

# 4

## The Holy Spirit Is Sent to Help Us

### *A Family Helper*

After dinner Brian was doing his homework. His older brother Kevin walked into the family room. He asked, "Brian, what do you have for homework tonight?"

Brian answered, "Right now I'm completing a writing assignment. I'm writing about a person I admire, and I'm giving a few reasons for my choice."

Kevin asked, "Who are you writing about?"

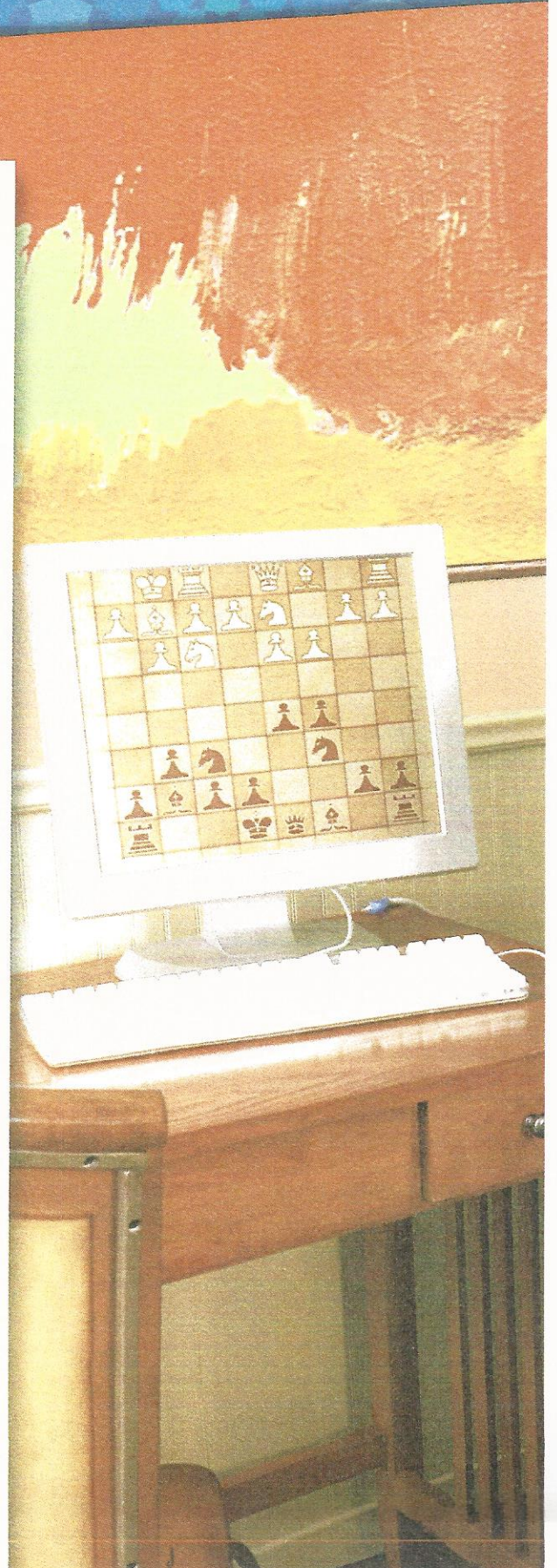
"Surprise, Kevin! I'm writing about you," Brian answered.

