



## Living the Faith – Step 3

### The Power of the Spirit

#### Aim

To grow in understanding of the Pentecost story, and the ongoing action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Jesus disciples today.

#### Resources needed

##### Leaders

- *Come and See notes*
- *PPT laptop and projector or TV*
- *Prayer focus items*
- *White board / large sheet of paper*
- *Sheets with gifts of Holy Spirit*
- *Cut out symbols of the Holy Spirit*

##### For Young People

- *Journals*

#### Prayer Focus

**Red Cloth** – Pentecost Season

**Image of the Risen Lord** - *Angel of the North, or alternative*

**Items representing Gifts** – *eg: Bible, wisdom; iPad, Knowledge; rosary beads, piety; flowers, fear of the Lord (awe) &/or*

**Candle** – *yellow, orange or multi coloured, symbolising the flame of the Holy Spirit*

**Water** – *cleansing and lifegiving action of the Holy Spirit in Baptism*

#### Liturgical Link

Pentecost, another great feast, celebrating the birth of the Church of the Church, brings to a close the Easter season. Traditionally a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

#### Overview

- Obedience and Trust
- The Command and the Mission
- The Power of Forgiveness
- Gone but not Forgotten
- Growing in Holiness
- Prayerful Reflection

#### Preparation by Catechists

- *Familiarity with content and resources*
- *Be ready to share re personal gifts and unexpected events*
- *Pray for the young people and leaders*

#### Scripture Passages

- Acts 2: 1-11 Pentecost
- 1 Cor 12:4-11 Diversity of Gifts

#### Tenets of Faith (Faith Formation)

- The importance of Prayer and Waiting
- The Power of the Holy Spirit
- Giving Witness
- Gifts to be cherished and used in service to the Lord

## Gathering:

- **Welcome and Overview:**
    - Thank the young people for coming back, give a brief reminder of key points from the last gathering.
    - Provide the overview and aim for this step.
  - **Introductory activity - *Waiting*** - Just as the disciples were waiting for the gift of the Holy Spirit so do we have many experiences of waiting in our lives, together let us name some of these situations:
    - With group members seated in a circle, invite each person in turn to mention a place or situation where they have experience waiting: ask them to listen carefully as repetition is not allowed. Offer an example to get the ball rolling if need be.
    - Now encourage people to think of some of the feelings that might be experienced when waiting in these different circumstances.
    - Share a few and ask individuals to raise their hands if the feelings apply to them. (some may have very different feelings in the same circumstances.)
    - Invite group to identify which of these feelings might have experienced by the disciples after the Ascension, while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- FF** - In the final conversation recorded with the disciples, in Acts, Jesus makes clear that through the power of the Holy Spirit the disciples will understand and fulfil their mission.
- As instructed, they returned to Jerusalem to pray and to wait. Many different emotions will have been experienced, including fear.
  - Through prayer and reflection the disciples will have remembered the many times Jesus had quelled the fears of people during his ministry. They needed to hang in there to wait for the Spirit.

## Opening Prayer

- **Prayer focus:** *refer to items and their significance here and as appropriate later*

**FF** - Waiting patiently for God's Spirit or action in our lives may not come naturally. It is something we need to work at as did the disciples, following the Ascension. Just sitting in God's presence, inviting him into our hearts is good way to begin. The use of a simple mantra can help us to remain focused.

Mantra to repeat: **Come** (as breathe in) **Holy Spirit** as breath out either do in silence for 1 minute, or while listening to the music <https://youtu.be/02TBj-TnKMU>

Let us now bring to mind any worries we, or our family members have and ask the Holy Spirit to help us overcome these.

We bring all these prayers together and offer them to God as we sing:

- **Song:** Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and light up in us the power of your love. Send forth your spirit, then we shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.  
(words and background music)

Or [https://youtu.be/y2j5Ve0\\_rTg](https://youtu.be/y2j5Ve0_rTg) Julie Maners 3.34

## Scripture and Reflection

- **Pentecost – Acts 2:1- 4, 5-13** *The Power of the Holy Spirit*

**Introduction:** As we have already heard the disciples are gathered in the upper room, unsure, but waiting as instructed. The video clip provides a wonderful depiction of the scripture passage:

- Watch - <https://youtu.be/Gt16nVZ0qSQ> 2min – the Bible Series
- Invite the young people to reflect on the questions below, recording responses in their journals
- Allow them to share with one other person
- Invite a different pair to share on point, others can then add to this if they wish.

**Ponder:**

- How is the Holy Spirit depicted in the video clip?
- How did the disciples respond? and how do you think they were feeling after the coming of the Spirit?
- Who else witnessed the event? what might they be thinking or feeling?
- What do you think happens next?

FF

- The mighty wind represents how the disciples, will drive a wind of change to the lives of many, including Saul, destined to be the ones who will go out and preach God's word to all nations.
- Instantly, having received the Holy Spirit, the disciples become the witnesses Jesus asked them to be. Such is the power of the Holy Spirit, they overcome their fears removing the barriers that previously presented them from witnessing to the Good News of the resurrection.
- The list of places where the people gathered are from shows how quickly the Gospel message is being taken to the ends of the earth.

