

Listen to the Spirit!

Getting Started – 10 minutes – Visual & Audio clips

(No need to worry if you can't play the clips, you can carry on without watching it)

John Smith has come to America on a gold-finding expedition. He is going to hunt down the “savages”. Pocahontas has been watching John Smith covertly. When they come unexpectedly face-to-face, she is scared and runs off. However, something persuades her to stay, and a supernatural power enables her to understand John Smith and to speak his language.

Play the clip and talk about these points together:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjTtQ_p9qNs

- Why is Pocahontas afraid of John Smith?
- What makes her stop and listen to him?
- How do you think she is suddenly able to understand English?

In the film, the wind seems to give Pocahontas power to understand the language. This is just a film, and obviously not true – but do you think that sort of thing can ever happen in real life?

- What would you say if you were told that once a strong wind blew through a building, and all the people in that building could suddenly talk languages that they had never learned?

Explain that that was what actually happened when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.

The Point: The parallel between Pocahontas being given the power to speak another language by the “spirit wind” and the disciples talking in tongues after Pentecost is striking, and therefore this clip makes quite a good way in to explaining what happened at Pentecost.

The point is made that this story is not real, wind doesn't give us power – but the Holy Spirit IS real and can change us.

The Holy Spirit Comes

Digging in – 10 minutes – Bible Study

Sit the children down and give each a piece of red crepe paper. *(or you can improvise with whatever you have at home)*

Tell the story.

"It was the time of the Feast of Pentecost. This was a Jewish festival and Jesus disciples decided that they would celebrate together. Jesus had gone back to Heaven but before He left he told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait to see what God would do next. There were about 120 followers of Jesus in the room all praying to God.

Suddenly, as they were praying, they heard a sound like a mighty rushing wind."

(Ask all the children to blow together as loudly as they can. They can then change to a "sshhhh" sound.)

"Then flames, like tongues of fire, came into the room. One flame landed on each person. But it wasn't a real fire because it didn't burn anything."

(Ask each child to hold up his piece of crepe paper and touch it against the shoulder of someone else, so that all of the children have a "flame" on him or her.)

"The disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit. They all felt extremely excited and positive. They knew that all they wanted to do was to tell people about Jesus; that He had died to forgive people for their sin, and that He was alive again, and that the Holy Spirit could help people to understand Jesus' teaching.

They opened their mouths to speak, but they all found they were talking in different languages, languages they had never learned."

(if you know another language e.g. French, why not get your children to say a line of that language. They could say 'God loves you')

"The /disciples ran into the street and started talking about Jesus.

There was a crowd, because some people had heard the wind and others had heard the sound of the Disciples all shouting together.

The crowd came from all over the world. What amazed them was that the disciples were talking in so many languages – no matter how far away the visitor had come from they could hear one of the Disciples talking his language perfectly. And yet it was obvious that the Disciples were all men from Galilee – poor men who had never travelled and wouldn't have had the chance to learn foreign languages.

But some men laughed at the disciples and said that they must be drunk.

Peter stood up and shouted loudly:"

(The narrator needs to shout this. If he can stand on a table or chair that would be good.)

" Men! We aren't drunk – it's only 9:00 in the morning! We have been filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus, who you crucified a few weeks ago, was God's son – you know it:

you heard Him preach and you saw His miracles. But you crucified Him. However, He has been raised from the dead by God, and now He is in Heaven because He is God!’

The people were amazed and called out, ‘What must we do?’

(Ask all the children to call out, “What must we do?”)

“You must decide to no longer live for yourself and your own selfish ways, but instead live for doing things God ways and follow Jesus,’ Peter said. And that day thousands of people did just that! These were the first new Christians.”

(feel free to ask the children these questions but for the younger children they might find it a little difficult to answer) Talk to your children about the different symbolism used in this story as they might have questions:

- Why was there a sound of a rushing wind?
- Why did flames of fire appear over the heads of the disciples?
- Why did they need to speak in other languages?
- Will all of this happen to us if we ask for God to give us more of His Holy Spirit today?

The Point: This is an account of Pentecost, which shows the children what happened to the Disciples and the immediate results. They immediately became filled with boldness and wanted to tell everyone about Jesus.

Many of the children won’t know the story and will be unaware that there was an occasion when the Holy Spirit came.

Full of Power

Response – 10 minutes – Memory Verse

**“You will have power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”
Acts 1:8 (a)**

Give each child a piece of coloured card. Ask them to draw a large flame (or cluster of flames) on it. Say that these should be large enough to write a verse in the middle – they should take up most of the piece of card. *(feel free to use the example below if you have a printer and are able to print it, or use it to show the children what to draw)*

Now cut out the flame and colour the edges in red, orange and yellow, or a mixture of the three. The middle could be coloured in yellow or just left plain.

In the middle of their flame they should write the memory verse.

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Say the verse together.

The Point: To encourage young people to learn the Bible.

