



Peter Tells about Jesus

(based on Acts 2:14a, 22-42)

It was the day of Pentecost. Jesus' followers had gathered to pray when it happened. The Holy Spirit had come on all of them. Now they were filled with power, just as Jesus had promised.

The disciples ran outside and began to tell people about Jesus. Lots of people were visiting the city. They came from many lands to celebrate Pentecost. The followers of Jesus found that the Holy Spirit helped them speak in other languages. It was incredible. A crowd quickly gathered. The people were amazed. They could all hear the good news in their own languages.

Then Peter stood up and began to speak. He spoke to the crowd for a long time. He explained that God had made a promise many years ago. God promised that one day the Holy Spirit would come on all people.

"That day has come!" Peter declared.

Then Peter told the crowd about Jesus. He told how Jesus was sent by God to teach about God's love. He explained how Jesus healed those who were sick and did other amazing things.

Then Peter talked about Jesus' arrest and death on the cross.

"But Jesus didn't stay dead," Peter shouted. "God raised Jesus up. Death couldn't hold him down. Every one of us saw Jesus alive. Now Jesus has been taken back to heaven and sits at the right hand of God. Jesus is God's chosen one."

Peter explained that now the Holy Spirit would be with everyone who believed and followed Jesus.

"This promise is for you, your children, and all the people who hear the good news of Jesus," Peter announced.

Everyone was quiet. They were all listening to Peter's story. Many, many people were baptized and became followers of Jesus that day. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit too.

When Pentecost was over, they went back to their homes in far-off lands. The Holy Spirit helped them tell the story of Jesus to others. The message of Jesus began to spread to the ends of the earth, just as Jesus had said it would.



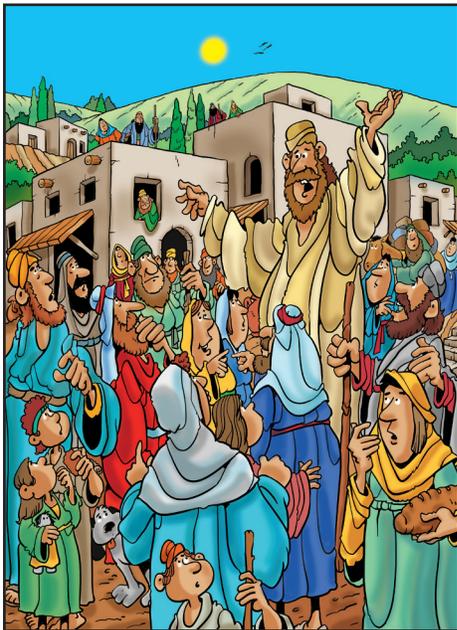
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- The Holy Spirit helped people to understand one another and to tell others about God's love without language barriers. Help your children learn "God loves you" in another language. Find help through online translation sites, from friends who speak another language, or at the library. Wonder about other barriers that stop people from sharing God's love. Ask the Holy Spirit to help your family break down barriers.
- Gather and wonder, with the story to remind you, how the Holy Spirit's power can help you show God's love. Then invite everyone to run around shouting, "We've got the power! We've got the power!"



Responding to God's Grace

- Each day sing "Spirit of the Living God" to invite the Holy Spirit to come and fill each person with the power to tell and show God's love. Find the words and tune online or in a hymnal.
- The Holy Spirit helped Peter tell the stories of God's love. Invite your children to make pocket-sized books for sharing the stories of Jesus. Cut paper into 3" by 5" pieces. Give each child a stack of paper, inviting him or her to draw a different picture of Jesus' life story on each piece until there are at least five pages. Stack the pages together, edge to edge, and staple on the left front edge to make a book. Encourage your children to use the book to share the stories of Jesus with other people.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your family identify a person or organization that could use a care package filled with God's love. Put the Holy Spirit's power to work. Bake cookies, draw pictures, and write notes to pack into the care package. Make plans to deliver the care package.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- In gratitude for the gift of the Holy Spirit and God's love for everyone, stand in a circle and pass a message from person to person, saying, "(Name), the Holy Spirit's power to share God's love is for you. Pass it on!" Continue until everyone receives and passes the message.
- Pray this prayer this week:

Holy Spirit, melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Amen.