

Come, Holy Spirit

By Jessica Harris Daum

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide, remind, teach, and comfort us who believe. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came. How is the Holy Spirit active in our lives today? Reading the story of Pentecost may help you to recognize the Holy Spirit's movement in your life and in our world.

For

Adult, Couple

Season

Summer

Needed

A Bible or a device with a Bible app, bookmark the second chapter of Acts

Prepare in Advance

Schedule this activity on your calendar. Choose a time frame of at least 20 minutes.

Find or create a space where you will be able to focus on the Scripture.



Activity Plan

1. Say this prayer aloud to begin. Do your best to sound out the words ☺

Ven, Espíritu Santo (Spanish). *Komm, Heiliger Geist* (German). *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* (Latin). *Njoo, Roho Mtakatifu* (Swahili). *Ayoha Al-Rouh Al-qodos, Taal* (Arabic). *Come, Holy Spirit* (English). *Amen*.

2. Read the beginning of the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13 from your Bible.
3. Read verses 9-11 again. An interesting fact: the groups of people present at the coming of the Holy Spirit are not only representatives of many different places, but also different times. The Parthians were residents of ancient Iran, or Persia, actually living during the time of the Pentecost. Medes were another Persian group, but the Median Empire fell 550 years before the birth of Jesus. The Elamites were another ancient group, existing from 2700 BCE to 539 BCE.
 - What significance does the variety of people present at the coming of the Spirit have for you?
 - What could it mean that the writer of Acts includes these groups from across history as present at the Pentecost?
 - Who could you add if you were to extend include people who didn't exist yet?
4. Read the next part of the story—Acts 2:14-36, Peter's great sermon to the crowd.
5. There were skeptics present on the day of Pentecost; there are skeptics today.
 - Who do you know that would find the story of Pentecost hard to believe?
 - What in Peter's sermon might be helpful in your relationship with skeptics or for the skeptic in you? What do they (or you) need to hear in order to believe?
6. Read the last part Acts 2, verses 37-47.
7. Witnessing the event of Pentecost—the rushing wind, the tongues of fire, speaking in foreign languages as the Holy Spirit filled the people—and hearing Peter preach God's Word made those

who were present want to respond. They asked, “what should we do?” Peter gave them an answer: “Be baptized.” We experience things in our faith life that cut us to the heart too and make us want to respond. This is the Spirit calling us to action.

- When have you experienced something that made you want to put your faith in action?
- What might the Holy Spirit be calling you to do now?

8. Life among the believers is described in verses 42-47. The people shared what they had. The time, talents, and treasures of each were valued and important to the community’s life. Today our lives look a little different than life of the first Christians. But, as the Church we are still gathered into the Body of Christ, and we still rely upon each other’s unique gifts, given to us by the Spirit.

- What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you?
- What are you good at? What do you love to do that might not bring others as much joy? Answers to these questions point you toward your strengths, your gifts.
- If you are working with a partner, affirm a few of the gifts you see in each other.
- How can you use your gifts to bring about God’s kingdom (to serve others, spread the Good News, build up community, grow God’s Church)?

9. Close in prayer asking God to bless the gifts that you have been given and show you opportunities to use them. Use your own words, or the following prayer:

Holy Spirit, thank you for coming down at the Pentecost; thank you for coming down today. Help me to recognize the gifts that you have given me. Give me opportunities to use the gifts I recognize, including the gifts of (list your own gifts) to build up Christ’s kingdom on earth. Amen.

