Although the disciples had been with Jesus for three years, there were many things they still did not understand. They were still not ready to take up the work Jesus had planned for them. Jesus knew this. After His resurrection He did not go back to Heaven right away. He stayed on earth for forty days. During that time He appeared many times to His disciples. Because Jesus was able to pass through closed doors, the disciples never knew when they might see Him. They watched eagerly for any sign of their risen Lord.

During those forty days Jesus taught the disciples many things about the Kingdom of God. Now they understood more of what Jesus had tried to teach them before He died. They asked many questions, and Jesus’ answers helped them to understand the strange things they had seen and heard.

One day Jesus took His disciples to a mountain near Jerusalem, where He commanded them to teach, preach, and baptize in His name. “You must tell others about Me,” He said. “Start in Jerusalem and then travel across the world with the Gospel. I will send the Holy Spirit to help you. Until He comes, go to Jerusalem and wait there.”

Then Jesus lifted His hands and blessed the disciples. While they looked at Jesus and listened to His words, they suddenly realized that Jesus was going up, up, up into the sky. Soon a cloud hid Jesus from their sight. The disciples could hardly believe their eyes! Was this what Jesus had meant when He had told them He was going away?

They stood gazing into the sky hoping to catch one more glimpse of Jesus’ dear face. Suddenly the disciples heard voices nearby and looked around to see two men
dressed in white clothing. They said to the disciples, “Why are you looking into heaven? Some day, this same Jesus will come back again, in the same way you watched Him go.”

The disciples hurried to Jerusalem. But they were not sad, even though Jesus had left them. They were joyful, for He had promised to send them power from God. This power, the Holy Spirit, would help them when they told others about Jesus. He would comfort them when they were sad or hurt. He would give them courage when they faced hardship and danger. And the Holy Spirit would be with them while they waited for Jesus to return.

Every day the disciples gathered in an upstairs room. Jesus’ mother and brothers, as well as other friends of Jesus, met with them. About one hundred and twenty men and women had come together. The people prayed and praised God. And eagerly they waited. Jesus had not told them exactly when or how the Holy Spirit would come, but they believed His promise.

One day Peter stood up in the middle of the group and said, “Brothers, long ago the Holy Spirit spoke through David about Judas, who was one of us.” Judas, you remember, guided the men who arrested Jesus. With his reward money, Judas bought a field and in this field he died.

“God’s Word says to let another man take the place of Judas,” Peter explained. “And now we must do that.”

Peter told the group what was required of the man who would replace Judas. “He must have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was with us, from the time Jesus was baptized and until the day He ascended into Heaven,” Peter said. The new disciple would have the same duty as the other eleven: to tell others about Jesus. How could
he tell about Jesus’ death, resurrection and **ascension**, unless he had witnessed it?

The group chose two men, Joseph Barsabas (bär’ sə bəs) and Matthias (mə thī’ əs). They prayed, “O Lord, You know the hearts of all men. Please show us which of these two men you have chosen to take part as a minister and apostle. He will be the one to fill the place left by Judas.”

The men cast lots to see which man God had chosen: Joseph Barsabas, or Matthias. And the Lord chose Matthias. He then joined the other eleven as an apostle of the Gospel.

Still the apostles waited together for the promise of God’s Holy Spirit and His power.

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**FROM THE STORY**

**Write numbers to tell the order.**

1. ______ Jesus commanded the disciples to spread the Gospel.

   ______ Jesus disappeared into Heaven.

   ______ Matthias was chosen to take Judas’ place.

   ______ Jesus rose from the dead.

   ______ Jesus was seen by the disciples many times in forty days.

**Write S for same or D for different.**

2. ______ How Jesus went to Heaven—how He will return.

3. ______ How the disciples felt before the resurrection—how they felt after His ascension.

4. ______ Duty of the eleven disciples—duty of the new disciple.

**THAT’S OUR GOD**

**Match the instructions Jesus gave to His disciples before He left.**

5. ______ tell others

   a. to the world

   b. about Jesus

   c. in Jerusalem

6. ______ begin the work

7. ______ take the message

8. ______ wait for the Spirit
Match what the Holy Spirit would do for the believers.

