

Year 1

EXPLORE

Holidays as days to be happy

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will be able to **talk about** their experience and feelings about holidays.
Some children will be able to **wonder** about what makes a holiday a happy time.

Some children will be able to **ask and respond** to questions about the difference between ordinary days and holidays and why we have them.

Holidays

LO: To talk about our experiences and feelings about holidays.

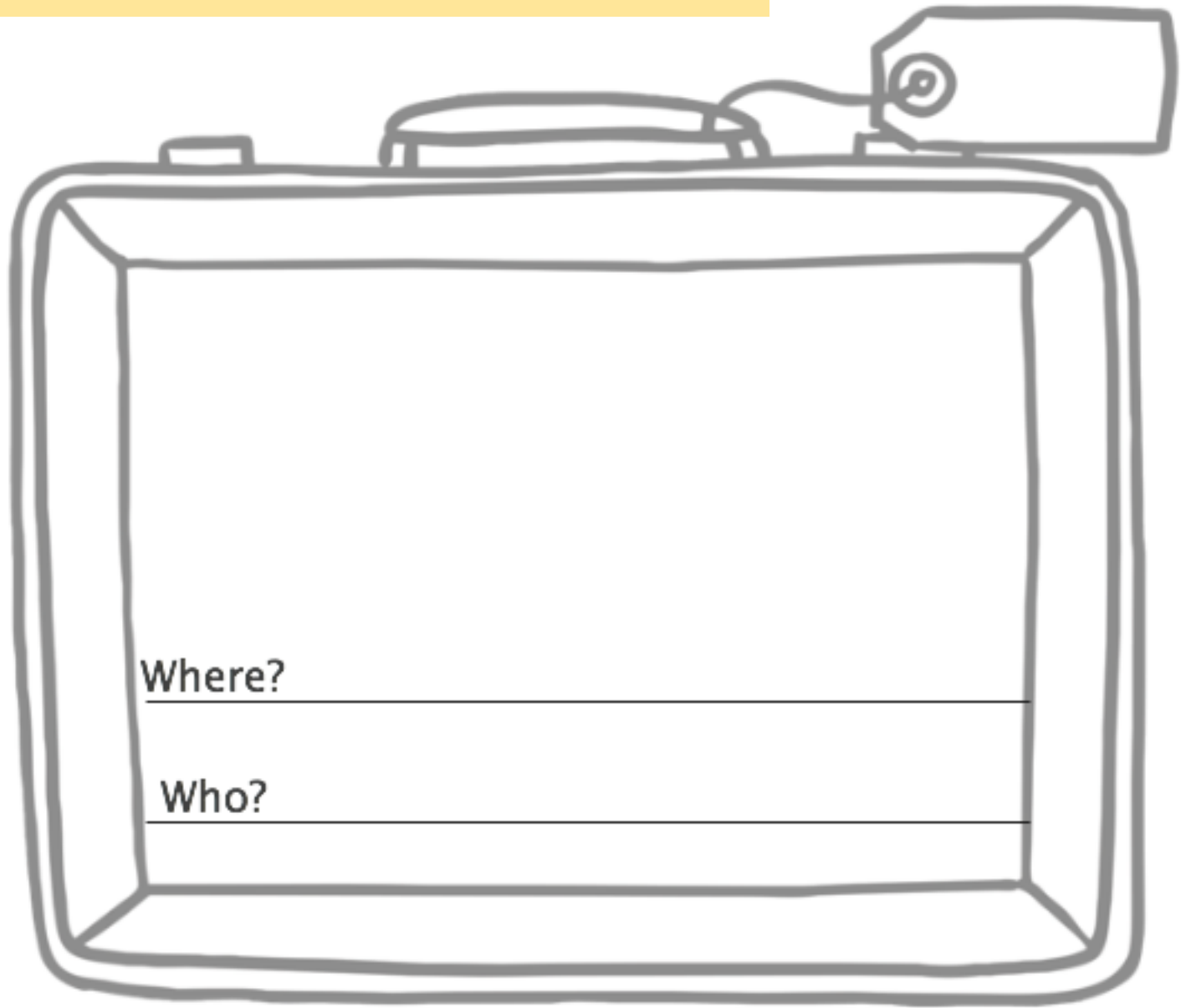


SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Why are holidays different from ordinary days?
- Q What do you like to do in the holidays?
- Q Do you stay at home, visit relations or go away?
- Q Who goes with you?
- Q What do you take?
- Q If you have to travel, what means of travel do you use?
- Q What do you like to do on holiday?
- Q What makes it a happy time?



