



Pentecost

Acts 1 & 2

Review

- What is special about Easter?
- See if the group can come up with 10 events that happened in the Easter story.
- Who did you share the Easter story with and what was their response?

Hook Question

What do you think Heaven is going to be like?

Tell the Story

Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

Personal/Group Retell

Take a 14 foot piece of rope and tie it off. Have everyone circle up, holding onto the rope with both hands. At your call, everyone starts passing it to the left. When you say "stop," the person holding the knot has to say what was next. Continue until the story is retold.

Introduction

Prior to Jesus going to the cross, he told his followers that he would be leaving them. Though they were saddened by this, Jesus told them it would be better for them because then he could send the Holy Spirit after he was gone. For 40 days after Jesus' resurrection, he was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses and he met with his disciples many times. When they saw Jesus, they were filled with joy—HE REALLY WAS ALIVE! He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come. The Jewish people were getting ready to celebrate the Festival of First Fruits...

When Jesus sat down to eat a meal with his disciples, he told them, "In a few days, God's Spirit will come and live inside of you. This will give you power to follow my ways and tell the entire world about me!"

Soon after that, these disciples watched in amazement as Jesus went up into the sky and disappeared in the clouds. Two angels in white robes suddenly appeared and said, "Why are you staring at the sky? Jesus will return some day the same way you saw him go." (Pause.)

Ten days later, a group of 120 of Jesus' followers were gathered to pray in a home. All of a sudden, they heard a loud sound like a roaring windstorm that shook the house where they were meeting. What looked like flames of fire rested on each of their heads.

Each of them was filled with God's Spirit and able to speak in languages they never had learned! They went out into the street and began to tell people about the great things that Jesus had done!

Discussion Questions

Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.

- What were the main events in the story?
- What do you think it would be like to be present during this time?
- What do you notice about Jesus in this story?
- What I think Jesus is saying to me is...
- How should we respond to Jesus today?

Story Continued...

At that time, Jews from all over the world were meeting in Jerusalem. There was a roaring sound that was heard throughout the entire city. A large crowd had gathered outside the house to see what was going on. When Jesus' followers began speaking to them, they said, "How can this happen? These are local people from Galilee, but they're speaking in OUR own languages from far away lands. This is amazing!"

One of Jesus' disciples, named Peter, stepped forward to explain to the crowds what was happening. He shouted, "You're seeing what the prophets predicted coming true! We're eyewitnesses to the reality that Jesus was raised from the dead and is the true Messiah!"

People's hearts were filled with sadness because they realized that their Messiah had come but was overlooked, tortured, and crucified. They asked Jesus' disciples, "What can we do?"

Peter replied, "Turn from your ways... to God's ways. In Jesus, you will find forgiveness, and you will be filled with God's Spirit. This is God's new way—a new covenant not just for Jews, but for everyone."

That day, thousands believed in Jesus as Messiah and were baptized, becoming a part of a new community called The Church.

Closing Blessing

Read Jeremiah 9:23

Pray Lord, thank you for filling us with your Holy Spirit. May our boastful talk always be about you and who you are. Bless each person with an awareness and desire for more of your Holy Spirit. Give us your strength to do your will!