9. _____ give courage  
10. _____ give comfort  
11. _____ give power  
12. _____ be with them  

a. to tell others about Jesus  
b. for hard and dangerous times  
c. during the waiting time  
d. for sorrow and pain  

FOR ME TODAY

Today’s lesson tells some things the disciples did while they waited in Jerusalem.

Tell about a time when you had to wait for something to happen. Tell what you did while you waited.

△ 13. __________________________________________

__________________________________________

Lessons 1, 2

Jesus Sends His Spirit

Forty days had passed since Jesus had risen from the dead. Now ten more days had passed since Jesus went up to Heaven. The disciples and other friends of Jesus were still waiting for God’s Holy Spirit and power to come upon them. Perhaps they wondered how much longer they would need to wait, but every day the group met to pray and praise God.

It was now fifty days after the Passover season when Jesus had been crucified. Do you remember which of the Jews’ feast days
was celebrated fifty days after Passover? If you answered “The Day of Pentecost (pen’ ti kost),” you are right. Many Jews had come to Jerusalem to celebrate this special day.

You remember that several times in the past God had punished the Jews by allowing them to be taken captive to enemy lands. After years in exile, many Jews were able to come back to the land of Israel. But some chose to stay where they were. In spite of living far from their homeland, these Jews were still loyal to the temple at Jerusalem. They tried to make the long, hard trip to Jerusalem for one of the yearly feasts. The Bible tells us that at this time Jews “out of every nation under heaven” were staying in Jerusalem. So we can imagine the city was over-flowing with extra people.

The disciples, friends, and family of Jesus met together early on Pentecost morning to worship God. All at once a roaring like the blast of a strong wind swooped down from heaven and filled the whole house. Everyone saw what looked like flames, or tongues, of fire appear and rest on each person. The Holy Spirit came and filled them all. Immediately the people began to tell of the wonderful things Jesus had done. But they were speaking in different languages—languages they had never learned or spoken before. The Holy Spirit was giving them the words to say.

News of what was happening soon spread over the whole city. Perhaps someone rushed from the room to tell others. Maybe a stranger passing by heard someone speaking the language of his native country. Crowds began to clog the street outside the house. Everyone was astonished and bewildered. Each person heard the language of the land of his birth. “Are not these men from Galilee? How is it that we hear them speaking our language?” the people wondered.

“What is the meaning of this?” some asked. Others mocked, “Those people have had too much wine. They are drunk!”

Peter stood up with the eleven apostles. Jews and converts from all of the then-known world gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost.

From the west came people from Rome, northern Africa, and the islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

From the northwest came people from various provinces of Asia Minor and present-day Turkey.

From the east came Jews from present-day Iraq, and from the south they came from the Arabian Peninsula.
Lesson 2

He raised his voice to be heard over the noisy crowd. Boldly he said, “All of you men of Judea and Jerusalem, listen to me. These people are not drunk. God has sent His Holy Spirit upon them. What you see is what the Prophet Joel wrote about long ago. He said that ‘God will pour out His Spirit upon all people. Through His Holy Spirit, He will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth below. Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

FROM THE STORY

Use the map on the next page. Begin at the star in each area and draw a line to Jerusalem. Write a word from the list that tells which direction you traveled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>northwest</th>
<th>south</th>
<th>west</th>
<th>southeast</th>
<th>northeast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. ________________ Arabian Peninsula
2. ________________ Iraq
3. ________________ Mediterranean Islands
4. ________________ Africa
5. ________________ Rome
6. ________________ Turkey
Fill in the blanks.

7. _______ days Jesus stayed on the earth after His resurrection
   + _______ days the disciples waited in Jerusalem for the Spirit
   _______ days after Passover is the feast of ________________.

Crucifixion
Passover
40 days
Jesus went back to Heaven
Ascension
10 days
Holy Spirit came
Day of Pentecost