Inside the suitcase, draw things you would take on holiday.
Can you write where you are going and who is going with you?



Background notes for
parents.

REVEAL

Pentecost: a holy day, the feast of the Holy Spirit

CONTENT: – scripture – tradition – prayers

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will be able to **recognise** what a holy day is and the story of coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Some children will be able to **recognise** some symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Some children will be able to **retell** the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Some children will be able to **describe** the ways in which the Holy Spirit is a helper and guide.

KEY WORDS

Holy day, Apostles, help, Pentecost, promise, Holy Spirit, guide, Resurrection, alleluia

TEACHING POINT

Throughout this topic we explore everyday 'good news' denoted by lower case letters. We also explore 'The Good News' of Jesus denoted by upper case letters.

LEARNING FOCUS 1: What a holy day is.

I can **recognise** what a holy day is.



What is a holy day?

Can you name any?

The word holiday comes from *holyday*. In times past the only holiday anyone had was a saint's feast day or important feast days like Easter and Christmas. Some days of the year are 'holy days', when we celebrate these special times in the Church's year.

We have just celebrated the feast of Easter when we remember Jesus rising from the dead.

Look at the Easter gardens below. One special word we sing at Easter time to celebrate is 'Alleluia!'



Can you point to the holy days?

Talk about **why** they are holy.

25th December



9th October

21st June 2020



31st August



LEARNING FOCUS 2: Ascension Day: Jesus goes back to his Father.

I can recognise that Ascension day is about Jesus returning to his Father.

I can describe some of the words Jesus used to tell the disciples he would send a friend.

