

Bible for Children

presents



THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH



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Story 55 of 60

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English

When Jesus died, His frightened followers hid themselves. After Jesus rose from the dead, He showed Himself to His disciples.

Jesus was alive! But - Jesus planned to leave them, to go back to Heaven where He had always lived with God, His Father.

1

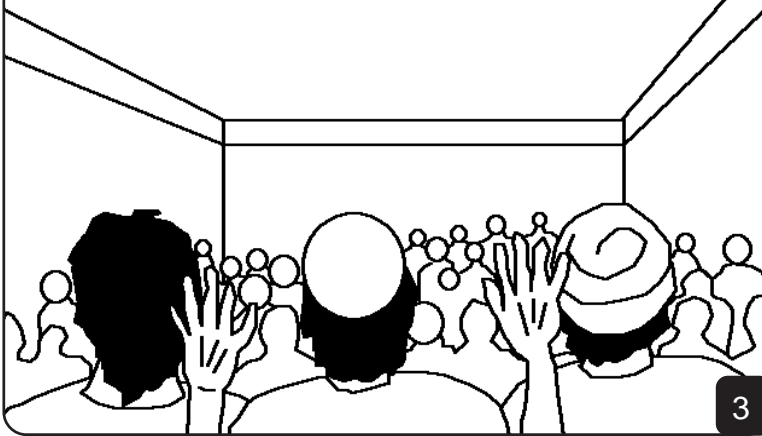


Before He left, Jesus promised His followers

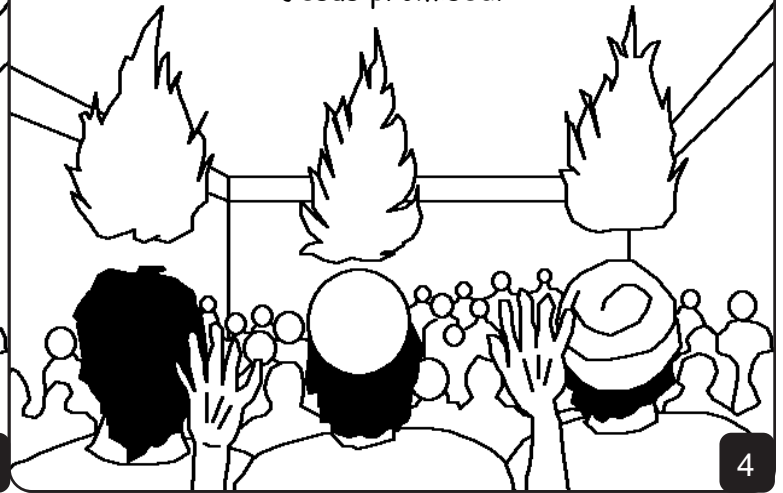
He would send the Spirit of God to be their Comforter and Help (John 15:26). The time was near! A few days after Jesus left, God the Holy Spirit came.

2

It happened this way. About 120 followers of Jesus were praying together in a house. Suddenly, the house was filled with the sound of a rushing mighty wind.



Forked flames of fire rested upon each person. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit - just as Jesus promised!



Out in the streets, Jesus' followers spoke languages they had never learned. Foreigners visiting Jerusalem heard the disciples talk about the wonderful works of God in many languages. The visitors were amazed. "Whatever could this mean?" they asked. "They are full of new wine," others mocked.



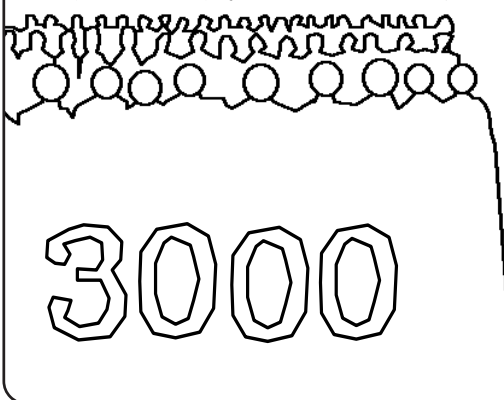
But Peter said, "These are not drunk ... this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel ..." Peter then reminded them that many years before, God had promised the Holy Spirit would come to bless and help people.



