

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

The Holy Spirit Comes Down

from Acts 10:44-48.



Jesus wants everyone to follow him—that means you!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Peter
- Holy Spirit
- Gentiles
- Baptism

The word *gentile* refers to people who are not Jewish. In the Old Testament, the term usually referred to pagans, or people who worshipped false gods (or no god at all). In the New Testament, *gentile* sometimes referred to early Christian communities. After Jesus' death, many of Jesus' followers came to believe he was the Messiah. Despite many cultural similarities, this belief put them outside of the Jewish religious heritage.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 524-525

Spark Bible page 1217

Family Prayer

Dear God, you offer your Holy Spirit to everyone. Help us accept your grace and mercy as shown through your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 What symbols do we use to talk about the Holy Spirit?
- 2 Why were the disciples surprised when the Holy Spirit came down on the Gentiles?
- 3 The disciples wanted to baptize the Gentiles after they received the Holy Spirit. How do you think baptisms looked during Jesus' time? How does your church perform baptisms today? What are some similarities and differences?
- 4 What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Do you talk about it much at your church or in your family?



Eye Spark

The next time you see a dove, feel a gust of wind, or see a flame, remember how the Holy Spirit moves in your life.



Ear Spark

In another well-known Bible story, people spoke in foreign languages after receiving the Holy Spirit. The next time you hear someone speaking a language other than your own, remember how God invites everyone to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Does your church host weekly dinners or other meals? If you do, consider starting a compost bin on your church grounds. Composting helps turn leftover food into fertilizer for news plants. You can learn more about composting at your library, online, or a local hardware or gardening store.

For younger kids

The Holy Spirit is one third of the Trinity, but it is talked and taught about the least. How often do you talk about the Trinity in your church or family? The next time you go to church, count how many times people talk about the Holy Spirit.

For older kids

Do some research on serotinous pine cones. If you live near the Rocky Mountains, you may even have some near your home. Something surprising happens to these cones during forest fires. Can you think of anything else that gets new life from fiery flames?

Lectionary, The Holy Spirit Comes Down Family Page.
Spark™ Sunday School

© 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use provided every copy carries this notice.