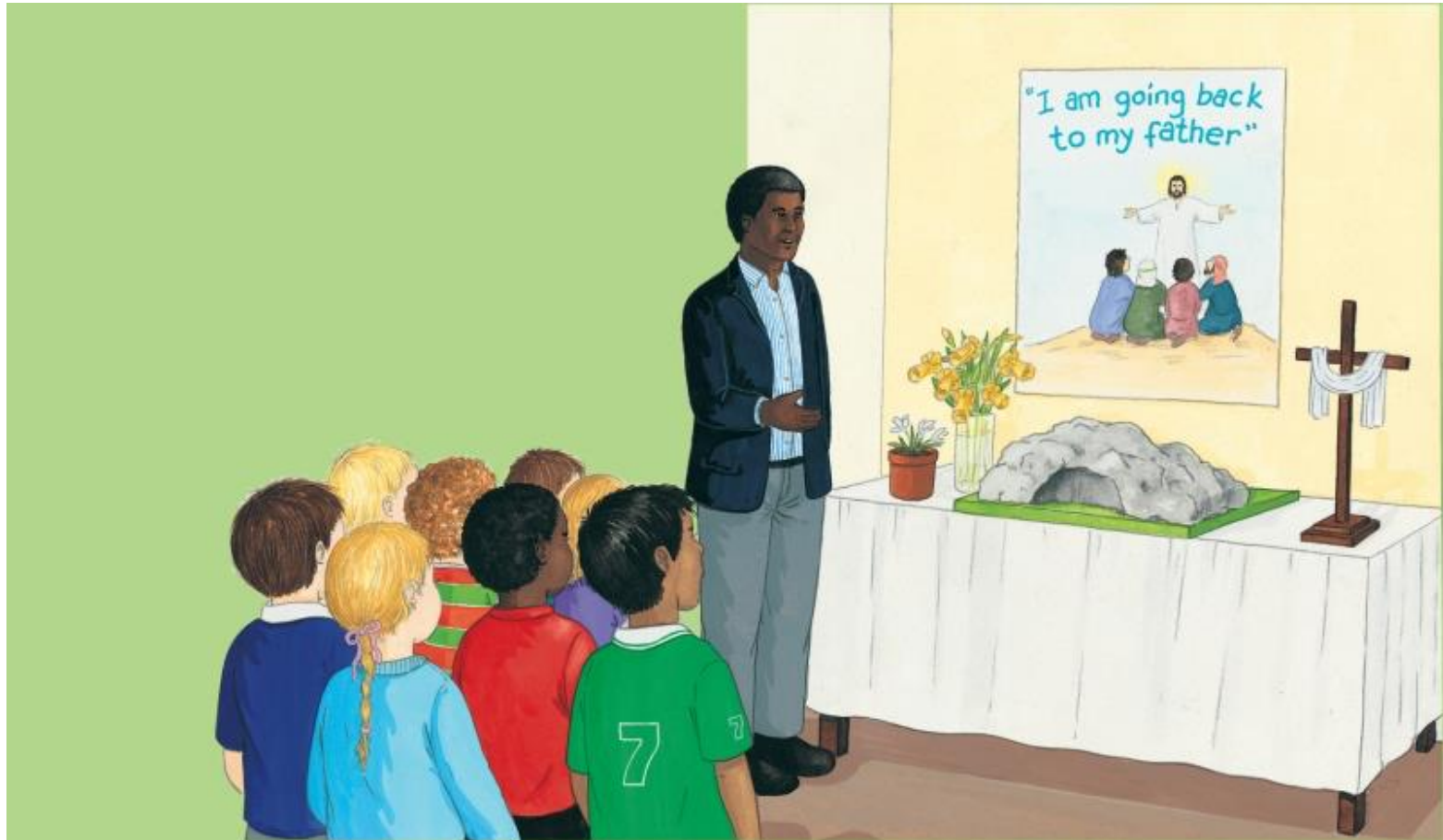


This is the place in the Holy Land where Jesus ascended to heaven to be with his Father.

People can visit it and say a prayer there.



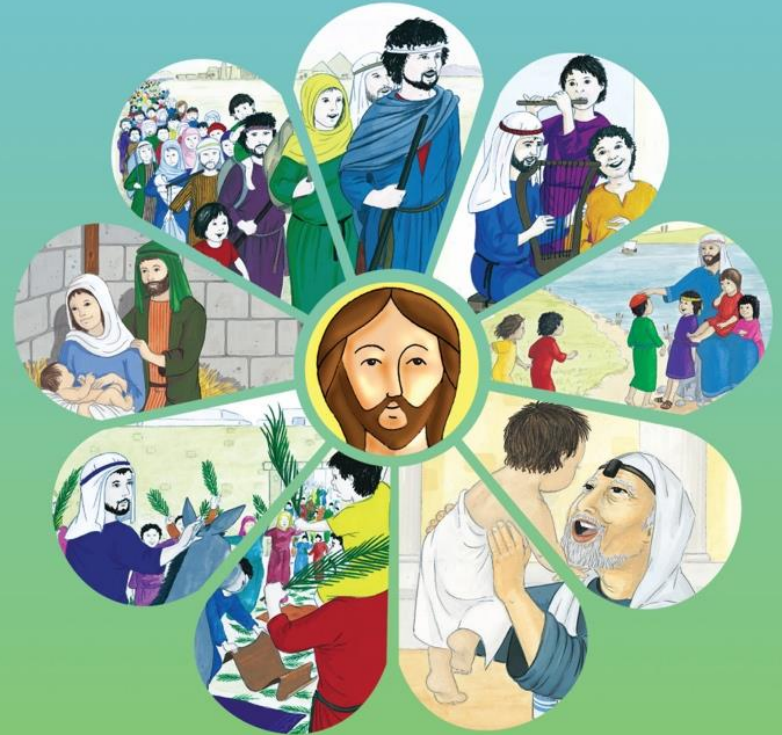
After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and made a promise to send his Holy Spirit to them.

