

Church at Home Pack – 24th January 2021

Join us online for our 10:30am service on Sunday

<https://ccwsm.org.uk/service-type/sunday-service-online/>

If you like, join in with the discussion on Facebook with our church family (@ccwsm)!

In some sections we make several suggestions of ideas. Some may be more appropriate to you or the different people in your family or life group than others. We're not expecting you to do all of them (although you are very welcome to!) Choose the ones which best suit you.

Our verse for the year is the same as last year's verse as we think about the difference being with Jesus makes to our lives

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

GATHER TOGETHER

A prayer to start –

God of energy and purpose,
as lava erupts from a volcano,
so may your Spirit erupt today;
as water thunders down a waterfall,
so may your Spirit thunder today;
as a downpour refreshes a tired garden,
so may your Spirit refresh us today –
that, gathered together with confidence,
we may celebrate your presence with us today.

Amen.

Action reminder –

From the top of my head
(*Touch head*)
to the tips of my toes;
(*Touch toes*)
from the lobes of my ears
(*Touch ear lobes*)
to the end of my nose;
(*Touch nose*)
from my back, to my front
(*Turn round*)
to my wiggly fingers,
(*stretch out arms and wiggle fingers*)
God loves me!
(*jump up and down*)

READ TOGETHER

Acts 2: 1-14



International Children's Bible (ICB)

² When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages.

⁵ There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. ⁶ When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. ⁷ They were completely amazed at this. They said, "Look! Aren't all these men that we hear speaking from Galilee?" ⁸ But each of us hears them in his own language. How is this possible? We are from different places: ⁹ Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and those who had become Jews), Crete and Arabia. But we hear these men telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!" ¹² They were all amazed and confused. They asked each other, "What does this mean?"

¹³ But others were making fun of them, saying, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴ But Peter stood up with the 11 apostles. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd

New International Version (NIV)

² When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd

WATCH TOGETHER

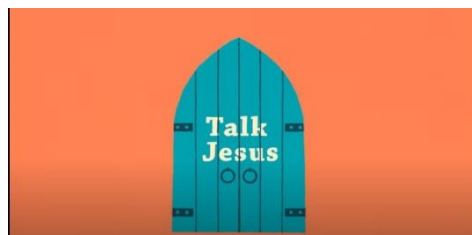


God sends the Holy Spirit – Saddleback Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

The Gospel with no jargon – Chad Loucks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkptaNvTOEU>



Talking Jesus – Evangelical Alliance:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNPqyyT_G2A

Watch the emotional response to this tribe receiving the New Testament in their own language for the first time.

– Bible Society: <https://youtu.be/ag2AzWgRKAk>



TALK TOGETHER



If someone asked you to explain what Jesus means to you today, what would you say?

(When you've answered that question, now think back over what you said. Did you use words which people who aren't Christians would understand? If not, how could you rephrase what you said?)

STUDY TOGETHER

- Filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to tell people about Jesus in languages they understood. Do you think we speak the same “language” as our friends, family members or work colleagues who don’t yet know Jesus? What could we do to “learn” their language?
- Terry talked about the need for us to use both actions and words. *Read* Matthew 5:16 and 1 Peter 3:15. How do our actions and words go together?
- There are many different translations and versions of the Bible. There are audio Bibles, Study Bibles and Bible Apps. There are also many different Bible story books. Have a look at the passage in Acts in as many different Bibles as you can. You can find lots on <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Here is **Acts 2: 1-12** from the **Street Bible**....

Seven weeks on from the Flyby Festival comes the Jewish Thanksgiving Holiday. The whole squad’s hanging out together. From nowhere, this noise like a wild wind blasts around the room. Freaked, they look at each other: flames are flashing round the room like someone’s got them linked into a remote control and they’re spreading out, zapping everyone systematically. No one gets even first-degree burns, just filled up with God’s Holy Spirit. The supernatural overflow is incredible – they’re suddenly fluent in languages they’ve never heard of, as handed out by the Holy Spirit.

