After Jesus had ascended into heaven, his disciples returned to Jerusalem because Jesus had told them to wait there until the Holy Spirit came to them. They didn’t have to wait long.

Ten days later, on the day of the Jewish festival called Pentecost, the believers had gathered together to worship and pray. Suddenly some very unusual things began to happen. First there was a sound like the roar of a mighty wind. The sound filled the whole building in which they were meeting. But there was no wind—only the sound of a wind.

Then what looked like little flames of fire appeared. The flames separated and came to rest on each of the believers who were there. These things were signs that the Holy Spirit had come into their hearts. The Holy Spirit also made the believers able to speak in many different languages—languages they had never learned before! They began to talk about Jesus in these different languages.

Because it was the festival of Pentecost, the streets of Jerusalem were crowded with people. Some of them lived in the city, but many others were Jews from all different parts of the world. They had come to celebrate the festival by worshiping in the temple.

When the people heard the loud wind noise, many of them came running to find out what was happening. How amazed they were to hear the disciples preaching in many different languages! They said to one another, “Aren’t all these men from Galilee? How can it be that each of us hears them speaking the language of his own country? We have come here from countries all over the world, but we all hear these men speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done.”

Amazed and puzzled by what was happening, they kept asking one another, “What’s going on here? What does all this mean?” Then the apostles had the chance to preach God’s Word to all the people who had gathered.
On that first Pentecost after Jesus’ ascension, the Holy Spirit used the sound of wind, the appearance of flames, and the ability to speak in many languages to show that he had come.

Through God’s Word, the Holy Spirit still comes to us today and gives us faith in Jesus as our Savior.

1. Remind your child that the Holy Spirit uses God’s Word to strengthen our faith. Talk about any obstacles that might be keeping him or her from personal Bible reading. If your child struggles with reading, providing recordings of the Bible could be helpful. If your child feels that having a children’s Bible or a devotion book would be helpful, find one in your home, borrow one from your church, or if possible let your child help select one to purchase. If your child’s schedule is so full that finding Bible reading time is a challenge, work together to find ways to make the schedule less full. Make the strengthening of your child’s faith the number one priority.

2. Have a family “what if?” discussion, answering this question: “What would be different for us if the Holy Spirit didn’t work in us?” Many answers could follow, including that we would have no faith in Jesus as our Savior, we would be condemned to hell, we would be much less eager to do God-pleasing things, and the like. Together thank the Holy Spirit for the wonderful gift of faith!

Pray Together

Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for giving us the incredible gift of saving faith in Jesus as our Savior. Help us make the study of God’s Word our top priority so that our faith may grow stronger through that study. Amen.

* Mark 16:16

* Romans 10:17

* Revelation 2:10b

* The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.