



St Lawrence
with St Paul
Longridge



Family Activities: Sunday 31st May 2020

Receive the Holy Spirit

Introduction: Children's Church at St Lawrence with St Paul is not meeting in person at present due to the advice given by the Church of England to suspend services. However, the team is putting together a sheet each week for families to do 'Children's Church at Home' and we are also meeting on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 1045am to go through some of the activities together!

We are very grateful to the Blackburn Board of Education and their 'Weekly@' resources which we are drawing on to help us to put together each week's activities.

Please do e-mail Carolyn Barton at carolynbarton@hotmail.co.uk to be added to the Children's Church private Facebook group and/or to be sent the link to the Sundays @1045am Zoom Children's Church Meeting.

Theme: The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of Jesus's followers and helps us as we live out our lives for Him.

Setting the Scene:

Show the children lots of tools, e.g. a clothes peg, a hammer, a pen, etc. Ask them to discuss what each tool is for and see if they can match them to the corresponding pictures, e.g. the peg would be matched to a picture of clothes on a washing line, the pen would be matched to a list or a letter, etc.

Song: Sing and dance along to 'Shine' at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2xc-w8Zcbo>



Bible Passage: The Coming of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2, 1-13

Have a look at this video or read the bible passage below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>



2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. ⁴They were all filled



with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages.

⁵ There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. ⁶ When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were completely amazed at this. They said, “Look! Aren’t all these men that we hear speaking from Galilee?^[a] ⁸ But each of us hears them in his own language. How is this possible? We are from different places: ⁹ Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and those who had become Jews), Crete and Arabia. But we hear these men telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!” ¹² They were all amazed and confused. They asked each other, “What does this mean?”

¹³ But others were making fun of them, saying, “They have had too much wine.”

Questions to ask:



- 1) Which part of the story or video did you like best and why?
- 2) Who helps you get your ‘work’ done (these could be tasks at home, school work, employment, etc.)?

Talk about how we need the right tools for the right job. It would be no good trying to hang a shirt out to dry with a hammer or trying to write a letter with a clothes peg. Jesus knew that we needed equipping to do what He asks us to do.

- 3) Has anyone heard of the Holy Spirit? What is it?
In previous weeks we’ve learnt that before Jesus ascended to heaven, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to strengthen and help his followers. When somebody believes in Jesus, they are filled with the Holy Spirit and it helps them to tell others about Jesus and also fills them with the ‘fruits of the spirit’. The Holy Spirit guides us in the decisions we make each day. He is the comforter who calms our fears and fills us with hope. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Bible and helps us to understand what we read.
- 4) Earlier in the year in Children’s Church we learnt about the ‘Fruits of the Spirit’. We learnt a great song that told us that the fruit of the spirit is not a coconut, banana, cherry.....etc But can anybody remember what the fruits of the spirit are?



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Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. The Holy Spirit fills us with all these things.

Explaining the Passage (adapt for younger children):

When Jesus told his disciples that he was going to return to heaven, he promised them that he would ask the Father to send another helper to be with them. That was a wonderful promise that Jesus gave his followers, but Peter, James, John, Andrew, and the rest of the disciples weren't really sure exactly what that meant.

After Jesus had ascended into heaven, the Bible tells us that his followers were gathered together in one place. They were gathered to celebrate a festival called Pentecost when they gave an offering to God of the firstfruits of their harvest.

Suddenly, they heard a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind. Next, they saw what appeared to be tongues of fire that came to rest upon the heads of each one of them. That would have been pretty amazing if that had been all that happened, but it wasn't. The Bible tells us that, after the wind and fire, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other languages. Everyone there could understand what was being said regardless of what language they spoke.

That is an amazing story about God sending the Holy Spirit, isn't it? What is really amazing is that the Holy Spirit didn't come that one time and then go away. The Spirit still lives in the hearts of Christ's followers and the Spirit is with us here today. The Holy Spirit guides us in the decisions we make each day. He is the comforter who calms our fears and fills us with hope. The Holy Spirit speaks to us through the Scripture and helps us to understand what we read. The Holy Spirit is to help us, so let us listen to Him and do what he leads us to do.

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank you that you have sent us the power of the Holy Spirit. Please fill us up each day with the Holy Spirit that we would have the power to live for Jesus and let his light shine in our lives. Amen.”

Game:



Play “I Spy” and choose things from your home that have a job to do. e.g. oven, tap, switch, etc. Afterwards, pray together: Thank you, Lord, that you gave us your Holy Spirit to help us to be brave, have compassion, know what to say and be assured that you are with us. We have everything we need for the job you left us to do. Help us to stop trying to do it in our own strength. Amen



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Activity:



Breathe life into a balloon, and explain that just as the balloon needs to be filled to be what it was intended to be, we need the Holy Spirit to fill us so we can be all that God wants us to be. Play with the balloons!

Dancing:

Finally, some of you may enjoy dancing along to this action song, the actions are taught from 8.10 minutes into the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eewDWhwaPc&t=810s>