

# The Spirit of God – The Story of Pentecost

## Story

Fifty days after Passover there was another Jewish festival: Pentecost. Once again Jerusalem was full of Jewish pilgrims from all over Palestine and from many countries beyond its borders. Jesus' friends were all together in one room.

***room is set up with middle sized parachute***

***kids come up and meet in the "room"***

***Peter and the other friends of Jesus sit in the room, prepare a dinner table, read, play, talk...***

Mary, Jesus' mother, was among them.

***Mary comes and joins them***

All of a sudden there came a sound like that of a rushing wind,

***terrible noise with instruments***

***& parachute goes up and down wildly many times...***

and flickering tongues of fire appeared and touched each of them.

***Parachute goes up and down softly and the kids in the "room" wave red, orange and yellow scarves (flames)***

The sound was like the sound of the Spirit of God blowing like a wind over the dark heap of water at the creation of the world,

and the tongues of fire were like the flames that danced for Moses at the burning bush.

The friends were caught up,  
cradled and sent whirling by the spirit of God.  
Now they would have the courage,  
the wisdom and the energy  
to carry on the work of Jesus.  
Filled with enthusiasm they rushed out  
to meet the crowds of pilgrims gathering in the city.

***Kids put down the parachute and all in church "rush out" and scatter and dance in the room (while vivid music is played. When the music stops everyone stay where they are at the moment)***

The words came pouring out of them,  
almost as if they weren't speaking them themselves,  
almost as if angels had crept inside their heads.  
The Jews who heard them were amazed.  
They came from so many different places,  
with so many different languages.  
And yet they could all understand everything!  
It was as if each group of them  
heard the friends speaking in their own native language!

***everybody speaks in their native languages...  
they take turns saying their sentence so that everyone can hear it:  
"The spirit of God is in this place!"  
a microphone is passed from person to person so that as many people as  
like to speak, can speak the sentence: "The spirit of God is in this place!"***

The people remembered the ancient story of the city of Babel,  
of how God made its proud builders speak different languages.

They'd come to Jerusalem with a host of different languages,  
but now they could understand everything.  
Instead of fights,  
perhaps there could now be peace,  
and unity and well-being  
in place of scattering and ruin.

***Two tall people hold up a peace flag near the altar...***

Some people however, thought the friends of Jesus were drunk.  
"They've been drinking too much wine for the festival!" they said.  
And Peter spoke up for the friends.

***Peter goes to the pulpit and speaks...***

### **Peter's Speech**

**"No, we haven't had too much wine. After all, it's only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what some of our prophets were looking forward to. They said the days would come when God would pour out his Spirit on everyone, upon men and women, old and young, slaves and free. Then we would see visions and dream dreams, they said. Well, my people, those days have arrived! We have seen those visions! We are dreaming those dreams!**

**This is all because of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus set people free. He calmed the wild sea when it was driven crazy by dark forces. He sent a man's madness marching into the water. He filled the hungry, gave a blind man his sight and snatched a girl from death. Yet you turned against him, you and your**

**leaders at the temple did not want him. You handed him over to the Romans, and they crucified him.**

**We had thought that this was the end of Jesus. But it wasn't the end at all, but a new beginning. God had set Jesus free from death! And then Jesus became part of the brightness and the mystery of God.**

**Your leaders, treated Jesus like dirt, but now he shines like the gold of heaven. The Romans treated him like a criminal, yet he showed us all what it really means to be a king!"**

Peter's words cut through to the heart of the people.  
Deeply touched they asked  
what they could do in order to get things right again.  
And Peter said something like:

**"Bring your sorrow and your guilt to God, and come to us to be baptised. Then you will find the forgiveness of God, as we have, and you will also receive God's Spirit."**

### ***Peter leaves the pulpit...***

The people remembered how John the Baptist had baptised people in the river Jordan. They knew that Jesus had been baptised by John. They had heard of the Spirit of God flying to Jesus at his baptism like a bird.

### ***Some people hold up birds...***

And at Pentecost after Peter's speech they realised that they didn't have to go down to the Jordan to be baptised, but that they could have it done right away in the middle of Jerusalem.

They could feel that the Spirit which flew to Jesus, would fly to them too.  
The first chapter of the Book of Acts tells us that over three thousand Jews were baptised that day. Lots of very poor people joined the church in those days. Everybody pooled together what they had so that nobody suffered or went hungry.

### ***Bread is shared out among the room so that everybody gets a piece...***

The followers of Jesus,  
still today,  
are working to realise the dreams and visions  
of unity, justice, peace and equality  
for every single man and woman and child on this earth.  
Let us work with them –  
with those who lived before us,  
with those who are here with us,  
and for those who will come after us.

***...time for our dreams and visions...***

***Write them on little coloured papers and collect them in two parachutes.***

***While we sing the next song the parachutes are gently moved by the people who would like to hold them...***

***Song: “Spirit of God unseen as the wind...”***

***Parachutes are put down***

***and about 20 people take one of the little dream notes and read them out loud at the microphone...***

**Pentecost Prayers**