

The Gossip Flame

By Audrey Cox



The power of a word is remarkable. Just one flame of gossip can begin a raging fire. The power of the Spirit is even more remarkable. In the story of Pentecost, we hear about the ability of the Spirit to light a different flame in our words—the flame of God’s glory.

For

Teen Family

Season

Spring

Needed

Candle, matches or lighter, Bible, pens, scissors, copy of last page of this activity

Prepare in Advance

Make a copy of the last page of this activity and cut out the squares. Place a candle in the center of the table where your family will gather. Arrange the squares around the candle.

Activity Plan

1. Gather around the prepared table and light the candle. Say this prayer aloud to begin:

God, please give us the strength to resist the flame of gossip. May the power of the Holy Spirit give us the ability to speak only words that give you glory. Amen.

2. Open your Bible and ask someone to read Acts 2:1-21 aloud, or use the text below. Then discuss the following questions:
 - What enabled the disciples to speak other languages?(Acts 2:4)
 - How did the crowd react to the disciples’ words?(Acts 2:6-13)
 - According to the prophet Joel, upon whom will God’s Spirit be poured? For what purpose? (Acts2:17-18)
3. Read aloud this definition of *gossip*: “Casual or unconstrained conversation or reports about other people, typically involving details that are not confirmed as being true.” Discuss:
 - What causes people to gossip? (Temptation, popularity, anger, insecurity, desiring power)
 - When have you gossiped? When has someone spread gossip about you?
 - Why do you think gossip spreads so fast?
4. Ask each person to pick up one of the cards and write on the back one place he or she is tempted to gossip. (For example, on the school bus, on Facebook, on the phone, in the break room at work.) Talk about what you’ve written on each card. After discussing the place named where it is tempting to gossip, decide on where to keep the card to help you remember the Spirit gives you the ability in that



place to choose words that glorify God. (For example: in your backpack, in your lunchbox, in your pocket, in your cell phone case, on your computer screen.)

5. Say this closing prayer together:

God, we give thanks that you pour your Spirit upon us. Help us to rely on your Spirit to give us the strength to resist the temptation to gossip. Let us speak words that give you glory and show your love. Amen.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸ even on my male servants^[c] and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'





The Spirit gives
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Acts 2:4



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