



## SESSION TWELVE

# PENTECOST – THE AMAZING GIFT OF GOD’S SPIRIT

### BIG IDEA

Living in the power of the Holy Spirit is knowing we are loved completely. The Holy Spirit

# EMPOWERS US TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE

with others and be God’s children.

### PREP (Kids can help!)

- Buy sticky notes (flame-coloured if possible)
- Draw a flame on eight post-it notes and write the following phrases (one on each flame) – ‘share God’s love with my friend’, ‘stick up for someone’, ‘give my money to God’, ‘help others’, ‘read my Bible’, ‘be thankful’, ‘pray for others’, ‘be brave’.
- Cut out the 10 cards (from appendix) each with different translations of “God loves you”
- Find a large ball like a basketball and a smaller one such as a tennis ball
- A bowl of popcorn

### WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- Prepared post-its
- Cut out appendix cards



### INTRO

Do you remember that several weeks ago we talked about Jesus preparing to return to heaven? He told his disciples that the most wonderful thing would happen. He promised them that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them – and us – all the time; to comfort us, to help us love God with all our hearts and to help us share God’s message. The Holy Spirit also gives us a love for God’s word and helps us remember the things Jesus said.

- Take out the eight cards with the different translations of “God loves you” and let everyone try reading one out loud.

“ I MYSELF DO NOTHING. THE HOLY SPIRIT ACCOMPLISHES ALL THROUGH ME. ”

- WILLIAM BLAKE -

### Questions

- Does anyone know what these cards are saying?
- How does it feel to not understand what they say?
- Do you think they are saying the same thing or different things?

Well, on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit first came from heaven an amazing thing happened to Jesus’ disciples. Listen, and you will hear about it...



## READ



### Acts 2 1-12

Jesus' friends and helpers huddled together in a stuffy upstairs room. Even though it was sunny outside, the shutters were closed. The door was locked.

"Wait in Jerusalem," Jesus had told them, "I am going to send you a special present. God's power is going to come into you. God's Holy Spirit is coming..."

As they waited, they were praying and remembering – remembering how, from the beginning, God had been working out his Secret Rescue Plan.

Suddenly a strong wind filled the little room, whistling through the walls, rustling the straw on the floor. And there – on everyone's heads, shining in the gloom – were flickering flames. Fire that didn't hurt or burn.

And something more: inside, in their hearts, they felt a strange heat,

almost as if all the coldness and hardness were melting away. As if their broken hearts were mending. And God was giving them brand new hearts – hearts that could work properly.

How it happened they didn't know, but they knew God's power had struck their hearts ablaze – and Jesus himself was coming to live inside them...

...love flooded their hearts. And the little room was filled with happy noises. Dancing feet, singing, laughing.

They unlocked the door and surged out into the streets – as if they had never been afraid.

*Place a flame post-it note on each person's forehead without them seeing what it says..*

Peter told the wonderful story of God's Love – God's Never Stopping,

Never giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love. How Jesus had come. All that had happened.

There were lots of people from faraway countries in Jerusalem. They couldn't speak the same language but as they listened to Peter; everyone could understand what he was saying – in their own languages!

Many people believed. And became Jesus' new friends and helpers. And the wonderful news of Jesus spread. Like sparks from a fire.... Every day more and more people believed.

And so it was that the family of God's children, his special people, grew.



*Excerpts from pages 326-332, The Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones, Zonderkidz*

## SESSION TWELVE

### FAMILY TALK TIME

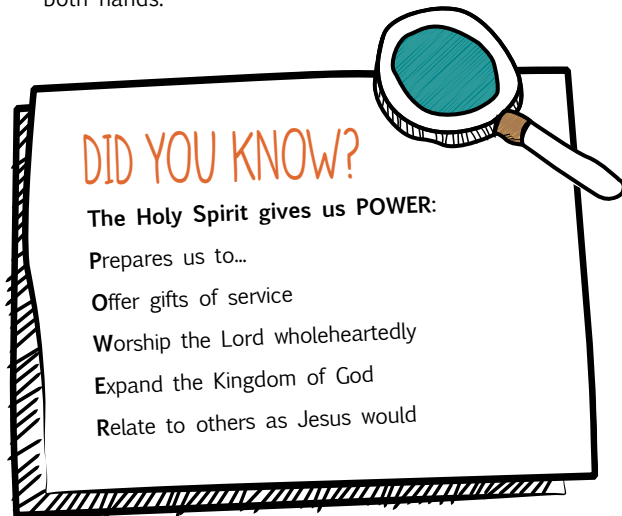
- Try to guess what is written on your forehead by asking questions – everyone else answering with only “yes”, “no” or “I don’t know”.

Once you’ve guessed them all, talk about what makes these words fit into the story you have just heard.

