

SCRIPTURE

'Pentecost'

Begin by recalling the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Remind the children of the gesture learned during last week's lesson: *Palms open, facing upwards, arms outstretched, children slowly raise arms while saying, 'Jesus ascended into heaven*

where he is seated at the right hand of his Father.'

Then tell the children that you will read a story about what happened next. This story comes from the Bible.

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(Adapted from Acts 2:44-47)



After Jesus' Ascension into heaven, his friends went back to Jerusalem to wait and pray for the Holy Spirit, the helper

Jesus promised to

send. They went to the same room where they had celebrated the Last Supper. Other friends of Jesus joined them as they waited. They spent the time praying together. They were sad and lonely and very frightened because Jesus wasn't with them anymore. They hoped the soldiers who had put Jesus to death wouldn't come for them too.

Jesus' friends spent days in that small room huddled together, praying. Then all of a

sudden, they felt something strange happening. The whole room was filled with a mighty wind. A bright light, like flames of fire, shone around them. Then they remembered the words of Jesus: 'I will ask the Father and he will send you a helper, the Holy Spirit, to be with you forever.' They knew that the words Jesus had said were coming true.

When the Holy Spirit came to them, the friends of Jesus were filled with joy and courage. They knew that Jesus had kept his promise and that he was with them in a new way. They ran out into the streets to tell the people about Jesus. They asked the people to join with them and anyone who wanted to join them was baptised.

We call the day on which the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends, 'Pentecost'.

Having read the Scripture story, check for understanding using questions such as, 'Where were the friends of Jesus that day?' Then dig deeper using these or similar questions:

- How do you think Jesus' friends knew that the room was filled with wind? What did they see or hear?
- Why were the friends of Jesus huddled together in one room? What were they afraid of? How were they changed after the coming of the Holy Spirit?
- Can we see the wind? How do we know the wind is blowing? Could Jesus' friends see the Holy Spirit? How did they know the Holy Spirit had come?
- The Holy Spirit helped Jesus' friends to live their lives as Jesus wanted them to. In what way do you think they lived from then on?