

Family Devotional

From May 15, 2016

Ponder: Before you start, wrap a favorite snack or treat in a gift bag or with wrapping paper. Include enough for each person in your group plus 1 or 2 extra. Then, present it to your group, but don't let anyone open it yet. As a group, talk about what you can do with a gift when someone gives it to you:

- 1) Take it, open it, & enjoy it.
- 2) Reject it and never know what is really inside.
- 3) Take it, but just set it on a shelf and look at the pretty wrapping, never knowing what is really inside.

What do you think the giver of the gift wants you to do with it?

Next, let the group open it and enjoy what is inside, but set aside the extras. Someone will probably want it, but say we'll talk more about the extra later. Now we're going to read a story about a wonderful gift God offer us.

As they eat, read "God Sends Help" from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* page 326 or Acts 1:3-5 & 2:1-12

Reflect:

What was the gift that the Father sent the early disciples? Jesus to live in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

How did the story describe the Holy Spirit? It came like a strong wind that landed on them like a flame of fire.

Now why was this fire unlike normal fire? It didn't hurt or burn them.

But how was it like fire? It warmed their hearts and spread. Once one person is on fire for God their passion spreads sparks to those around them.

How were the disciples acting before they received the gift of the Holy Spirit? They were timid and hiding

How did they act after they received the Holy Spirit? Full of power and passion to tell everyone else about the great gift God had given them of knowing Jesus and living for Him, and that He wants to share this gift with everyone.

Now, present the extra treats you have. What do you think Jesus wants us to do with the gifts he has given us?

He wants us to enjoy them and share them with others. Sometimes He gives us more then we need so we can share in the blessing of giving to others. Telling others about how much Jesus loves them is the best gift we can give.

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize and/or meditate on Acts 1:8 this week.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other."

Ideas: Write it down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us the greatest gift of yourself. Help us to fully open and enjoy the fullness of a relationship with you. Fill us with boldness through the Holy Spirit to tell others of this great gift you have for them Amen!"