

# The Day of Pentecost

*This is a simplified overview of this Holy Day for young children. Please check the versions of this lesson for older children if you'd like more information.*

God has a special plan for all of us. He wants us to be in His "Family"!<sup>1</sup> The Holy Days teach us about this plan.

The first Holy Days - or Feasts - that we celebrate each year are the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:4-8). During these days we learn about Jesus, God's Son. He came to this earth and died for us. He died so everyone could have the chance to be in God's Family.<sup>2</sup> This was part of God's Plan.

## Jesus is Raised to Life!

But when Jesus died, He didn't stay dead. He was dead for three days and three nights, and then God "resurrected" Him. This means that God made Jesus come alive again. But now Jesus is a Spirit Being, not a human being. And Spirit Beings live forever! This is the most wonderful thing that has ever happened - and it is also part of God's Plan for us! Because Jesus lives forever, we can live forever too! (1 Corinthians 15:20-22; John 14:19).

After Jesus was resurrected, He spent time with His disciples (His followers). They were VERY happy to see Him again and He taught them many things (Acts 1:2-3). But after 40 days it was time for Him to go to heaven to be with His Father.

Before Jesus went away, He told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Day of Pentecost. Something very SPECIAL was going to happen on this Holy Day. They were going to receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit! (Acts 1:4-5).

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<sup>1</sup> The Bible reveals that God is creating a "family" and that His Plan is to make us part of that family. Please see "The Holy Days and God's Plan" lesson in this series for more information about this.

<sup>2</sup> The second Holy Day Lesson in this series explains WHY He had to do that.

# The Day of Pentecost

God's Spirit is His power<sup>3</sup> and He gives it to us to help us live His Way of Life (Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:7; John 14:16-17). We need to have God's Holy Spirit in us so we can live forever (Romans 8:11; Ephesians 1:13-14).

## God Sends His Holy Spirit

When the Day of Pentecost came, a noise like a strong wind filled the house where the disciples were waiting. They saw something that looked like flames of fire standing over each person. Then they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages.<sup>4</sup> It was a miracle!

Many other people had come to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Pentecost that day. They came from different countries and spoke different languages. When they heard the disciples speaking about the great things that God had done, they were amazed! They could understand what the disciples were saying in their own languages!

Some of the people were confused by what they heard. HOW could the disciples suddenly speak in different languages? "What did it mean?" they wondered. But other people started making fun of the disciples and said they were drunk! So Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, stood up and began to speak to them all in a VERY loud voice.

**"Pay attention," he said. "These men aren't drunk! God told us this would happen a long time ago. He said that one day He would give His Spirit to all kinds of people...He said that one day everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus will be saved. This is what is happening today" (Acts 2:14-21; 16:31, condensed and paraphrased!)**

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<sup>3</sup> This is a simplified explanation! You'll find more information in the 13+ version of this lesson.

<sup>4</sup> What happened on that Pentecost and the fact that the disciples were able to speak in foreign languages when they received God's Spirit was a special miracle that God allowed for that particular Day of Pentecost. This isn't what usually happens when people receive the Holy Spirit!

## The Day of Pentecost

What Peter said to those people teaches us something about the Day of Pentecost and what it pictures in God's Plan. You see, all of the followers of Jesus at that time were Jews<sup>5</sup> - or people who had become Jews. But on that Day of Pentecost, God showed that salvation (the opportunity to live forever in God's Family) wasn't just for the Jews! It was for EVERYONE (see Acts 2:21; Acts 28:28 and Titus 2:11).

One day, EVERYONE in the whole world will have the chance to receive God's Holy Spirit and become part of His Family! What a wonderful day that will be!

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<sup>5</sup> The Jews were God's people, some of the descendants of Abraham, God's friend in the Old Testament.