Being Thanksgiving, Jerusalem’s packed full of religious Jews from all over the known world. They follow the noise and a huge crowd forms, all wide-eyed and open mouthed, everyone tuning in on some squad member talking their language. Totally gobsmacked, they ask, ‘They’re from Galilee, yeah? The accent gives them away. So how come we all hear them talking in our own language?’

**At least fifteen countries are represented. Pete tells them, ‘No, we’ve not had a skinful: this is what the courier Joel talked about – God marinating people in his Holy Spirit.’*

They know the bit, they’re gripped, so Pete explains about Jesus being the Liberator...

- Which version are you drawn to? Which do you find easier to understand?

PLAY TOGETHER

Communication Games



Words aren’t the only way to communicate!

You may have played games like **Pictionary**, **Charades** or **Rapidough** where instead of describing something with words you draw pictures, act out or even make models from playdough.

Take it in turns to choose a word from today’s Bible story. Choose a way to communicate – can you draw it, act it or model it? Can the rest of the people in your house guess which word it is?



MAKE TOGETHER

Have you ever thought about re-telling and talking about a Bible story through baking?!

Have a go at making some ***Gingerbread Pentecost People!***

You can find a recipe to make gingerbread here:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/gingerbread-men-0>



Or you can buy ready made kits from the supermarket:

Talk about the story together: you could make a 'crowd' and decorate your gingerbread people with flames on their heads! You could use red, orange and yellow icing tubes or sweets to make the flames.



Faith Art

We can also communicate through pictures.

Using whatever materials you have available, (paint, pens, pencils, paper and glue) create a picture of your faith. It could be a favourite Bible Story, an image that shows what Jesus means to you or an image of the Holy Spirit. There is no right or wrong way to do this!

Here are some images for inspiration:



Have a look at the **Do Together** Section for ideas on how to share what you make.

SING TOGETHER

Speak up – Lifeway Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esUsHmkRliA>

This little light of mine – Lifetree Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA>

Holy Spirit, living breath of God – Keith and Kristyn Getty:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8FKZlz97AU>

I speak Jesus – Here Be Lions & Darlene Zschech: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiaVb8j_nbw

Joy of the Holy Spirit - a song in British Sign Language – cjmmusic: https://youtu.be/iUJv4q4sr_4

REFLECT TOGETHER

You might like to listen to the song, *Holy Spirit, living breath of God* (which can be found in the **Sing Together** section) as you reflect on these questions.

- How am I experiencing God's Spirit now (not in the past)?
- Where is the Spirit directing my life?
- Where am I blind/deaf/unwilling to listen to him?

PRAY TOGETHER



Flying Saucer Prayers

If you can get hold of some flying saucer sweets, you can use them to pray!

- Hold the flying saucer in your mouth. Don't bite or chew!
- Ask the Holy Spirit to come and help you or someone you know.
- Wait as the fizzy sherbet is released and picture the power of the spirit at work.

Lord, your Spirit makes us feel:
as bold as lions; (*roar*)
as strong as tigers; (*growl*)
as safe as puppies; (*woof*)
and loved as children of God. (*hug yourself*)
Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God
breathe hope into your hearts,
transform your fears,
and bless you with the gifts of courage, compassion and understanding,
that you may share your faith with renewed confidence and new commitment.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.

DO TOGETHER

Think about ways in which you might share your faith this week.

- Think about who you might share it with.
- Are you speaking their language? Sharing your faith in a way that can be understood.
- Can you use words or actions?

If you made some **Gingerbread Pentecost People**, perhaps you could leave some as a gift for a neighbour with a note explaining why you made them.

Or

If you did some **Faith Art** you could share that. If there are other people in your house, you could all make some art and talk together about what each person has made. Friends could share photos of their artwork over email, social media or WhatsApp.

- Could you share a favourite Christian song or video?



Another visual way of sharing your faith is to use the **'4 Points'** symbols:

Find out more here:

<https://www.the4points.com/uk/index.php>

family.ministry@ccwsm.org.uk

Action Reminder and prayers taken or adapted from

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