

Pentecost

- Pentecost is a Christian celebration fifty days after Good Friday.
- It is said to be the beginning of the Christian Church.

How Pentecost Came About

After Jesus had risen from the dead, He met with the disciples quite often.

After 40 days, it was time for Jesus to join his Father in Heaven. Before he left, he was on a mountainside, talking to his disciples. He told them that they had the job of telling people all over the world, that God loved them. Jesus said it would be a hard job, but He would send a gift to help them to do it.

Then, Jesus was taken up to Heaven.



The Gift of the Holy Spirit

One day, the disciples were together when there was a sudden sound of a mighty wind in the room. Then, flames landed on each of their heads, but no one was burned.

The disciples were amazed.

Then, they started talking in different languages! The disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was the gift from God!

People nearby heard the disciples talking in different languages.



Peter, the disciple, came to speak to the crowd, and said,



“Fellow Jews and people here in Jerusalem. We have received the Holy Spirit from God. You too can receive the Holy Spirit. You must be baptised. Then, you too can receive this wonderful gift!”

That day, three thousand people were baptised. The disciples started to travel the world, telling people about God’s message of love. This was the first day of the Christian Church.



Did You Know?

- At Pentecost, the colour red is a symbol of the flames that appeared on the disciples’ heads.
- A dove is a sign of the Holy Spirit because when Jesus was baptised, a dove appeared, bringing the Holy Spirit to Jesus.

Questions

1. How many days after Good Friday is Pentecost celebrated?

40

50

60

70

2. Which religion celebrates Pentecost?

Muslim

Christian

Buddhist

Jewish

3. What two things did Jesus tell the disciples on the mountainside?

4. What happened when the Holy Spirit arrived? Tick two answers.

The windows rattled.

There was a huge wind.

Flames leapt in the middle of the circle.

Flames landed on the disciples' heads.

5. What word has been used to describe how the disciples felt when the Holy Spirit arrived?

6. What was the Holy Spirit?

a dove

a gift

a message

a new language

7. Put these statements in the right order by numbering them from 1 to 4. Number the first statement with the number 1.

The disciples started speaking in different languages.

Flames landed on the heads of the disciples.

Jesus was taken into Heaven.

Peter told a crowd that they could receive the Holy Spirit by being baptised.

8. What happened which meant the Christian Church had begun?

Pentecost

Pentecost is a Christian celebration that occurs fifty days after Good Friday, when Christians believe Jesus was crucified. It is said to be the beginning of the Christian Church.

How Pentecost Came About

Jesus was crucified on Good Friday. Then, on Easter Sunday, He rose from the dead. For the next forty days, He met with the disciples, taught people about God's message of love and encouraged people to reflect on their behaviour so they would enter the kingdom of Heaven when they died.

After forty days, Jesus was on a mountainside talking to his disciples. He told them that they would have an important job to do, spreading God's message of love throughout the world. He told them that they would need strength to do this difficult job, and that they would receive a gift to give them that strength to carry it out.

Then, clouds came down over the mountain and Jesus ascended into Heaven, leaving the disciples bewildered by his words. They did not know what Jesus had meant.



The Gift of the Holy Spirit

For the next ten days, the disciples would gather together in private rooms to pray and talk about what Jesus might have meant. On the tenth day, they were together and there was a sudden sound of a mighty wind entering the room and filling the house they were in.

Tongues of fire appeared! They separated and then, a flame came to rest above each of the disciples' heads, but no one was burned! The disciples were amazed. They began to speak and found they were all talking in different languages! The disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit and suddenly, they understood what the gift sent by God was!



Their excited voices travelled down to the streets below, where there were travellers from different countries passing through Jerusalem. The travellers realised they could understand the disciples in their own languages. They were astounded!

Peter, the disciple, came to speak to the crowd and said,



“Fellow Jews and people here in Jerusalem. Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead, so listen here. We have received the Holy Spirit, the gift from God. You too can receive the Holy Spirit. You must regret your sins, become baptised and ask for forgiveness. Then, you too can receive this wonderful gift!”

That day, three thousand people were baptised. The disciples began to travel the world, spreading God’s message of love. The Christian Church had begun and the message of God’s love began to spread throughout the world!

Did You Know?

During the Pentecost:

- the colour red is used in many Christian churches as a symbol of the flames that appeared on the disciples’ heads;
- a dove represents the Holy Spirit, because when Jesus was baptised, a dove appeared, bringing the Holy Spirit to Jesus.

