

Jesus Sends Power from God

July 19th, 2020

Ask: What are some of the most powerful things you have ever seen?

- A storm/the wind?
- A train?
- A bear?
- Giant waves?
- Superman?
- Steven Adams?

Ask: How does it make you feel when you see something super-powerful? Are you scared? Amazed?

In the story we're going to read today, something SUPER amazing happens.

Our friends, the apostles, were meeting together, when Jesus came back from the dead and talked to them. In **Acts 1:8**, Jesus says this to His friends: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and to the end of the earth."

Illustration: Jesus is asking His friends to do something that probably sounded crazy to them. I want you to imagin something...imagine that you go to school and your teacher gives your class some special instructions. Your teacher wants your class to deliver a very special message to your entire town: "Purple elephants are cooler than green zebras." However, you're not allowed to use the telephone, radio, TV, etc. No technology is allowed. That would be difficult, wouldn't it. Now imagine your teacher wants you to deliver that same message to everywhere across the United States, still without using any technology. That seems crazy! Finally, imagine that your teacher wants your class to spread that special message across the ENTIRE WORLD. This seems impossible, doesn't it? That task seems nearly impossible, even if you were allowed to use technology!

SUNDAY STUDIES
for Kids

In the same way your teacher's mission for your class seems impossible, Jesus' mission for His friends must have seemed impossible, as well. Jesus told them that they needed to be His witnesses - spreading the good news about Jesus - to not only their city or their land, but "to the ends of the earth." I bet Jesus' friends felt like there was no way possible that they could accomplish this task. The key to them being able to do what Jesus asked them to do was the first part of verse 8, when He says, "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you."

Read Acts 2:1-12

Explain: So, Jesus' friends were all gathered together in a house. This was during a holiday celebrated by the Jewish people, so there were a lot of people in the same city as them. There was a super loud noise that sounded like a massive wind, and a lot of people heard it, so they went to see what could have possibly made the sound. This sound was actually the Holy Spirit entering the house where Jesus' friends were gathered. In case you didn't know, the Holy Spirit is God, but He shows up a little bit differently. Just like God, the Father, who created all things, and Jesus, who was both God and man, the Holy Spirit is God and He lives inside of us. When the Holy Spirit came into that house, the Bible says that tongues of fire rested on each person's head. Just imagine little balls of fire floating above people's heads - that is probably what it looked like. Anyhow, each of Jesus' friends began to talk after the Holy Spirit came onto them. And what happened when they started talking was CRAZY. Every person could understand them, even if they didn't speak the same language!

Example: Imagine you went to a restaurant by yourself and were seated at a table. One by one, other people are seated at the same table as you. Each person is from a different country. One is a lady from China who only speaks Chinese. Another is a man from Germany who only speaks German. Then, there's a man from Spain who only speaks Spanish. There's no way you could possibly communicate using words, because nobody speaks the same language. Finally, you say, "This is crazy!" To everybody's surprise, every person sitting at the table understood you perfectly, even though you said it in English!

The woman from China understood it as Chinese, the man from Germany understood it as German, and the man from Spain heard Spanish. That really would be crazy - it would be a miracle! That is exactly what happened when Jesus' friends talked, after the Holy Spirit came on them.

Jesus knew that His friends would need some help in carrying out the mission He had given them...the mission to spread His message to the ends of the earth. This is why He gave them the Holy Spirit - so that they could share the message with all different kinds of people. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles power and courage to do things they couldn't have possibly done on their own. And the Holy Spirit helps us, too! When the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, He guides our minds to think more like Jesus. He gives us courage and strength to do things we could never do without Him.

Activity: HELP!

Materials Needed: Couch/table/anything heavy enough that your child either can't lift it or barely can.

Ask your child to go over to the couch (or table, or whatever your object is) and pick it up. Don't break anything, just try to pick it up. Let them struggle with it until they find out that they can't do it on their own. Tell them to yell, "HELP!" when they give up.

Whenever they ask for help, step in and help them immediately. Count down from three and lift it together.

Explain to your children that, just like you helped them accomplish something they couldn't have done on their own, the Holy Spirit helps us accomplish things we can't do on our own. And, just like they asked for help from you, we should all ask for help from the Holy Spirit, even if it doesn't seem like we need it.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:25 together, and talk about how we should go to God and ask for help from the Holy Spirit in all circumstances.