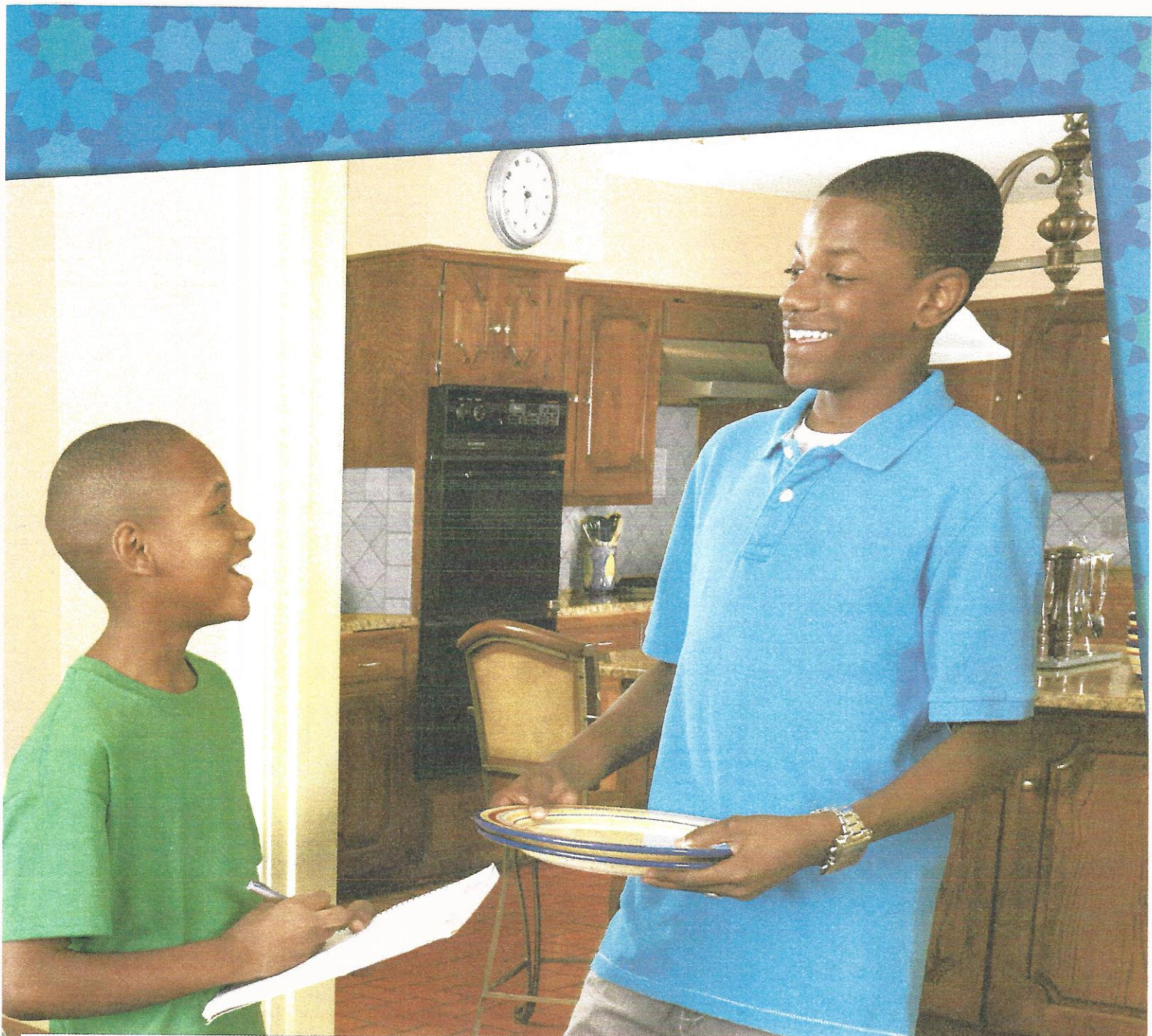
Kevin pointed to himself and said, "Me? Why are you writing about me?"

Brian explained, "You do a lot for me, Kevin. You really came to the rescue when Dad told us we were moving to Springfield. Do you remember how upset I was? I ran outside and sat on the back steps. You were upset, too, but you came outside and talked to me. You helped calm me down, especially when you told me to think about moving as an adventure. You told me we'd have new places to explore and new friends to meet."

"That wasn't a big deal," Kevin said.

"It was a big deal to me," Brian answered. "Then after we moved you watched out for me. That first week of school was the hardest for me, but you waited for me every day after school."





You stayed with me at the first Nature Scout meeting we went to, and you introduced me to some of the scouts you knew from school.”

Kevin said, “I only did what I thought an older brother should do. Now let’s see what you think about your older brother when I win a game of chess. Whoever loses helps with the dishes every night this week!”

**How did Kevin help Brian?**

**Who are your family helpers?**

**How do they help your family?**

### **We Will Learn...**

- 1 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.**
- 2 The Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ disciples.**
- 3 The Holy Spirit guides the Church.**

## 1 Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.

Jesus knew that after his work on earth was complete his disciples would need help in living as he had asked them to live. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to them and strengthen them. The Holy Spirit would help the disciples to remember all that Jesus had taught them.