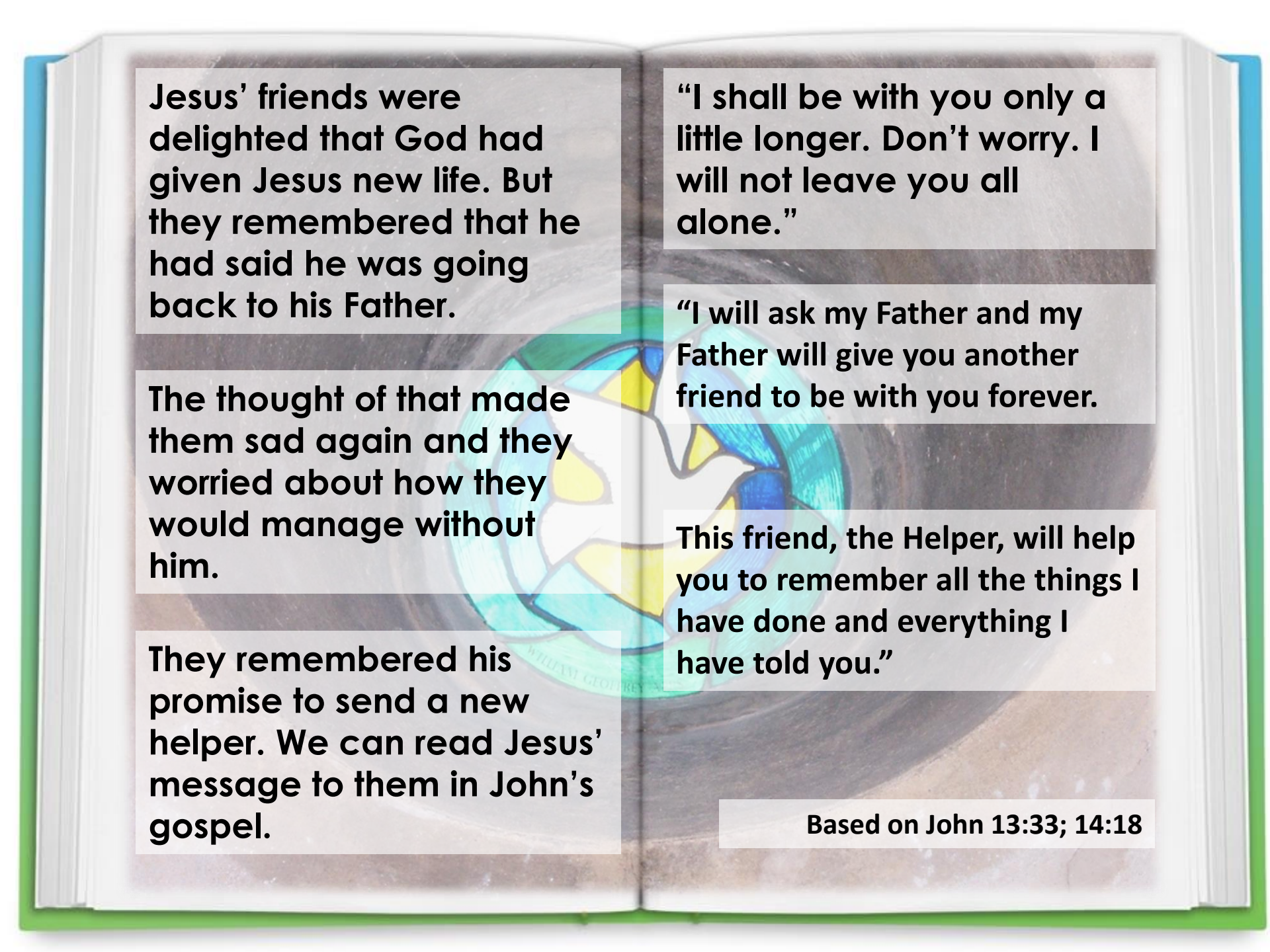


Before Jesus left his friends, he promised to send them a helper, the Holy Spirit. The holy day, **Ascension Thursday**, celebrates Jesus' return to his Father.

Good News

Good News





Jesus' friends were delighted that God had given Jesus new life. But they remembered that he had said he was going back to his Father.

The thought of that made them sad again and they worried about how they would manage without him.

They remembered his promise to send a new helper. We can read Jesus' message to them in John's gospel.

"I shall be with you only a little longer. Don't worry. I will not leave you all alone."

"I will ask my Father and my Father will give you another friend to be with you forever.

This friend, the Helper, will help you to remember all the things I have done and everything I have told you."