*Notes adapted from the New Testament, by Nichola King, Kevin Mayhew Pub*

- **Recognising Gifts:**

On the day of Pentecost the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Each of us also has gifts and talents given to us by God. Some of these individual gifts are unique to us. We also have family traits, behaviours and talents in common with parents and siblings.

**Activity - Family gifts:**

- Gather the group in a well-spaced circle, standing.
- As particular gifts are mentioned those who recognise these as family traits (not necessarily every member, but strongly evident in the family) step forward towards the centre for each gift that applies, then step back for any that do not apply. Eg: having musical talents, being hospitable, generous, having courage etc.
- The shape of the 'circle' will show the extent of family gifts. All will have moved inwards at some point. Some will be common amongst the group.
- How do these gifts compare with those the disciples received from the Holy Spirit?

- FF** - Coming to faith is not so much acquiring a new set of beliefs about God, but discovering God's existence within the realities of our own lives.
- The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit help us to be more attuned to the actions of God at work in us, and in the world.
  - At baptism, the newly initiated receive the Spirit, and at confirmation, the Spirit of God is renewed and confirmed in each person to help them bear witness to the love of God at work in them.

## Going Deeper

- **Gifts of the Spirit: 1 Cor 12:4-11**

There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit Christians received in Baptism, which are then affirmed and encouraged through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Activity – Gifts of the Spirit**

- Check how many of the seven the group remember
- Chart up on a large sheet / white board
- Provide a brief explanation of how the gifts help to strengthen our relationship with God.

- FF** - There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit – (see 12-15 C&S L the F Step 3 Gifts of the Spirit)

**wisdom** - enables people to recognize what is important in life, and the need to keep God central in life

**understanding** - the ability to comprehend the meaning of God's message

**counsel (right judgment)** - the ability to see the best way to follow God's plan when there are important choices to make in life and faith

**fortitude (courage)** - the courage to do what is right, especially when the decision will be unpopular

**knowledge** - the ability to think about and explore the revelation of God, and also to recognize there are mysteries of faith beyond us

**piety (reverence)** - helps us pray to grow closer to God in true devotion

**fear (awe) of the Lord** - the sense of amazement of God, ever-present, whose friendship we crave

**Activity – our personal gifts**

- Place A4 sheets containing the name of each gift on the floor, well separated. Invite each person to go and stand by the gift they believe to be their strongest.
- When all have moved ask them to try and explain, with an example to demonstrate use of the gift.
- After the brief sharing invite all to now move to the gift they consider to be their weakest.
- Rather than comment on these a prayer is offered during which each group member names the gift they need particular help from the Holy Spirit to strengthen the young people.
- Example: God our Father, we thank you for the gifts you have given to each of us and acknowledge those to which we need to pay more attention. Holy Spirit help me to cultivate the gift of.... We offer these prayers confident of a loving response. Amen.

(CCC #1831)

- FF** - The Church also recognises twelve fruits of the Spirit: personal characteristics that develop when we live in relationship with God, following the ways of Jesus, attuned to the Spirit within them.

**Charity** (love), **joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity**

(CCC #1832)

**Activity - evidence of the Spirit at work:**

- In 2's or 3's invite the young people to consider how the Gifts and fruits of the Spirit are evident in our Church, and society in general. Offer an example to help kick start conversation if needed.
- Allow a few minutes then invite each pair / threesome to share one comment with the group.

• **Cultivating Gifts to become a miracle worker:**

- Following the descent of the Holy Spirit the disciples not only had the courage to go out and preach the Gospel, they performed miracles in the name of Jesus too.
- In a world where increasing numbers of people have no interest in religion, we need to be the ones who help show the face of God to others. How can we do this?
- By asking the Holy Spirit to help us develop the gifts and fruits given to us, so we become more Christ like.
- We need to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world today.

**Activity: Celebrating Gifts**

- With group members seated in a circle, ask each person to identify one fruit of the Holy Spirit they recognise in each of the three people sitting to their right.
- Each group member is given three paper doves or flames on which to name the person and thank them for using well the particular fruit of the Spirit they have recognised in that person.
- When all have finished, the doves or flames are passed on. (Everyone will receive three, regardless of the size of the group) See *L the F 12-15 Step 3 Holy Spirit Symbols*

- FF** - Essentially the disciples embraced the gifts of the Holy Spirit and went out to share these.
- Each year the feast of Pentecost, celebrated fifty days after Easter, reminds us of the event, and our responsibility to also use our gifts in service to God.

## Closing Prayer

- Gather in a circle / semi-circle around the prayer focus.
  - The leader invites the group to offer thanks to God for the spiritual fruits that others have recognised in them. (see resource: As the candle is passed around each person offers their prayer.
- Song of invitation: **Holy Spirit reign down** - [https://youtu.be/d-SI\\_HRWooA](https://youtu.be/d-SI_HRWooA)
- Together we ask the Lord to hear our prayers and help us remain on the path to holiness:

**Leader** Through our lives, and through our prayers:

**All** May your Spirit come.

**Leader** In our words and in our understanding.

**All** May your Spirit be known.

**Leader** By our attitudes and our actions.

**All** May your Spirit be known.

**Leader** Through our loving relationships.

**All** May your Spirit come.

## Closing Remarks and Next Step

- Invite response to the Step 3 gathering
- Introduce Living the Faith Step 4 – Missionary Disciples
- Encourage personal and prayer support of one another and attendance at Mass