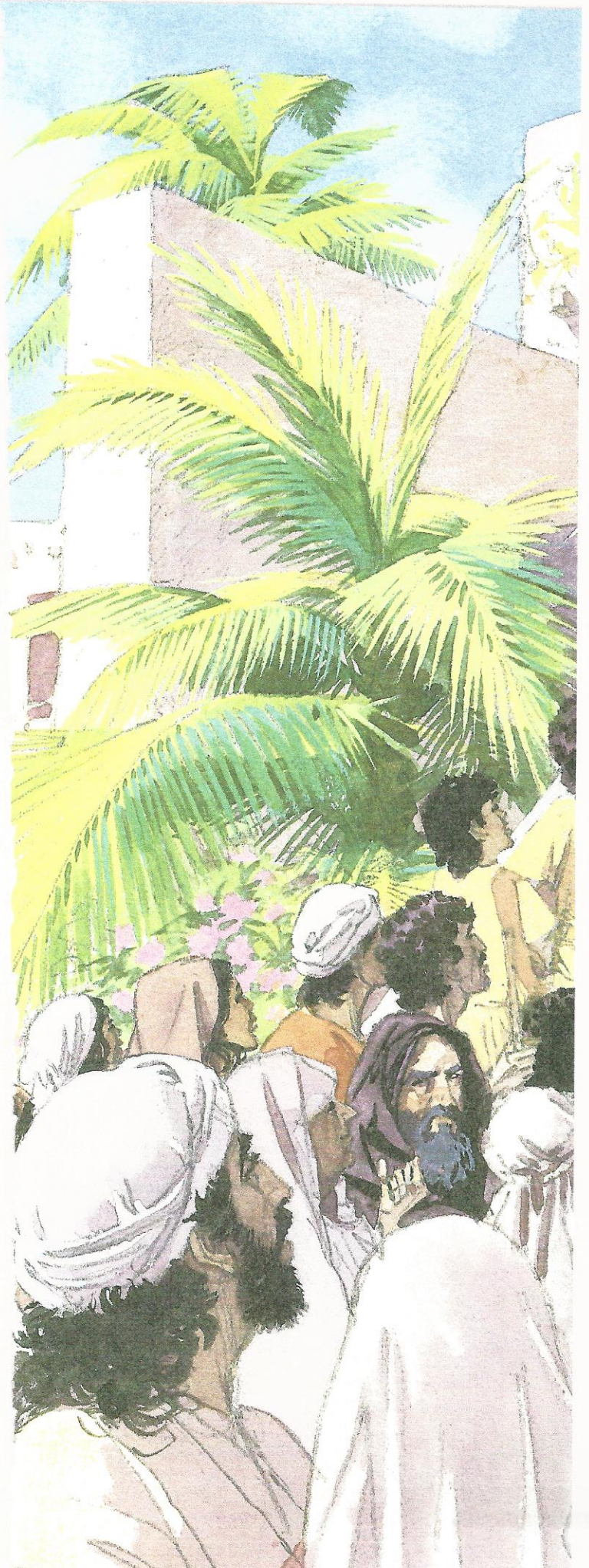
After Jesus' Death and Resurrection, he appeared to his disciples several times. Then forty days after he rose from the dead, Jesus called his Apostles to a mountain in Galilee. He told them that he wanted them to continue his mission to bring the Good News of God's love to the world. Jesus said, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19–20).

After Jesus gave this mission to the Apostles, he returned to his Father in Heaven. Jesus' return in all his glory to his Father in Heaven is called the **Ascension**.

After Jesus' Ascension, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem. There with the other disciples they prayed as they waited for the Holy Spirit to come to them.

