

Pentecost

Almighty God, on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by the preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Look

On Pentecost we celebrate the day when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Lots of smart people for lots and lots of generations have said lots of smart things about the Holy Spirit.

1. What comes to mind for you when you think of the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the Holy Spirit? Or at least, how would you answer that question?
3. What is the most interesting thing you've ever heard about the Holy Spirit?

Book Acts 2:1-21

The disciples are together in the upper room on the day of Pentecost (which is actually the Greek name for a Jewish holiday called the Feast of Weeks). While there, "from heaven came a sound like a rush of wind" and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. What do you imagine the disciples felt when they are filled with the Holy Spirit?
2. How did the disciples respond to being filled with the Holy Spirit? What did they do?

Took

Often in the church, especially on feast days, like Pentecost, preachers like to show off all the cool things they learned in seminary and say smart, intellectual things about the Holy Spirit. But when the Spirit filled the disciples, no one sat down and wrote a thesis paper about it – they got up and went out and preached the gospel.

1. Have you ever been filled with the Holy Spirit? What did it feel like?
2. How did you respond to being filled by the Holy Spirit? What did you do?
3. How do you tap into the empowerment of the Spirit, even when you aren't really feeling it?