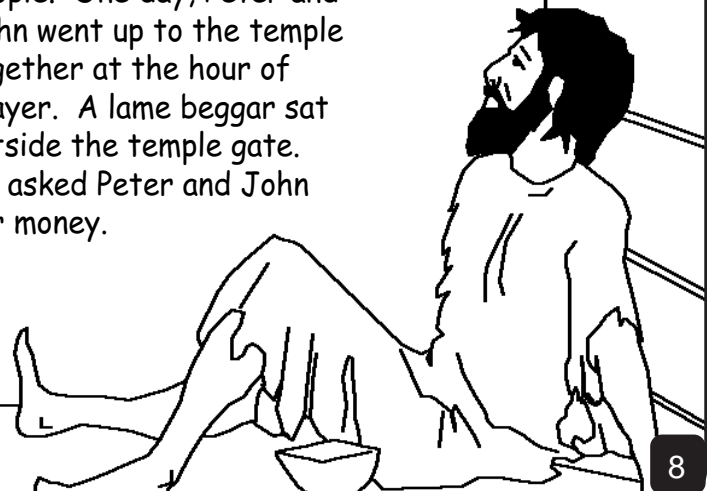
Peter told the people they must turn away from their sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. "... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," Peter said. Around 3000 people obeyed. They joined the disciples as worshipers of

Jesus. As time passed, more and more people were added to the church God started the day the Holy Spirit came.

3000



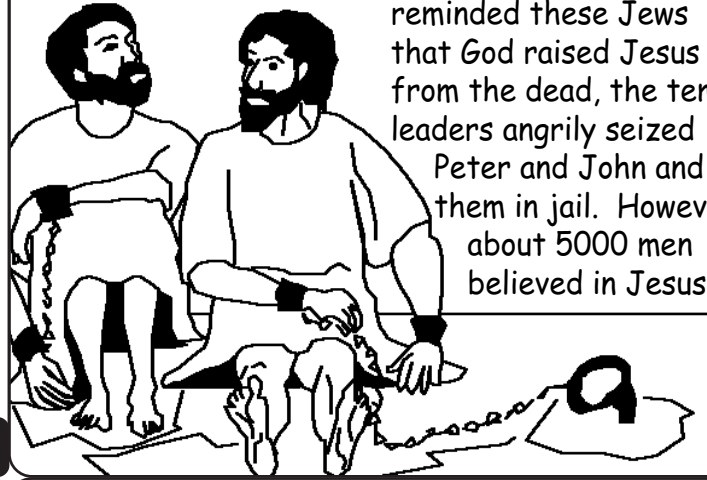
The Holy Spirit brought His power into the lives of God's people. One day, Peter and John went up to the temple together at the hour of prayer. A lame beggar sat outside the temple gate. He asked Peter and John for money.





Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them - walking, leaping, and praising God.

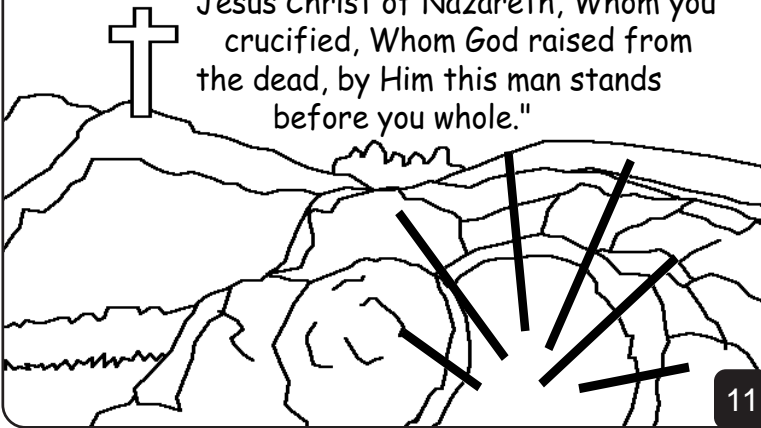
9



A great crowd gathered, amazed at the miracle. Peter told them it was God's power, not his own, which healed the crippled man. When Peter reminded these Jews that God raised Jesus from the dead, the temple leaders angrily seized Peter and John and put them in jail. However, about 5000 men believed in Jesus.

10

Next day, Peter and John stood before the Temple rulers. "By what power or by what name have you done this?" the rulers asked. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter answered bravely. "... by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Whom you crucified, Whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole."



11



Peter continued fearlessly, "...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Not wanting the people to believe on Jesus, the rulers severely threatened Peter and John. "From now on you must speak to no man in Jesus' name."

12

Peter had once been afraid to stand up for Jesus. But that was before the Holy Spirit came. Now nobody could frighten him.



13

Peter and John answered, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."



14

After more threats, the rulers released Peter and John. God's brave servants told their companions all about jail and court. Then they held a great prayer and praise meeting. Again, God's Holy Spirit filled His people with power - and the infant church grew and grew.



15

The Birth of the Church

A story from God's Word, the Bible,

is found in

Acts 1-4

"The entrance of Your Words gives light."
Psalm 119:130

God knows we have done bad things, which He calls sin. The penalty for sin is death.

God loves us so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on a Cross and pay our penalty.

Jesus came alive and went back to Heaven!
Now God can forgive our sins.

If you want to turn from your sins, say this to God: Dear God, I believe Jesus died for me and now lives again. Please come into my life and forgive my sins, so I can have new life now, and then be with You forever. Help me live for You as Your child. Amen. John 3:16

Read the Bible and talk to God every day!