**Why did Jesus promise his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them?**

**What was the mission Jesus gave to his Apostles?**



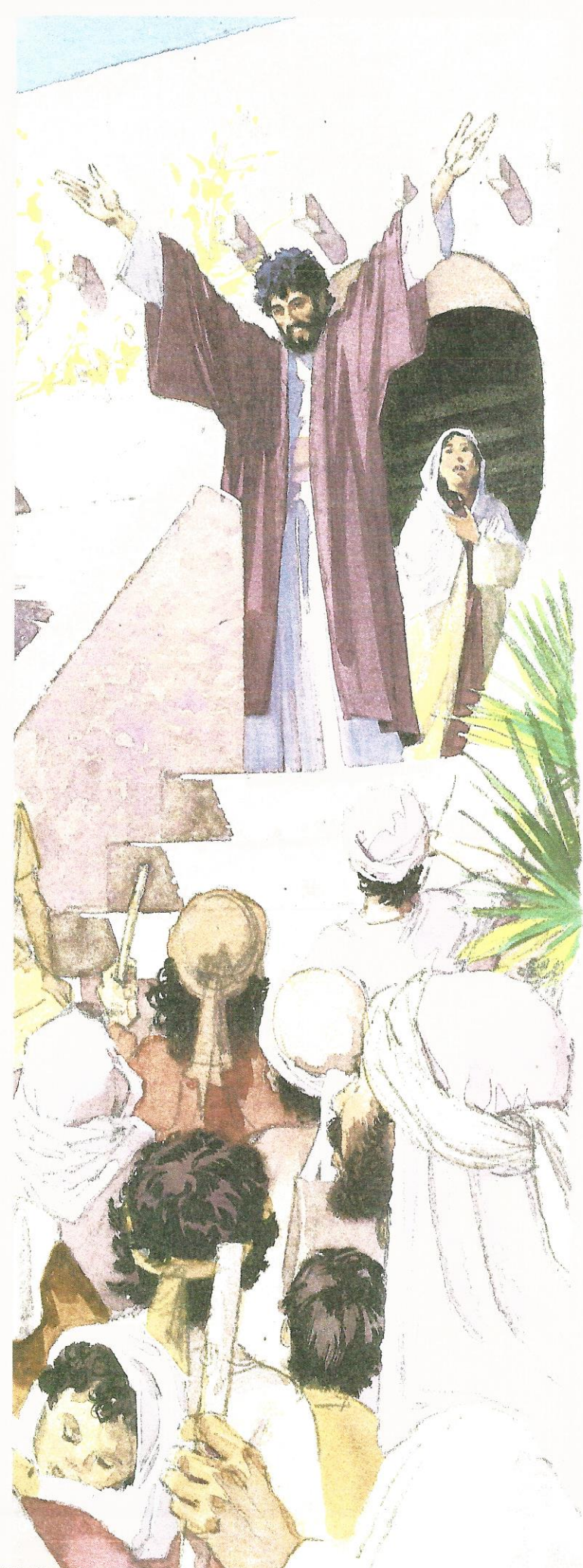
## 2 The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.

Early on Sunday morning, fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus' disciples were together in Jerusalem. They were praying and waiting for the Holy Spirit. As they prayed, something amazing happened. "And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim." (Acts of the Apostles 2:2-4)

On this day Peter and the disciples were no longer afraid to speak about Jesus and his teachings. They left the house and went out into the streets. Crowds of people were in Jerusalem to celebrate a great Jewish feast. Peter spoke to these people, telling them to be baptized and thus to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day." (Acts of the Apostles 2:41)

The day the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples is called **Pentecost**. It was on this day that the Church began. The **Church** is the community of people who are baptized and follow Jesus Christ. On Pentecost and throughout the whole year we remember that the Holy Spirit is with the Church always.

**How did the Holy Spirit help Peter and the disciples on Pentecost?**



### 3 The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

Jesus had chosen the Apostle Peter as the head of the Church. On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled Peter and the other disciples of Jesus with courage and love. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they began to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone they met. They showed others how to live according to the teachings of Jesus by:

- sharing what they had with the poor
- taking care of those who were sick or disabled
- gathering together to pray
- celebrating the Eucharist in Jesus' memory
- celebrating the presence of the risen Christ among them.

More and more people asked to be baptized. They wanted to follow Jesus and to be part of his community—to be members of the Church. The Apostle Peter described the Church as “God’s people” (1 Peter 2:10)—the people baptized as God’s children, brothers and sisters of Jesus.

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church spread throughout the world. The Holy Spirit helped the Church, the People of God, to love God and one another.

