Have you ever had to wait for something you really wanted? You asked your mom or dad and they said you had to wait awhile.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples, but they had to wait. When the Holy Spirit came, it was not at all what they expected.

The city of Jerusalem was spilling over with people. The dusty streets were clogged with noisy travelers from all over the world. People shouted and pushed their way through the crowds. Donkeys brayed. Babies cried. Thousands of Jews were visiting the holy city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost.

The disciples and many of the believers were gathered together, worshipping and praying to God. But no one in the group expected the exciting thing that was about to happen! Nothing like it had ever happened before.

Suddenly a strange sound came from the sky. It sounded like a strong, mighty, rushing wind. But it was not wind. The sound entered and filled the whole house.

Then the sound died away. The believers looked at each other. They saw what looked like tongues of fire. Spreading through the room, the fire touched each person. The Holy Spirit! The believers were suddenly filled with the Holy Spirit! They were filled with God’s Holy Spirit—just like the prophets of old! They could hardly believe what was happening! And they began to praise the Lord loudly.

The crowd outside the house grew larger. “Did you hear what I heard?” they asked each other.

Then the crowd heard something
different. It sounded as though everyone in the house was talking and shouting at the same time. Now what?

“Quiet! Listen!” A man from Syria flung his arm in the air. “I hear someone in that house speaking my language!”

“I do too!” a traveler from Egypt gasped. “Someone in that house is speaking my language!”

“Nonsense!” a rough voice spoke up. “Those people in that house are just drunk!”

“Drunk! Drunk! Drunk!” some unruly characters chanted.

Peter and the other apostles came out of the house. Peter began to speak in a very loud voice so everybody could hear him. “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem,” he began. “Listen to me, and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk, as you suppose.”

Peter then told the crowd about Jesus. He told them that Jesus had died for their sins. He told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and was now in heaven. He told them that God would forgive their sins. He promised them that they, too, could receive God’s gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people listened quietly. And many people believed what they heard. About 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus Christ!

The Holy Spirit will fill your life, too. He will help you to tell others about Jesus. With whom will you share the good news?

Memory Verse

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people” (Acts 2:17, NIV).

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The Holy Spirit has been compared to the wind. If possible, go for a walk with your family to a windy place and watch things move in the wind. As you walk, talk with your family about Bible stories you know that mention the Holy Spirit.

Sing some thank-You songs. Then thank God for sending His Spirit to be with your family.


Cut out 10 flame shapes. Write the words of the memory verse on the flames. Mix them up, then put them in the right order. Do this several times. Use this to teach the verse to your family.

If it’s a windy day, take a friend kite flying and tell them how the Holy Spirit is like the wind. If it’s not windy, see how many ways you can create a breeze.

Thank God for the ways the Holy Spirit is with you.

For worship today, read and discuss Acts 2:23–41. How many people were baptized? How many people go to your church? How many more than that were baptized by Peter? Divide the number of people who go to your church into the number baptized. How many churches like yours could Peter and the apostles have formed after the Holy Spirit came?

Think of four different ways to illustrate the Holy Spirit and share them with your family.

The Holy Spirit is also called a helper. Find three ways to help someone else today. Ask God to help you do so.

Review your memory verse.

Read John 16:13 with your family. Ask them: How will the Holy Spirit guide us? Ask each person to tell about a time the Holy Spirit helped them.

During worship, light a candle and look at the flame. Draw a picture of the flames coming to the disciples at Pentecost. Ask your family: Why doesn’t the Holy Spirit come to people as flames today?

Think about your pastor. Ask God to bless him or her with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

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