

# The amazing story of Pentecost

Pentecost this year will be celebrated on Sunday (31st May).

Read below the amazing things that happened at Pentecost. **Stop when you see the green question and see if you can think of an answer in your head.**

What is Pentecost?

This is a very special time in the Bible when the disciples and other Christians received the Holy Spirit. Before I explain why and how this happened there's a few things you need to know first.

God didn't just pick any day for this to happen. Oh no, like everything God does, he chose the day very carefully.

Pentecost happened 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples were waiting to receive the 'Holy Spirit'. They didn't know what the Holy Spirit was exactly, but it was something that Jesus had told them would happen.

**How do you think it would have felt to be thinking the whole world had gone wrong because Jesus was dead?**

This would be the first time everyone who was a Christian would receive the Holy Spirit. Pentecost was the usual day to celebrate the end of the grain harvest, when the farmers had finished collecting their crops and all the hard



work was done. The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God for the harvest when suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Next they saw flames that came to rest of each of them! Now, I'm not sure if they could actually see flames or if this is how people could explain what they



felt happening. When the fire touched them, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages! All the people got pretty excited and things got a bit noisy as you can imagine!

### **What happened when the Holy Spirit came? How did it change people?**

People from many different countries were staying in Jerusalem and ran over to see what all the noise was about. They were surprised to hear their own languages being spoken by the group. The Bible lists up to 16 different places people were from and could hear their own language being spoken!

Things must have sounded crazy! Imagine all those people speaking many different languages at the same time and shouting out praises to God, excited that something amazing from God had just happened to them.

### **Can you speak any words in another language?**

Some of the crowd started making fun of them. When Peter started to

hear them laughing, he raised his voice and talked to the crowd. He explained how God brought Jesus to them and that they had crucified him. The crowd understood and felt bad for doing this and they wanted to know what they could do now.

Peter explained that they should say that they were sorry and stop doing bad things. Now, because of Jesus death and his coming back to life, people could receive the Holy Spirit and be forgiven. And that is party why the word Christian actually means ‚Christ in us.’

So Pentecost was certainly a super special for the disciples.

**Look at picture of Pentecost and the bright colours that the artist has used. Have a go at creating your own Pentecost picture.**