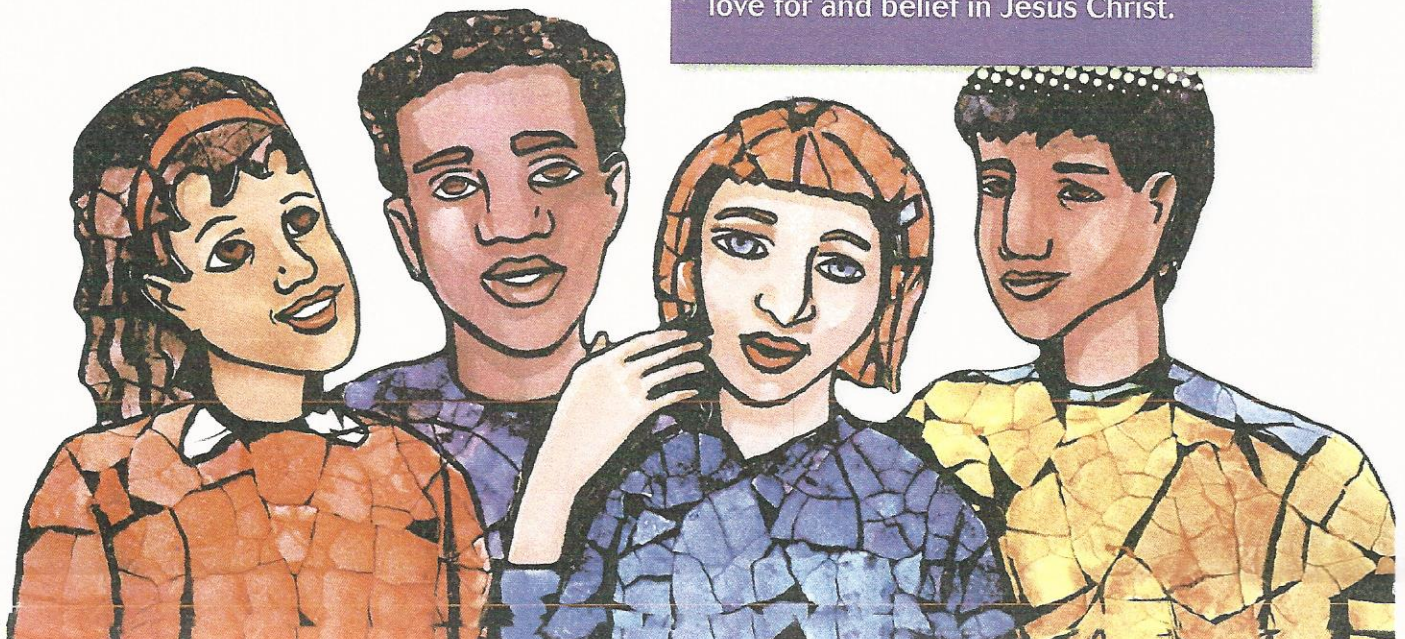
The Holy Spirit helped the members of the Church to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with everyone in the world. And the Holy Spirit continues to help and guide the Church today in the interpretation of Sacred Scripture and in the official teachings of the Church, which we call Tradition. Through Tradition the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray.

#### How did the Holy Spirit help the early Christians?

### Do You Know?

The early Christians needed to understand the special relationship Jesus Christ had with his community, the Church. Saint Paul, an early Christian who traveled to different countries sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, explained that the Church is the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27). Christ is the Head (Colossians 1:18), but everyone in the Church is an important part of the Body of Christ.

Each member of the Church receives the Holy Spirit at Baptism. Saint Paul also taught that the Church is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). So the Holy Spirit is at the heart of the Church’s life and growth, uniting us through our love for and belief in Jesus Christ.



# Review

Complete the following sentences.

1-2. The Ascension is

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3-4. The Church is

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Discuss the following.

5. Before he returned to Heaven, what did Jesus ask his disciples to do?
6. Describe briefly what happened on Pentecost.
7. How did the early Christians share their love for God and one another?

## Faith Words

**Ascension** (page 28)

**Pentecost** (page 29)

**Church** (page 29)

# With My Family

## Sharing Our Faith

- 1** Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples.
- 2** The Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples.
- 3** The Holy Spirit guides the Church.

## PRAYING TOGETHER



This prayer to the Holy Spirit is a traditional prayer of the Church.

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts  
of your faithful.  
And kindle in them the fire  
of your love.**

**Send forth your Spirit and they  
shall be created.  
And you will renew the face  
of the earth. Amen.**

## Living Our Faith

The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles and the early Christians to share God's love with others. The way in which Jesus' followers lived helped others to experience the power of his love. This week think about the people who help you experience the power of Jesus' love. Decide on one way to thank each person.

Name	Way of Thanks