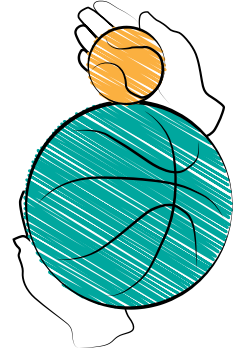
The Holy Spirit gives us the power to do all these things and to become the people God wants us to be.

### Ball Experiment

- Take the large, heavy ball and a small, light ball e.g. basketball and tennis ball. (This experiment is best done on a hard floor or outdoors.)
- Drop the small ball from waist height and see how high it bounces.
- Then get one person to hold the large ball in both hands.



- Have another person balance the smaller ball on top and hold it still.
- Take your hands off both balls at the same time. The larger ball hits the ground and the smaller ball hits the larger one and bounces into the air.



### Question

- Does anyone know why this happens?

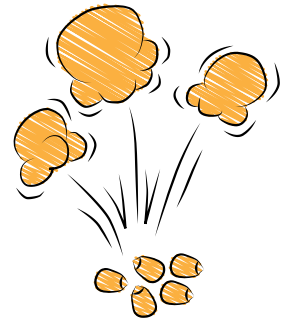
It is because kinetic energy has been transferred from the larger ball to the smaller one. Note that the smaller ball bounces much higher this way!

The Holy Spirit is like the large ball – giving energy to the small ball – US – to bounce much higher than we could do on our own! With the Spirit we are empowered to do so much more than we could do by ourselves.

- Share a bowl of popcorn

Talk about how the popcorn goes from a hard kernel to soft light and yummy popcorn when it is put on the heat. God’s power is like that too.

God sent the Holy Spirit to help us become the people God wants us to be. We start out a bit like hard corn that seems not much use, but when the Holy Spirit comes into our lives and we follow Jesus, the Spirit helps us to live lightly and freely.



- Talk about the the different ways we each need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**Q: WHY DID THE FOOLISH GARDENER PLANT A LIGHT BULB?**

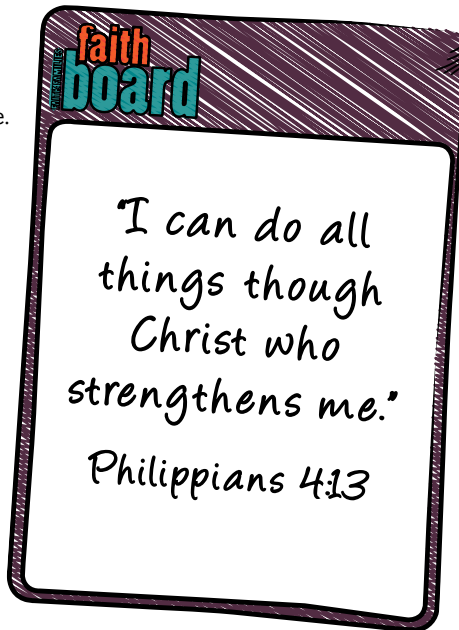
**A: HE WANTED TO GROW A POWER PLANT!**

### PRAY

Take turns holding the tennis ball, remembering how much higher it could bounce with the energy from the big ball. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and give you the strength and power you need to be more like Jesus.

### LIVE

Pop some corn in a popcorn maker or microwave and watch how the heat source brings the corn to life.



### OTHER IDEAS

- Remember that Pentecost was the birth of the church. So it is a celebration for us too. This week, pick a night to have a special celebration for the church's birthday. Make a cake, light candles and sing "Happy Birthday".
- You could explore more about kinetic energy – e.g. comb your hair with a comb to build up a charge on the comb. Get a stream of water from a tap as thin as you can before it breaks up into individual drops, and bring the comb next to it. The water will polarize and the stream will bend toward the comb. Or with older children, go into a dark room with a light bulb, a comb and a woollen scarf. Wrap the scarf around your neck and run the comb through your hair 20 or more times, then hold the tip of the comb to the metal end of the light bulb. The filaments will glow as the electrons from your hair are conducted through the comb to the light bulb.
- Make simple windsocks – take a coloured paper bag (or colour in a plain one), cut off the bottom to make a tube. Decorate with stickers if you wish. Tape streamers to one end and a piece of string to the other and try flying them! Remember how the Spirit came as a strong wind – he has the power to lift us up even though we cannot see him.



**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT SESSION...**



## SESSION TWELVE

10 cards of different languages saying “God loves you”

DUTCH

GOD HOUDT VAN JE

ITALIAN

DIO TI AMA

FILIPINO

MAHAL KA NG DIYOS

FRENCH

DIEU T'AIME

GERMAN

GOTT LIEBT DICH

WELSH

DUW CARU CHI

RUSSIAN

BOG LYUBIT VAS

MACEDONIAN

BOG TE LJUBI

SPANISH

DIOS TE AMA

SWEDISH

GUD ÄLSKAR DIG