

Children's Message for Pentecost, May 23, 2021

NOTE: This exercise involves blowing out with your breath and shouldn't be done unless all people are in one social bubble or are very distanced!

Today we're going to talk about WIND. Let's start by blowing your breath out—can you make it whoosh? Can you blow it out without making any sound? Try it a couple of times. -- We can *hear* it, but can you *see* it?

Our Bible reading this morning is from the book of Acts. We're going to hear how the *breath* of God blew into a part of Jerusalem. The breath of God is also the *wind* of God, and it was blowing right into the house where the disciples of Jesus were living. They'd been living there for 7 weeks.

This wind of God was also the Holy Spirit of God! God sent the Holy Spirit to wake up those friends of Jesus, because they'd been sort of stuck in that house for 50 days! (We call this day *Pentecost*, because "pente" means "50.") There were a bunch of Jesus' followers there with the disciples, and they were really surprised when they heard the rush of a mighty wind! (If you have a fan, turn it on high and let it blow on the children.)

And something else happened, too. Something that looked like "tongues of fire" landed on each of the people there, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit! How would you feel if you saw something like fire coming down on your head? Would you be scared?

The fire that day wasn't scary, but it sure made a difference in the lives of those apostles. ("Disciples" are called in; "apostles" are sent out. Now that Jesus is no longer with them, the people who had followed him are being sent out to teach the world about Jesus and his love."

The Holy Spirit helped them share God's message of love with everyone by speaking in other languages. Wenn ich Deutsch spreche, versteht Ihr? Entendeis cuando hablo espanol? With the gift of the Holy Spirit that day, all the people who came from other countries could understand about Jesus and God's power and love.

That same Holy Spirit is always with us! You received that gift when you were baptized. You were "sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." I can promise you, you will never be alone!