them about Jesus’ resurrection. “Turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus!” Peter urged the crowd.

And 3,000 people did just that. And from then on, Peter became a mighty voice for God.



While
the disciples waited for the Holy Spirit, they prayed, they talked about Jesus, and they worshipped in the temple. (The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 35-37.)



SUNDAY

READ For family worship today, read and discuss Acts 2:5-11. See how many of the places mentioned in the text you can find on a Bible map.

PRAY Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you find ways to talk to people in your community.

DO Copy your memory verse and cut it up into a puzzle. Try to put it back together without looking at your Bible. What does the word *unity* mean?

TUESDAY

DRAW During family worship ask your family to draw a picture of two ways that the Holy Spirit helps them. (Comforter, Helper, Teacher, Encourager, Friend, etc.) Pray that the Holy Spirit will be with you everywhere you go.

DO How many things around the house can you name that create wind? How does the wind remind you of the Holy Spirit? Sing a song about the Holy Spirit before prayer.

SABBATH

DO If possible, go with your family to a windy place. Stand and let the wind blow around you. Imagine what it was like when the Holy Spirit came with the wind.

READ Read and discuss Acts 2:1-4 together.

PRAY Pray that the Holy Spirit will help you understand more about Him this week.

SING Sing together "We Are the Church, Everyone" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 143).

MONDAY

ASK During family worship today, ask someone to help you find the modern equivalents of the places mentioned in Acts 2:9-11.

ASK Ask your family members to tell about a time when the Holy Spirit helped them. Pray that you will hear and listen when the Holy Spirit speaks to you.

DO Although you cannot see the wind, count the number of times today you have seen the effect of it.

WEDNESDAY

ASK During worship, ask your family to light a fire, if possible (inside or outside). Or light a candle. Look at the flames. How do they remind you of the Holy Spirit? Ask what reminds them most about the work of the Holy Spirit.

DO Practice your memory verse puzzle.

PRAY Pray that the Holy Spirit will show you how to tell others about Jesus.

THURSDAY

THINK

During worship today think of something practical your family can do in your community to contribute to unity. Discuss together: How does the Holy Spirit bring unity? Pray for the Holy Spirit's help in your "unity project."

MAKE

Make a flag or banner with a symbol for the Holy Spirit. Hang it where the wind blows to remind you of the Holy Spirit.

DO

Try to find out how to greet people in at least three different languages.



FRIDAY

MAKE

Make "flames" out of paper and, if possible, bring a fan or hair dryer to family worship. Greet your family in different languages. Ask your family to help you act out what happened on the Day of Pentecost. Use your paper flames and fan.

SING

Sing songs about the Holy Spirit. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be with your family as you worship in church tomorrow.

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PUZZLE

Directions: To discover one lesson from the Day of Pentecost, match each face with the letter of the same face in the code grid.

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