Long Story Short: God’s Promised Gift for You

Reflect

1. Recall a time when you knew the presence of God was with you.
2. What makes a spiritual person spiritual?
3. What does God’s Holy Spirit do for you?

Read Your Bible

Genesis 1:2
Ezekiel 36:27
Acts 2:1-21

Apply God’s Word to Your Life

1. Pentecost for Christians is the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. What is Pentecost for Jews?
2. The disciples are all in one place when the Holy Spirit is gifted. Why is it important to be together with other Christians?
3. The Jews who made pilgrimage to Jerusalem gathered around the house where the disciples were. What caused the Jews to gather round?
4. Read aloud the list of nationalities in vs. 9-11. Laugh a little.
5. What did the crowd hear, and in what language did they hear it?
6. What did the crowd make of it? If you were there what would you have thought?
7. Peter addresses the crowd and he reaches back into Israel’s history to say this day is a fulfillment of God’s promise. According to vs. 17 and 18, who receives the Holy Spirit?
8. What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in verse 21?
9. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit? What has the Holy Spirit done for you? What have you done in the power of the Holy Spirit?

When we read the Old Testament, we see and hear about the power of God’s Spirit. It’s creative and redeeming. It breathes life into God’s people. And yet, the Holy Spirit resting on people is a rare thing. Jesus changes that. Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit on all who believe; men and women, young and old, from every tribe and nation. This Spirit brings life, faith in Jesus, and a right relationship with our Father in Heaven. And not only does it bless us in our relationship with God, it also empowers, emboldens, equips, and send believers into the world to share the love of Christ. As the creative and saving work of the Spirit move in our lives, we must also ask, “God what do you want me to do with my life so that someone else might be saved?”

Pray

Come Holy Spirit, come! Work in my soul and through my very being so that I may speak your Good News to many people. Thank you that you fill me with forgiveness, life, and salvation so that I might be free from the pain and grief of this world. Continue to make me bold for Jesus in this world. In Jesus’ name. Amen.