

## The Church's Power

Acts 1:4, 5, 8; 2:1–11



Jesus had gone back to Heaven. One day the disciples and other friends were meeting together. They were praying and praising God together. Jesus had promised that God would send a Comforter to help them and give them power to talk to people about being saved. Another name for the Comforter is the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came. They could not see the Holy Spirit, but they knew He had come. The Bible says they heard a sound like strong wind throughout the house. Then there were little flames that

looked like fire above each of them.

The Christians talked excitedly and rejoiced so loudly that people outside heard them. A crowd gathered by the house. The disciples came outside, and Peter talked to the

crowd about Jesus.

The people in the crowd were not from Israel. They were from many other countries. They did not speak the language of the Jews. How would they understand that Jesus died for their sins?

As soon as Peter and the disciples started to talk, the Holy Spirit caused everyone in the crowd to understand what they said. Peter was talking in a language he had never learned. The Holy Spirit gave Peter this ability just for this special time so the people could hear about the Savior. ✨

### Theme

Christ sent the Holy Spirit to empower His church.

### Measurable Response

My child will realize the Holy Spirit's power can help him serve God.

### Memory Verse

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

### Bible Story Questions

Ask your child these review questions.

- Whom did Jesus promise God would send?
- What would the Holy Spirit help the disciples do?
- How did the disciples know the Holy Spirit had come?
- What special thing happened when Peter began to talk?



# The Pastor's Helper



**P**astor Palmer and his wife were having dinner with Karen and her family. Daddy and Pastor Palmer were talking about the baptism service that would be that evening.

"Pastor Palmer, why do you baptize people?" asked Karen.

"I baptize people who have asked Jesus to be their Savior and want to show everyone that they are followers of Jesus. Jesus told me to baptize believers," the pastor said.

"He did? How did Jesus tell you?" Karen wanted to know.

"Before Jesus went back to Heaven, where He is now, He told His disciples that He had a special job for them to do while He was gone," said Pastor Palmer as he reached for his Bible.

The pastor read and explained some verses. "Jesus wants those of us who believe in Him to tell people all over the world about Him. After those people ask Jesus to be their Savior, they usually want to be baptized to show that they are obeying Jesus. That is why we are having a baptism tonight. When pastors baptize believers, they are doing what Jesus has told them."

"What else did Jesus tell you to do?" asked Karen.

"After people are saved and baptized, we

need to teach them God's Word, the Bible. That is why we have Sunday School classes for adults as well as children. Sometimes I teach a class. Usually I have a Bible study with new believers too. I preach God's Word on Sunday morning and evening. And I teach on Wednesday nights, too, while you boys and girls are at Kids Club. These are all things Jesus wants me to do to preach and teach the gospel," the pastor explained.

"I would be scared and tired if I had to do all that by myself," Karen said.

"I would too, but I have a helper," the pastor responded.

"You do?" Karen was surprised. "Who is it?"

"It is the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that He would always be with me and help me. And He has. He told the disciples that when He went back to Heaven, He would send the Holy Spirit to help them preach and teach. Soon the Holy Spirit came. They could not see Him, but they knew it was Jesus in the spirit. The Holy Spirit will help all believers," Pastor Palmer explained.

"Will He help me tell my friends about Jesus?" asked Karen.

"Jesus promised He would," said Daddy. "And Jesus always keeps His promises." ■



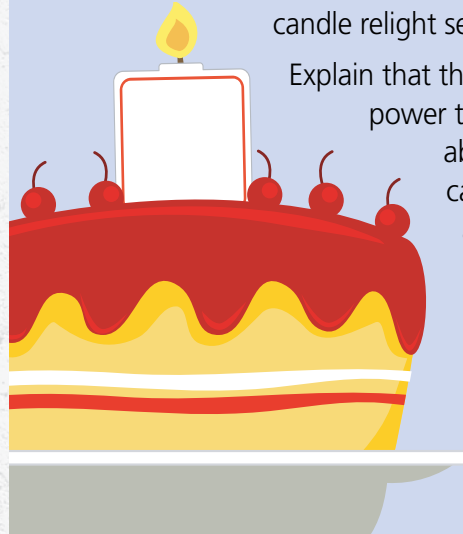
## Life Application

- Tell some of the things a pastor does.
- Why does the pastor baptize people?
- Who is the pastor's helper?
- When did the Holy Spirit come?



## A Relighting Flame

To demonstrate that the Holy Spirit will never leave a believer, use a trick birthday candle that will not blow out. The candle will relight itself even if it goes out for a moment. Children love to see the candle relight seemingly on its own.



Explain that the Holy Spirit gives us power to tell other people about Jesus. People cannot take that away from us, no matter what they try to do. It's like the Holy Spirit is the candle that keeps relighting in our lives.

## Growing at Home



Understanding the person and work of the Holy Spirit is difficult. Focus on the highlighted words in this description.

Jesus described the Holy Spirit in John 14:16–26. Jesus called Him the **Comforter**, meaning Helper. The Holy Spirit helps believers. He will **not leave** us and will **live in us** forever. He **teaches** believers the truth in God's Word.

Jesus said more in John 16:7–14. The Holy Spirit didn't come until Jesus returned to Heaven. The Holy Spirit **convicts** of sin and **guides** believers to know truth and understand things to come. He **glorifies** Jesus in all He does.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus told His disciples that they would receive **power** from the Holy Spirit to be **witnesses** of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit would give them great **ability to preach** the gospel all over the world. He gives us that power too.

## Measurables

Look for indicators that your child understands Who the Holy Spirit is and what the Spirit does.

1. My child understands the Holy Spirit comes only to those who trust in Jesus as their Savior.
2. My child understands the Holy Spirit is God, just as Jesus is God.
3. My child remembers that Jesus told the disciples He would send Someone to help them after He went back to Heaven.



# Picture Story

**Directions:** Look at the pictures in the picture menu and learn the words. Read the picture story.



Jesus



Heaven



house



pray




wind



flame




was talking to the disciples about the Holy Spirit when He

suddenly went back to  .

One day the disciples were in a  meeting together to  . All

of a sudden, there was a sound like strong  inside the  .

Then they saw a little  of fire above each person's head.

Everyone in the  knew the Holy Spirit had

come to help them tell people about  .

