

Wind. Fire. Water. Yes.

A Family Devotion for Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1–4 · Romans 6:3–5

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." — Acts 2:4

The Story

A long time ago — but not so long that it doesn't still matter — a group of friends were sitting together in a room, waiting.

They were waiting because Jesus had told them to. He had gone back to heaven, but he had promised he wouldn't leave them alone. He said something was coming. Something they had never seen before.

They waited. And waited. And then —

WHOOOOSH.

A sound like a giant wind filled the whole house. And then — little flames, like tiny fires, appeared right over everybody's heads. And suddenly everyone was talking at once, in languages they had never even learned, and people from all over the city came running to see what in the world was happening.

It was the Holy Spirit. Arriving exactly like Jesus said — but more surprising than anyone expected.

This Sunday, something happened at our church that felt a little like that.

Four young people — Cameron, Ally, Dean, and Wells — walked into the water. They said yes to Jesus. And the whole congregation said yes with them.

That's what baptism is. It's a yes. It's stepping into the water and saying: I belong to Jesus. I'm part of this family. I'm in.

Wind. Fire. Water. All three of them, on the same Sunday.

The Holy Spirit was definitely there.

Read It Together

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."

— Acts 2:2–4

Have someone read it out loud — and read the wind part with ENERGY!

The Activity: Wind, Fire & Water

You will need: a bowl of water, a candle (with a grown-up to light it), and yourselves.

Here's what to do:

1. WIND — Take a big breath together. As big as you can. Now blow it out slowly. That breath is yours. Now think: God breathed life into the very first people. The Spirit came like wind. Every breath you take is a little reminder that God is close.
2. FIRE — Have a grown-up light a candle. Watch the flame for a moment. At Pentecost, little flames appeared over everyone's heads — not to burn them, but to light them up. The Spirit lit something inside those first disciples. Ask: what do you think the Spirit has lit up inside you?
3. WATER — Pass the bowl around. Let everyone dip a finger in. This is what Cameron, Ally, Dean, and Wells stepped into on Sunday. Baptism is a yes. As you dip your finger, say quietly: I am in. I belong.

Wind. Fire. Water. Three ways the Spirit shows up. All three were there on Sunday.

Talk About It

For the littles (ages 4–7):

If the Holy Spirit is like wind, can you see it? Can you feel it? How do you know it's there?

If you were going to say yes to Jesus, what would you say?

For the middles (ages 8–11):

Why do you think the Spirit showed up as wind and fire — not something quieter, like a whisper?

Cameron, Ally, Dean, and Wells are around your age. What do you think it felt like to be baptized in front of the whole church?

For the olders (ages 12+):

Paul says baptism is like a burial and a resurrection — something dies and something new begins. What do you think that means for everyday life?

The Spirit was poured out on all people — young and old, sons and daughters. Does it change anything for you to know that age doesn't limit what the Spirit can do through you?

For the grown-ups:

When did you first feel the Spirit show up in your life — and did it feel like wind and fire, or something quieter? Share that story with your family.

Did You Know?

The word Pentecost means "fifty." It happened fifty days after Easter — which is why we celebrate it at the end of the Easter season. In the Jewish tradition, Pentecost (called Shavuot) was already a feast day celebrating the giving of the Law to Moses. So on the day the world was celebrating God's great gift of the Law, God gave another great gift: the Spirit. That is not a coincidence. That is very much on purpose.

This Week's Challenge

Every time you feel the wind this week — really feel it, on your face or in your hair — stop for just a second and say: "Hello, Spirit."

It sounds a little silly. That's okay. The disciples probably looked pretty silly too, standing there with flames over their heads, talking in languages they'd never spoken. Silliness has never stopped the Spirit before.

Pray Together

Come, Holy Spirit.

Come like wind. Come like fire. Come like water that washes us clean and sends us out new.

Thank you for Cameron, Ally, Dean, and Wells, who said yes on Sunday. Help us to say yes too — in the big moments and the ordinary ones.

Fill this family with your Spirit. Light something up in each of us.

Amen.
