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| Thursday 30th April 2020 (up to 45 mins)LO: Tobe able to **give reasons** for certain actions of Christians inspired by the Holy Spirit. To **show understanding** of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and how it shapes the lives of  Christians. SC: I can reflect on the scripture reading Acts 2 making links to how belief in the Holy Spirit empowers  and transforms lives.  |
| Self-Assessment - My understanding: ⚫🞏 ⚫🞏 ⚫🞏 I felt: ☺🞏 😐🞏 ☹🞏 |

The Gift of the Holy Spirit For Everyone.

Background Information

Revisit the story of Pentecost (Acts 2: 1-43)*.*

Discuss the events and focus on how the power of the Holy Spirit is seen and changes lives. The power of the Holy Spirit is for everyone. All Christians are called to share the mission to spread the Gospel message.

Next, look at Peter’s message explaining to the people in Jerusalem that the gift of the Holy Spirit is for everyone (Acts 2: 32-39, 41-42).

Discuss the reading, highlighting the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Reading 1: ‘The Story of Pentecost’ (Acts 2: 1-43)

*When the harvest was being gathered in, on the feast of the first fruits, the friends of Jesus were not among the holiday crowds celebrating Pentecost in Jerusalem. Instead they were hidden away in a quiet room.*

*Mary, the Mother of Jesus was with them. Without the warmth of Jesus’ presence among them, they felt stranded and clueless.*

*When Jesus had walked and talked with them, their hearts had burned within them; but now there was a death-like stillness and silence within them, which chilled their hearts and froze their power to act.*

*Then on that Pentecost morning, everything changed. The friends of Jesus knew all would be well.*

*They described the experience like this.*

*They said it was as if a strong, powerful wind had filled the whole house and as if tongues of fire had spread out and touched each one of them. They felt alive as never before.*

*The warmth of God’s love circulated through and among them, so that they felt compelled to rush out and share their joy with the whole world and to witness to the Good News of Jesus.*

*No longer tongue-tied, but with fiery conviction, the words tumbled out so fast and free, that in their excitement, they sounded crazy, as if they’d lost their senses.*

*At first people thought they were drunk.*

*It was Peter who controlled the situation; no longer afraid, he told the crowds how God had generously poured out the Spirit upon all so that they could speak out.*

*A great change took place amidst the listening crowds.*

*Barriers between people seemed to be melting away, barriers of language disappeared, so that everyone understood and heard what he or she most needed to hear.*

*The love of God for people, was ‘like a flash of fire, a flame of Yahweh Himself ’, burning away all the rubbish in their lives, and leaving behind only what was firm and strong and for good.*

*The good news of God’s love and power, spread like sparks from a mighty fire and warmed the people’s hearts towards God and all peoples.*

*The Spirit was with them and so they could share their lives together in peace.*

*Onlookers cried out in astonishment: “See how these Christians love one another!”*

*And the Spirit watched over the dawning of a new creation, a whole new way of living.*

Reading 1: Peter’s Message - Acts 2: 32-39, 41-42

 *“God has raised this very Jesus from death and we are all witnesses to this fact. He has been raised to the right hand side of God, his Father, and has received from him the Holy Spirit, as he had promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us. All the people of Israel, then, are to know for sure that this Jesus, whom you crucified, is the one that God has made Lord and Messiah!”*

*When the people heard this, they were deeply troubled and said to Peter and the other apostles, “What shall we do, brothers?” Peter said to them, “Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God’s gift, the Holy Spirit. For God’s promise was made to you and your children, and to all who are far away—all whom the Lord our God calls to himself ”.*

*Many of them believed his message and were baptised, and about three thousand people were added to the group that day. They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers.*

Reflect on the texts and discuss the following questions (no need to write anything down):

1. What changes can you find in people’s feelings, actions and words?
2. How did the crowd react?
3. How did the onlookers respond?
4. What did Peter tell the people of Israel to do?
5. How did the people respond to Peter’s message?
6. How did it shape their lives?

Task:

* **Imagine** you were in Jerusalem at the time, heard Peters **message and have just been baptised.** Write a **letter to a friend** who has not **heard about Jesus**
* In your letter, **giving reasons** to show how belief in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit has **empowered** you and **changed** your life
* Use words from the text to help you.