Based on John 13:33; 14:18



Good News

- Create a collage or picture of Jesus talking to his friends; add speech bubbles and retell the words of Jesus' promise.



LEARNING FOCUS 3 and 4 : Pentecost: The Holy Day.

I can **recognise** some symbols of the Holy Spirit.

I can **recognise** and **retell** the story of Pentecost.

Can you remember who Jesus said he would send?

**“I will ask my Father and my
Father will give you another friend
to be with you forever”**

**This friend, the Helper, will help
you to remember all the things I
have done and everything I
have told you.”**

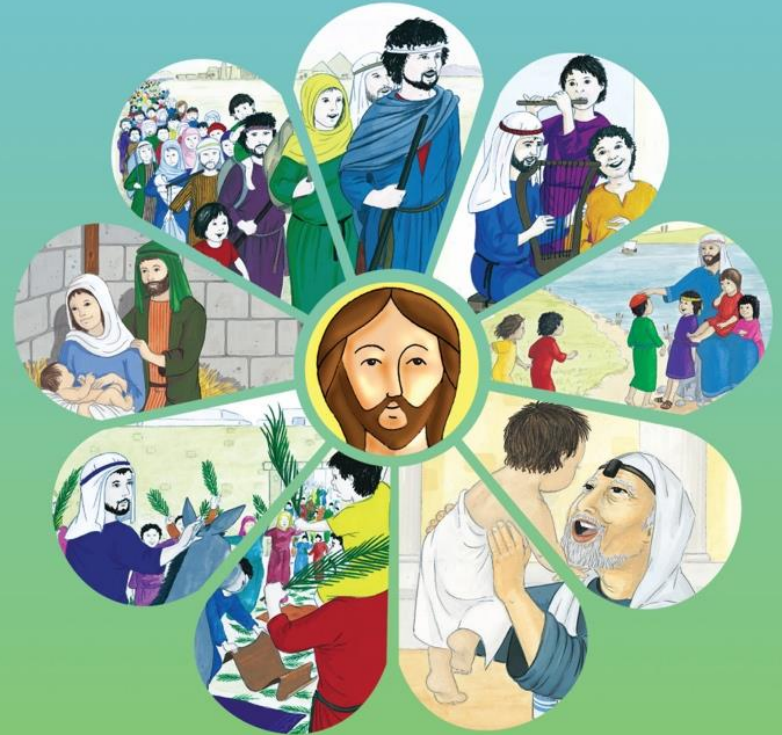
What do you wonder about in this picture?



Let's read the scripture to find out more...

