



**Year 4 Religious Education - For Christians, what is the importance of Pentecost?**

**What should I already know?**



- Christians believe in the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates Jesus rising from the dead, three days after he was killed.
- Christians believe that, through his resurrection, Jesus overcame death and sin. This offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings.

**The first Pentecost**

Pentecost comes from a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot. The apostles were celebrating this festival when the Holy Spirit descended on them.

It sounded like a very strong wind, and it looked like tongues of fire.

The apostles then found themselves speaking in foreign languages, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

People passing by at first thought that they must be drunk, but the apostle Peter told the crowd that the apostles were full of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is a special day for any Christian and is often called the Birthday of Christianity.

**Key Vocabulary and definitions**

<b>Ascension</b>	the ascent of Jesus Christ into heaven on the fortieth day after the Resurrection
<b>Pentecost</b>	the Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples of Jesus
<b>Apostle/Disciple</b>	an early follower of Jesus who carried the Christian message into the world
<b>Holy Spirit</b>	the third person of the Trinity; God as spiritually active in the world.
<b>Sermon</b>	a talk on a religious or moral subject, especially one given during a church service and based on a passage from the Bible.
<b>Resurrection</b>	the rising of Christ from the dead

**Christians believe the Holy Spirit is:**

- A presence of God in the world today. Some Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is always with them, and therefore, God is always with them. The bible says:  
  
*"I will send you the Helper from the Father. He is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must tell people about me because you have been with me from the beginning."* (John 15:26-27)
- Like a battery - a source of strength, courage and wisdom for Christians.