

Monday

Genesis 11:1–9

After the world's great flood, Noah's children had many children, and these children had many children, until the world had many people once again. At this time, all the people in the world spoke one language. The people traveled east until they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they stayed there.

They said, "Let's make bricks and build a city and a tower whose top will reach to the heavens; and let's make a name for ourselves in this place rather than spreading all over the world."

God knew the proud and wicked plans of the people. God said, "The people are united with one language, and they have wicked, prideful plans. Let us give them many languages so that they will not understand one another." And so it happened that work on the tower and the city stopped, and the people spread out over all the earth. The place where God caused the people to speak many languages became known as Babel.

- **What happens when we try to do things our own way?**
- **How does God make his way our way?**

Help us remember your way in everything we do, Lord. Guide us by your Spirit so that the way we choose may be pleasing to you. Amen.

Tuesday
Joel 2:28–29

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to remain in Jerusalem until the time when the Father would send them his Holy Spirit. Ten days after Jesus ascended, the disciples were in Jerusalem, waiting. It was Pentecost, a day of celebration. Jewish people from all over the world had come to Jerusalem to worship God. Jesus' followers were together in one place.

Suddenly, a mighty rushing wind came from heaven, and divided flames seemed to rest on each of Jesus' followers. Then they began to speak in languages they had not learned. These things happened as the Holy Spirit came upon God's people as Jesus had promised.

Peter stood up and began to preach a powerful sermon. He told them about Jesus and his suffering, death, and resurrection. When the people heard these words, they were very moved. "What shall we do?" they asked. "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins," Peter answered. And that day about three thousand people were baptized. And so the Christian Church came into being at Pentecost.

- **List ways you could help spread God's Word in your neighborhood.**

Send your Holy Spirit, Lord, so I can help others know about their Savior. I pray this in your holy name.
Amen.

Wednesday
Acts 2

God the Father is God; Jesus is God; and the Holy Spirit is God. God is triune – three in one – the Trinity – one true God. The Holy Spirit came in a powerful way to God's people at Pentecost, just ten days after Jesus, in his body, rose up into the air to go to heaven. Jesus had told his followers to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit.

When the Holy Spirit came, Jesus' followers heard a strong wind and saw what looked like flames upon each of them, calling attention to their tongues. What happened next was even more surprising. They began speaking in different languages. They had not learned to speak those languages, but now they could speak them because of a miracle of God. People from other countries could understand what they were saying. Now Jesus' followers could tell everyone about Jesus!

A crowd of people gathered outside the house. Peter spoke to them about Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Many people believed Peter. About three thousand people were baptized that day. That special day was called Pentecost. The people continued each day to worship God and learn more about forgiveness and salvation.

The work of the Holy Spirit is giving people faith. The Holy Spirit works faith through God's Word as it is read or heard or received in Baptism or the Lord's Supper. The Holy Spirit also brings people together, uniting them in one large and powerful group, known as the Church.

• **When did the Holy Spirit bring you to faith in Jesus?**

Holy Spirit, thank you for making me holy by bringing me to faith in Christ so that I might be saved. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Thursday
Acts 8:26–40

Philip was a special helper in the Church. One day, an angel told Philip to start walking down a road through the desert. Philip walked and walked. A man riding in a chariot went by. He was reading from the Bible. The man was from Africa. He worked for the queen of Ethiopia.

The Holy Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. Philip ran and ran. He came alongside the chariot. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man said, "I'm reading from the Bible book written by Isaiah. I don't understand it at all. Can you tell me what it means?"

Philip had good news for the man. He said, "The words of the prophet Isaiah have been fulfilled by Jesus Christ. Jesus died to take your sins away. Then he rose from the dead. Now he lives in heaven. Jesus did all this to take away our sins and to give us the promise of eternal life."

The man believed. He asked Philip to baptize him. They stopped by a puddle of water. Philip baptized the man from Africa. Then the man climbed into his chariot. He went on his way rejoicing. He wanted to go home and tell everyone the good news. The Holy Spirit took Philip to another place to tell people there about Jesus.

This story tells us about the work of God's Spirit. God's Spirit brings people to faith in Jesus through the Word. The Holy Spirit welcomes us into God's kingdom through baptism. And the Holy Spirit brings us the joy of knowing that Christ Jesus has saved us.

This story also tells us about good works. Good works are the things God's people do because God's Spirit is at work in us. When Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus, he was doing a good work. But there are many other types of good works as well. Whenever God's Spirit helps us serve God and others, he helps us to do a good work as forgiven and redeemed children of God.

- **What special talents has God given you that you can use to glorify God or help others?**

Thank you, heavenly Father, for making us your children through baptism. Thank you for your Holy Spirit and the good works he moves us to do. We praise you in Jesus' name. Amen.

Friday
Acts 10

Cornelius was an important Roman soldier who believed in the one true God of the Jews, but he did not know about Jesus. One day, an angel came to Cornelius. The angel told him, "Send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter." Cornelius obeyed the angel and sent messengers to Joppa to find Peter.

Before the messengers found Peter in Joppa where he was staying, God gave Peter a strange dream while he was praying. In his dream, Peter saw a large sheet with many animals in it. A voice from heaven told Peter he could eat the animals, even though the Jewish people were forbidden to eat some of those animals, like pigs. While Peter was still wondering about what his strange dream might mean, the Holy Spirit told him messengers were at the door and that he should go with them to Cornelius' house.

Peter went downstairs and found the messengers waiting for him. And Peter went back to Cornelius' house with them, even though they were Gentiles (non-Jews, usually unbelievers), and Jews were forbidden to go into Gentile homes. Peter understood from his dream that God did not love just the Jews – even though they had been specially chosen by God – but that God loves people from every nation.

When they arrived at Cornelius' home, he was happy and excited to see Peter. Peter went into his home and met many of Cornelius' family and friends who were there too, ready to hear whatever the Lord had commanded Peter to say.

Peter now understood that God cares for people of every nation. He gladly told Cornelius and his family that God had sent Jesus. "Everyone," Peter said, "who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard. Cornelius and all his friends believed in Jesus and were baptized. Now they were part of God's family too.

God showed Peter that he does not prefer any one group of people over another. God loves people of every nation – no matter what language they speak or what color they are. God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise again for the sins of all people. All who believe in Jesus will be saved and someday will live with him.

- **What was Peter's dream, and how did it show that God loves people from every nation?**
- **What happens to everyone who believes in Jesus?**
- **Are there people in your life, disliked by you or others, who need to hear about Jesus?**

Close with prayer