Good News

Good News

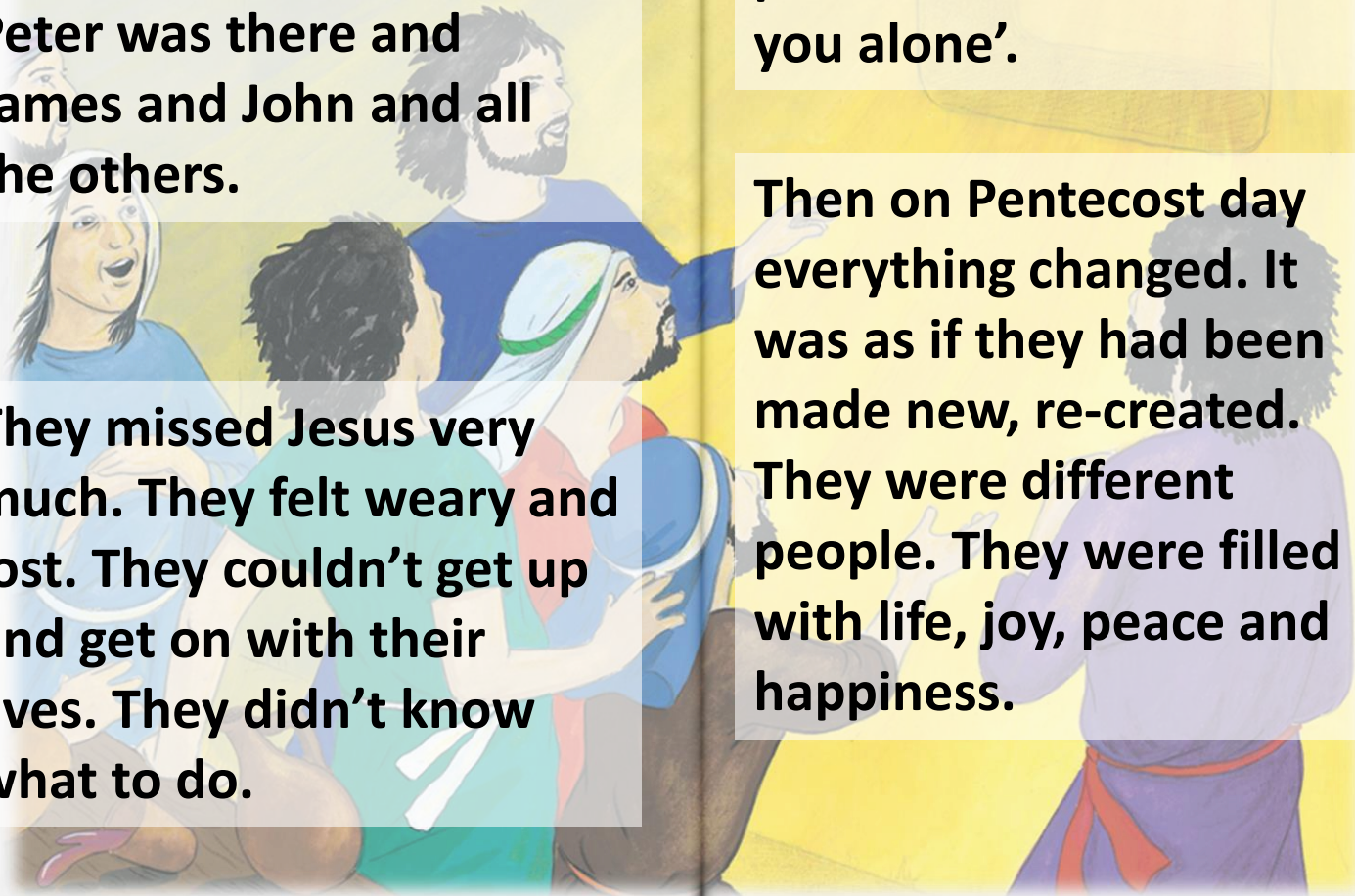


After Jesus had gone back to his Father, his friends stayed together with Mary, Jesus' Mother. Peter was there and James and John and all the others.

They missed Jesus very much. They felt weary and lost. They couldn't get up and get on with their lives. They didn't know what to do.

