

Notes

1. Why isn't the Holy Spirit poured out more than it is in our own church? What can we learn from the disciples' expectant waiting?
2. Do we try to impose restrictions or guidelines for the Holy Spirit in case our lives are too much challenged by too much of God's presence?

Discussion starters

There is a short sketch to start them looking at the possibility of the Holy Spirit changing things still, today and here. And they are encouraged to learn how to wait on God, both privately and as a group, so that they grow in his Spirit.

Activities

Lord, that power the disciples were given – I want it, too.
I've seen the way they were changed and strengthened – and I want that, too.
Will you let your Holy Spirit come to me and fill my life?

Praying

Explain that the disciples had seen a lot of changes in the last few years of their lives. Jesus had called them out of their normal jobs, they'd travelled around to different places, changed their way of thinking and their way of thinking about God. They'd lived through the crucifixion, Jesus being dead and Jesus being alive again. Now they were waiting for another change, not quite knowing what the Holy Spirit would do to them, but knowing it was important to be ready for it.
Now read from Acts. Consider having this reading prepared on tape, either from a professional recording, or using a couple of adults from the congregation, and adding the sound of the wind, or some music. Then look up the quoted passage from Joel, so they can see where it comes from.
What has happened to the disciples with the coming of the Holy Spirit? How are they behaving? How are they different? Why are they so excited? What was it they wanted everyone to know?

Teaching

All change! Have a selection of scarves and hats, CD player for music so that you can skip from track to track. When the music starts, each person dresses up. Whenever the track changes, they have to swap their hat and scarf with someone else.

Starter

To look at how the coming of the Holy Spirit affected the disciples and affects Jesus' followers now.

Aim

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Readings

The Holy Spirit of God is poured out in power on the expectant disciples, just as Jesus promised.

Thought for the day

PENTECOST