

Interactive story

Session Six – Pentecost

Bold text – Narrator

(Bracketed Italics) – everyone to join in

This interactive story works best with big groups. Start by teaching the group the interactive bits in brackets. When you get to them in the script, repeat them 2 to 3 times.

Have fun and be creative; you may wish to teach some volunteers ahead of time to help you tell the story. It's up to you. You're in charge!

Listen. Can you hear it? It's the sound of people praying.

(Everyone folds hands and says "Our Father Who art in heaven.")

They're not just any people. They are the people who followed Jesus – his disciples and many more. Both men and women, who cried when he died on the cross, and celebrated when he rose from the dead, and were amazed when he appeared to them, and who are waiting in this room in Jerusalem for a gift he promised to send them.

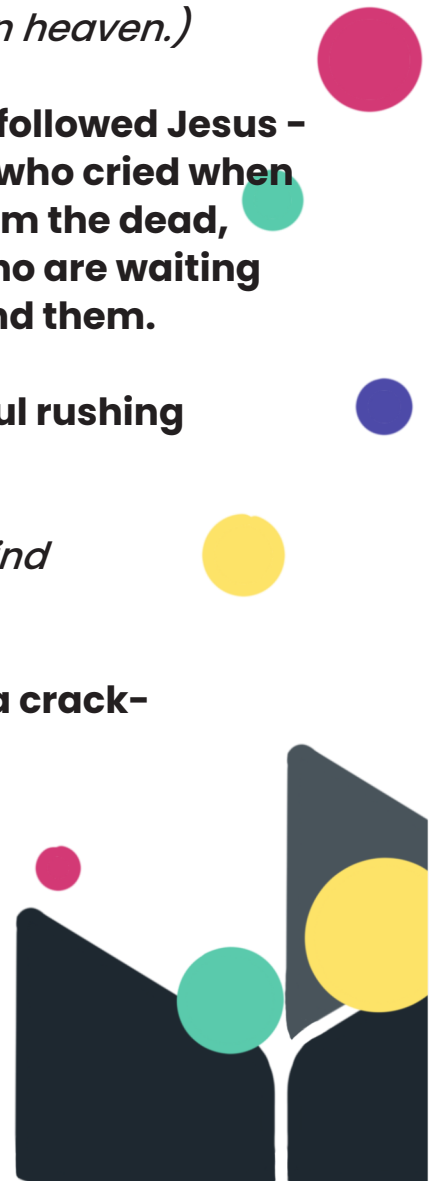
Now listen. Can you hear it? It's a sound like a powerful rushing wind.

(Everyone waves their arms and makes whooshing wind sounds.)

Ooh, and listen closer. Can you hear it? The sound of a crackling fire.

(Everyone makes crackling fire sounds.)

The wind rushes in to fill the room. And tongues of fire appear to rest on every head. What is it? What does it mean? It's Jesus' promised gift, that's what. It's God's own Holy Spirit, who



fills every person in that room.

Then, listen. Can you hear it? It's the sound of people speaking different languages.

(Everyone speaks a line or a word from some language they know - all at once.)

The thing is, though, none of the people in the room have ever studied a foreign language!

Now listen. Can you hear it? The people out in the street are amazed.

(Everyone shouts "Wow!")

It's the Feast of Pentecost - a kind of massive harvest festival where Jewish people thank God for all that he has given them. And so Jewish people from all over the world have come to Jerusalem to celebrate.

And listen. Can you hear it? They are not only amazed, they are confused.

(Everyone makes a confused face and goes, "Huh?")

"These people are from Galilee," they say." so how come we can each hear them speaking in our native languages? We're Parthians, Medes, and Elamites. We are Cretans and Arabians. We come from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia. From Pontus and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia. From Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene. And even from Rome.

And yet, somehow, we can all hear them tell us about the amazing things God has done - in our own languages!"

Now, listen. Can you hear it? Some smart aleck shouts out his own idea of an explanation.

(Everyone puts their hands to the side of their mouth and shouts, "They're drunk!")

And then listen. Can you hear it? Peter stands up and clears his throat.



(Everyone makes a coughing, throat clearing sound.)

And then he tells the crowd what is really happening.

“We’re not drunk!” He says. “It’s only nine in the morning! No, what you hear was promised by the prophet Joel many years ago. He said that one day, everyone would receive God’s Spirit. Old and young, men and women alike. And today that promise has come true.

How? Because of Jesus, that’s how! Who died, and was raised from the dead, and now reigns in heaven with God.

That’s right the very same Jesus who you crucified!”

And now listen. Can you hear it? The people gasp in horror when they realise what they have done.

(Everyone puts their hands to their face and gasps, “Oh, no!”)

And together they cry out, “What should we do?”

And Peter says, “Say you’re sorry for what you have done. Make a commitment to live differently. Then be baptised in Jesus’ name for the forgiveness of your sins. And you too will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

And listen. Can you hear it? The sound of water splashing.

(Everyone makes splashy water sounds.)

For three thousand people were baptised on that day!

