

Pentecost Lesson

Lesson Goal: This lesson's goal is for the student to understand that the Holy Spirit came to the apostles in a very special way at Pentecost, ten days after Jesus' Ascension, giving them courage to preach and baptize, thus beginning Jesus' Church.

Overview: The apostles were frightened after Jesus' Ascension, but Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to remind them of all He taught and give them the courage they would need to teach the gospel. Jesus fulfilled that promise when on Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down upon them in the form of tongues of fire. With new courage they went out and preached - baptizing three thousand people that day. The Church was born.

Pre-Video Discussion: Jesus had ascended back into heaven and He told the apostles to return to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. They were still very much afraid, but spent nine days waiting for the Holy Spirit in prayer. This is where we get the word "novena" from - novena means nine. So they waited and prayed for nine days before the Holy Spirit finally came upon them.

Watch "Pentecost" on Catholic Brain

Comprehension and Discussion Questions:

Note: These questions are asked after the video to check student comprehension and to clarify and further discuss and explain what was seen on the video.

1) What does Pentecost mean?

Pentecost means fifty. Pentecost is fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

2) What else is Pentecost known as?

Pentecost is known as the "Birthday of the Church." The three thousand people that were baptized that day were the first members of Jesus' Church. So this day marks the very start or "birth" of the Catholic Church.

3) In what two forms did the Holy Spirit come to the apostles?

The Holy Spirit came in the form of wind and fire. The tongues of fire came down and rested on each of them. At Mass on Pentecost the priest wears red symbolizing the fire of the Holy Spirit.

4) What person of the Blessed Trinity is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity. The Church teaches that the Holy Spirit is the love that God the Father and God the Son have for each other. This Love is another person that is also equal to the Father and the Son. The Blessed Trinity, of course, is a mystery of our faith.

5) In what two sacraments do we receive the Holy Spirit ?

We receive the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and also in a special way again at our Confirmation.

6) What did the apostles do after receiving the Holy Spirit?

The apostles were moved by the Holy Spirit to begin preaching. They received the grace to remember everything that Jesus had taught them. They were also no longer afraid. The gift of tongues given by the Holy Spirit enabled them to preach to even more people who would not have been able to hear the gospel. The Spirit filled them with excitement about telling everyone about Jesus.

7) Is the Holy Spirit still working in the Church today?

The Holy Spirit enabled Peter and the apostles to remember everything Jesus taught correctly. The Holy Spirit still guides the pope and bishops to teach the faith correctly. The Holy Spirit is with them, inspiring them to teach without error. This gift that the Holy Spirit gives the Church is called infallibility.

Activity:

Since Pentecost is the Church's birthday, have cupcakes as a birthday celebration of the Catholic Church.

