

Focus of the readings:

The mission of the church is to do the work of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus breathed into his disciples his own life, the Holy Spirit. By the power of that Spirit, the church is born. The followers of Jesus are now to do what his death and Resurrection was all about-

This Spirit comes upon the disciples with power. In the name of Jesus, in every language, they are empowered to preach about "the great things God has done."

Reflecting on the readings with children:

Ask the children what they think it felt like to the disciples when they received the Holy Spirit. It is important to help them understand that the Holy Spirit is not "strong wind" and "tongues of fire." These are images used to describe an event which cannot really be into words. We often do this. We are using metaphors to help us express more a feeling or a quality than a physical presence.

Ask the children what words are said at the Christian baptism – "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Help them understand that, we too, have received the Holy Spirit. The stress here should not be on speaking other languages but on telling about the great things God had done.

Ask the children how we can do this today, because we, too, have the Holy Spirit. Ask them to give some examples of how they can tell about the great things God has done:

- What great things today?
- Whom can we tell?

After the Gospel, ask the children what else Jesus gave us the power to do Besides telling the great things God has done. Explore ways in which they can forgive others. Help them to see that if we truly forgive someone, that person "feels" the power of the freedom of begin forgiven. If we refuse this, that person "feels" the burden of not being forgiven. We have the power of the Holy Spirit to free people by being forgiving. Help them to see that when we live this way, as we pray in the Psalm refrain, "the face of the earth will be like new."