

Questions / Answers

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples to do?
Tell everyone the good news about God's salvation through Jesus.
2. What did Jesus say he would give them to help them?
The power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Where did Jesus take the disciples?
To the Mount of Olives.
4. What happened to Jesus on the Mount of Olives?
He was taken up into Heaven.
5. What message did the two angels give the disciples?
Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go.
6. What happened to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost?
A great wind came and tongues of fire appeared on each of them. They were given the Holy Spirit.
7. What were the disciples able to do when they had the Holy Spirit?
Speak different languages and do miracles. Write the Gospels.
8. What did Peter tell the crowd?
They had crucified Jesus, the Son of God, but he was alive again.
9. What did 3,000 people do that day?
They repented and were baptised.
10. Why did the disciples need the gift of the Holy Spirit?
They had a great work to do to preach the Gospel to all nations.

Memory verses

Matthew 28:19—20

Acts 1:11

Acts 2:36—37

Discussion

Discuss ways in which the Holy Spirit helped the disciples to preach the Gospel. Why don't we have the Holy Spirit gifts today? What can we use to preach today? (*the Bible, prayer*) Discuss ideas for preaching?

Writing

Write about what happened on the Day of Pentecost. What did Peter tell the people which really upset them? What did they do about it?

CBM Senior Lessons

Lesson 39 Jesus ascends to Heaven



READING Matthew 28:19—20; Acts 1:6—11; Acts 2:1—41

LESSON

The disciples knew that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah, who had come to save Israel. They knew from the prophecies in the Old Testament that the Messiah would be a king and would rule over all the world.

The disciples had seen Jesus many times after his resurrection. They were full of joy that he was alive again. They expected Jesus to set up his kingdom at that time. Jesus spent a lot of time with them explaining Old Testament prophecies to them. He prepared them to preach to the people the good news about God's salvation through Jesus and His coming Kingdom.

About 40 days after his resurrection Jesus took his disciples up the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. The disciples asked Jesus whether he was going to be king at that time. Jesus told the disciples that he would be King when God said it was the right time. Jesus told the disciples to go and tell everyone about how he had died and was alive again for ever more. Jesus said that they would receive God's help. He would give them the power of God, the Holy Spirit, to help them with their work.

Jesus told the disciples that with the power of the Holy Spirit they would be able to heal people. They would be able to prophesy and talk in other languages. This would help them in their work of preaching. Jesus told the disciples to go to peoples in other lands. They were to baptise people who believed in Jesus. The Holy Spirit would also help them to remember the teaching of Jesus. They were able to write down accurately the Gospel records.

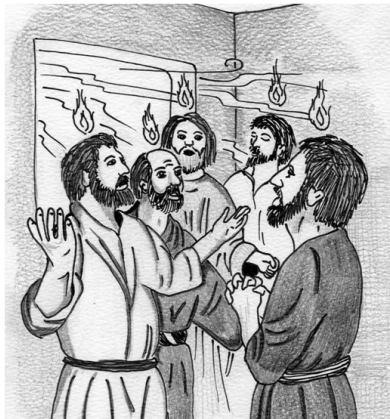
After Jesus had said this, he was taken up to heaven. The disciples watched him go up into the sky until a cloud hid him from their sight. As they stood gazing up into the sky, two men dressed in white suddenly stood beside them. They were angels. They spoke to the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

The disciples went down the mountain happy and reassured. They knew that Jesus was living in heaven with God. The angels had promised that one day he would return to the earth in just the same way as they had seen him leave. Then he would set up God's Kingdom. They must tell everyone the good news of the salvation in Jesus Christ. They would wait eagerly for Jesus to return.

Jesus had given the disciples a great work to do. Jesus told them to go and tell everyone in all the world the Good News (Gospel). The disciples must tell everyone that Jesus had been raised from the dead and that he will come back to set up God's Kingdom on the earth. They must tell people to be baptised to have their sins forgiven. Jesus told the disciples to start telling the Good News, first in Jerusalem and then to spread out to tell people of all nations.

Jesus promised the disciples that he would send them the gift of God's power, the Holy Spirit. God's power would help them to do miracles. This would show people that the Good News really did come from God. The Holy Spirit would help them to speak in different languages. When they preached to people in foreign countries the people would be able to understand their message.

The disciples waited in Jerusalem for Jesus to give them the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost the disciples were praying together. Suddenly a noise like a great wind rushed through the house. They saw tongues, like little flames of fire, which settled on each of the disciples.



The disciples all received the Holy Spirit. Immediately they could speak in foreign languages. There were crowds of people in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. There were Jews from 17 different countries. Peter spoke to the crowds and told them the Good News about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. All the Jews who spoke different languages could understand what Peter said.

Peter told the crowd that it was by the power of God's Holy Spirit that they could speak in different languages. Peter reminded the people of the miracles which Jesus had done. The miracles proved that Jesus was the Son of God. They had crucified Jesus, God's Son. But God had raised him from the dead. The people were very upset when they realised they had killed God's Son. They asked Peter what they could do. Peter told them that they must repent and be baptised, then God would forgive them. About 3,000 people were baptised that day.

The disciples preached the Gospel in Jerusalem. They did many miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit. The miracles were a sign that their teaching came from God. The disciples taught the people that Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Messiah who fulfilled all God's promises. The disciples told the people that they must repent of their sins and be baptised. Through Jesus they could be saved from their sins and live in God's Kingdom on earth when Jesus returns. Many people believed and were baptised. Every day more people believed in Jesus and were baptised.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

God gave His Holy Spirit to the disciples for a special purpose. They had a great work to do. The disciples had to tell people of all nations the Good News about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. They needed God's special help to do this. The Holy Spirit made the disciples able to heal people, to raise the dead and to speak in other languages.

God only gives His Holy Spirit to people when there is a special need for it. The disciples did their great work and spread the Gospel to all nations. They wrote down the Gospel for us to read. When their work was finished there was no more need for the Holy Spirit to be given to men. We do not have the gifts of the Holy Spirit today.