

When the Spirit was Poured Out



Bible references – Acts 1 to 2



As the story of the Spirit reaches Pentecost, something shifts. Throughout the Old Testament the Spirit appears at key moments, bringing change and enabling God's people to act. In the life of Jesus, the Spirit is present throughout, shaping everything he does and revealing what life looks like in relationship with the Father.

In this session the young people will explore the events of Acts 2, tracing what happened when the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. As they follow the story they will begin to notice how this differs from what they have seen before and how the coming of the Spirit marks a turning point in the story.

You will need:

- Paper and pens



Beat

Say:

Every story has moments that shift the whole direction, moments that divide everything into 'before' and 'after'. Sometimes they arrive suddenly, and at other times you see them slowly building throughout the story. Either way, once that key moment happens, everything changes.

Leader's notes:

Invite the group to think of turning points from stories, films, or their own experiences.

Examples:

- Katniss volunteering to be a tribute in the Hunger Games.
- Lucy stepping into the wardrobe in Narnia.
- Percy Jackson discovering his true identity.

Encourage them to think about:

- What led up to the turning point, or did it come out of nowhere?
- What changed in the moment?
- What was different afterwards?

Say:

Today we're exploring one of the biggest turning points in the story of the Spirit. At Pentecost, something changes, and after that nothing is quite the same again.

 **Bridge**

Say:

In all the moments we discussed, it's not just what happens that matters, but who is there.

Ask:

- What is it that makes those turning points feel so different?
- Is it what happens, who is there - or both?

 **Amplify**

Say:

Over the last two sessions we have been following the story of the Holy Spirit through the Bible. In the Old Testament the Spirit appeared in specific moments, often providing the necessary skills and abilities needed to fulfil God's plan.

In the life of Jesus, that begins to shift. The Spirit is present throughout, shaping what Jesus does and how he relates to the Father. As the story continues Jesus begins to speak about what will happen next.

Read:

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

⁶ Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷ He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his

own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

– (Acts 1:4-8)

Ask:

- What new information do the disciples discover about the Holy Spirit in this moment?
- What promise are they given by Jesus?

Say:

The disciples began to recognise that the way they had seen the Holy Spirit at work was about to change. Many of them had experienced baptism in water, but now Jesus spoke about something different – a baptism with the Holy Spirit. They were told that when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would receive power to tell the world about Jesus. They knew something was coming, but they did not yet know what it would look like or how it would happen.

We are going to watch a short clip that tells the story of what happens next.

As you watch, try to notice where the Holy Spirit is and what he is doing.

Watch:

The Spirit Comes: The Story of Pentecost (Acts 2) (stop at 3:53)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LugPgcrHgl8

Ask:

What did you notice about the Holy Spirit in this clip?

Say:

We're going to explore some Scripture passages that zoom in on the role of the Spirit in the story.

Read:

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

– (Acts 2:1-4)

Ask:

- Where is the Spirit in this moment?
- How is his presence described?
- What is happening because he is there?

Say:

In this moment, the Spirit is not hidden in the background. His presence is clear and unmistakable. It can be heard in the sound of the wind. It can be seen in what looks like fire. He fills the whole place and everyone in it, and because of that, something begins to happen. The disciples start to speak in ways they couldn't before. This is different from anything we've seen so far in the story. As people try to make sense of what is happening, Peter begins to explain it.

Read:

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

21 And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved."

– (Acts 2:14-21)

Ask:

- What was Peter trying to help the crowd understand about what was happening?
- Peter shared the words of the prophet Joel with the crowd. What does this tell us about the Holy Spirit and what he will do?

Say:

Peter was helping the crowd understand that this was not a random moment. He pointed them back to the Scriptures they knew well. This is what had been promised.

Read:

32 'God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.'

– (Acts 2:32-33)



Ask:

- Where does Peter say the Holy Spirit has come from?
- How does this connect to what happened to Jesus?

Say:

This moment is not separate from the rest of the story. The Spirit is not acting alone.

What is happening here comes from the Father, through the Son, and is now being poured out by the Spirit.

Earlier in the story the Spirit comes and goes, bringing change in specific situations. In the life of Jesus the Spirit remains, shaping everything he does, but is still focused on one person. Now at Pentecost, everything changes. This is the beginning of a new chapter in the story of the Holy Spirit.

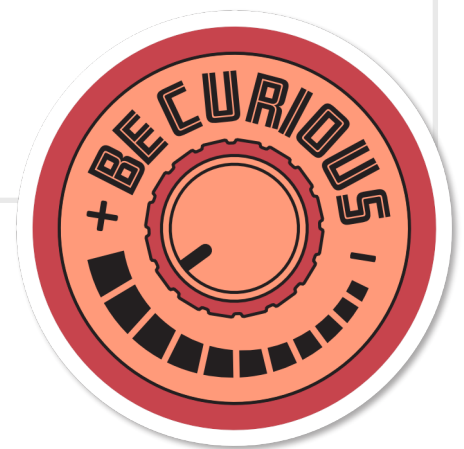
 **Bridge****Read:**

'Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us.'

– Robert Baer

Ask:

What do you think this quote is trying to say?

 **Sound Check****Say:**

We've explored the story of Pentecost and what happens when the Holy Spirit is poured out.

Now imagine you were there. Imagine you were one of the disciples or someone in the crowd, trying to explain what had just happened.

Ask:

How would you tell that story to someone else?

Leader's notes:

Today's Sound Check section gives the young people the opportunity to communicate the story of Pentecost in a way that helps others understand what is happening and why it matters. The young people can work in small groups or individually and choose how they would like to respond.

Here are some ideas to get them started:

- Create a short social media story or thread.
- Record a voice note.
- Create a podcast outline with a special guest and key questions.
- Write a spoken word or monologue.
- Present the story visually.

Remind them to include:

- What happened
- What they saw and heard
- Where the Holy Spirit is in the story
- When they have had time to create their ideas, bring the group back to share them together.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

How could you develop your idea and use it outside this Bassline session?

 **Selah****Say:**

We've traced the story of the Spirit from the beginning, through the life of Jesus, and now to Pentecost. The Spirit is poured out and made available to everyone who believes in Jesus.

Ask:

As you reflect on everything we have explored today, what stands out to you the most from this part of the story?

What feels different about how the Spirit is present now?

Say:

From Pentecost onwards, something has changed. The Spirit is now at work in a different way, and from this point on we begin to see what that looks like as the story continues. We'll explore this in our final session of this series.

Pray:

Father,

Thank you that from the very beginning, your Spirit has been present and at work, bringing life and power into your story.

Thank you for the way your Spirit was at work in the life of Jesus, present in everything he did.

Thank you for this moment at Pentecost, when everything changed and your Spirit was poured out in a new way.

Help us to understand what we've explored today.

Help us to recognise what has changed, and to see that this is not just a story from the past, but a story that continues.

Amen.



Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is the one thing you've discovered today about what changed at Pentecost?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.