Questions

1. How could someone work out when Pentecost would be celebrated each year?
2. What marks the beginning of the Christian Church?
3. Why did Jesus encourage people to reflect on the way they lived?
4. Write two things that Jesus told the disciples about the job they were going to do.
5. Choose another word that closely matches the meaning of 'bewildered' in the fourth paragraph.
6. Identify two unusual things that happened when the Holy Spirit arrived.

7. What could the disciples do after the Holy Spirit had arrived?

Talk to a crowd of people.

Talk in one language.

Talk in different languages.

Never talk again.

8. Who spoke to the crowd of travellers?

Jesus

Peter

the Holy Spirit

the Jewish people

9. Identify and explain one symbol of Pentecost.

10. Write T for True or F for False beside the following statements.

Jesus spoke to his disciples on a mountainside, fifty days after his resurrection.

Jesus told his disciples that they would need help to complete the job they were going to do.

The disciples understood what the gift from God would be. They were excited. When the Holy Spirit arrived, the whole building was filled with a strong wind.

The disciples could all speak in the same language after they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

If a statement is false, rewrite it as a correct statement.

Pentecost

Pentecost is a Christian celebration, recognised fifty days after Good Friday, when Christians believe Jesus was crucified. It is considered to be the time of the birthday, or beginning, of the Christian Church.

How Pentecost Came About

Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, and then, on Sunday, He was resurrected from the dead. He walked among the people on Earth for the next forty days. He conversed with the disciples, taught people about God's message of love and encouraged people to reflect on their behaviour in order to enter the kingdom of Heaven.

After forty days, Jesus was on a mountainside talking to his disciples. He told them that He was soon to leave them and they would have an important job to do, spreading the word of God to everyone. He told them that they would need strength to do this difficult job and said that they would receive a gift to give them that strength and assist them with their job.

The clouds descended over the mountain and Jesus ascended into Heaven, leaving the disciples bewildered by his words. What gift was he talking about? When would it arrive? How would they know what it was? Their minds were full of unanswered questions.



The Gift of the Holy Spirit

For the next ten days, the disciples would gather together in private rooms, discuss their fears, worries and future and also pray. On the tenth day, they were together in a room. Suddenly, there was an almighty sound of a violent wind entering the room and filling the house they were in. What was going on?



Tongues of fire appeared, separated, and then a flame came to rest above each of the disciples' heads, but no one was burned!

The disciples were thoroughly astonished and in bewilderment, they looked from one to another. Then, they began to speak and realised that they were all talking in different languages! The disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit and suddenly, they understood what the gift sent by God was!

Their excited voices travelled down to the streets below, where there were many travellers from different countries passing through Jerusalem. The travellers realised they could understand the voices in their own languages. They were astounded!

“These people from Galilee are speaking our language. How can this be?” they asked each other.

Peter, one of the disciples, came to speak to the now growing crowd, and said,



“Fellow Jews and people here in Jerusalem. You who had Jesus crucified, and who heard of his resurrection, listen here. We have received the Holy Spirit, the gift from God. You too can receive the Holy Spirit. You must repent of your sins, become baptised and ask for forgiveness. Then, you too can receive this wonderful gift!”

That day, three thousand people repented and were baptised. The Christian Church had begun and the disciples began to travel, spreading the message of God’s love throughout the world!



Did You Know?

During Pentecost, the colour red is used in many Christian churches as a symbol of the flames that appeared on the disciples’ heads. A dove is representative of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptised by his cousin John, a dove appeared, bringing the Holy Spirit to Jesus.

Questions

1. Explain two things Jesus did after his resurrection.
2. What were the disciples going to do after Jesus had left them?
3. Find and copy one word which means 'help'.
4. Look at the paragraph beginning "The clouds descended..."
What impression do you get about how the disciples were feeling?
5. The disciples met to discuss their fears. Why do you think they had fears?

6. Tick the correct box for each statement in the table.

	True	False
Flames of fire settled on the top of each of the disciples' heads.		
The disciples realised they could speak the same language.		
The gift of the Holy Spirit arrived quietly and calmly.		
The arrival of the Holy Spirit left the disciples shocked and amazed.		
The people on the streets understood what the disciples were saying, even though they were from Galilee.		

7. For those statements that are false, write them correctly.

8. Why did Peter speak to the travellers in the streets?

9. Why would the arrival of the gift of the Holy Spirit help the disciples to do their job?

Explain in detail.

10. Why is Pentecost recognised as the time of birth of the Christian Church?

11. Write three things you have learned about Pentecost.