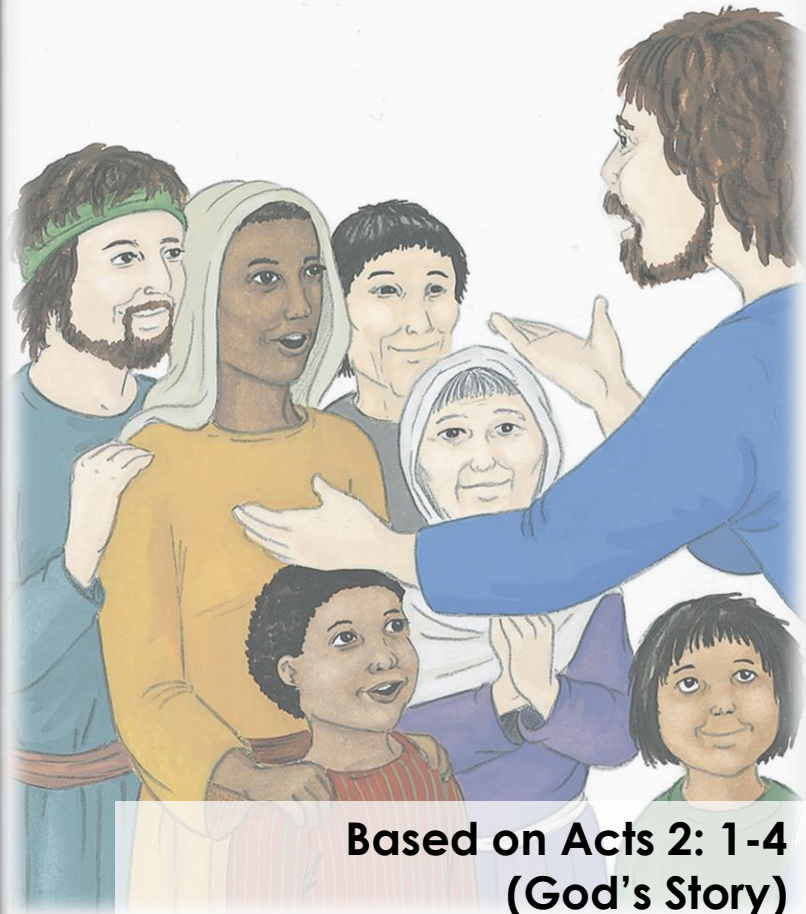
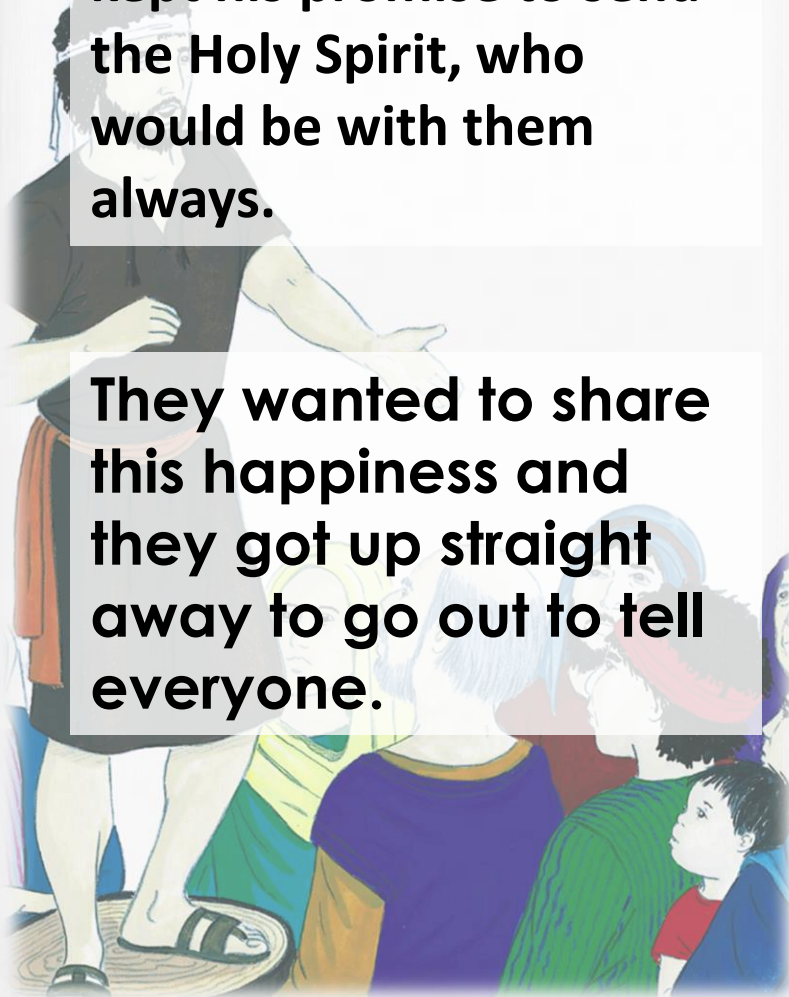
They talked about their time with Jesus and wondered about his promise, 'I will not leave you alone'.

Then on Pentecost day everything changed. It was as if they had been made new, re-created. They were different people. They were filled with life, joy, peace and happiness.



They knew that Jesus had kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit, who would be with them always.

They wanted to share this happiness and they got up straight away to go out to tell everyone.



**Based on Acts 2: 1-4
(God's Story)**

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Who was in the room when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost?
- Q What were the signs of the Holy Spirit?
- Q How do you think Mary and the disciples felt?
- Q Why do you think they felt like that?

Good News



- Create a stained-glass window in the shape of a dove or a flame. Talk about the choice of symbol and how it represents the Holy Spirit.



Act out (or role play with your toys) the story of Pentecost.



SOME KEY QUESTIONS

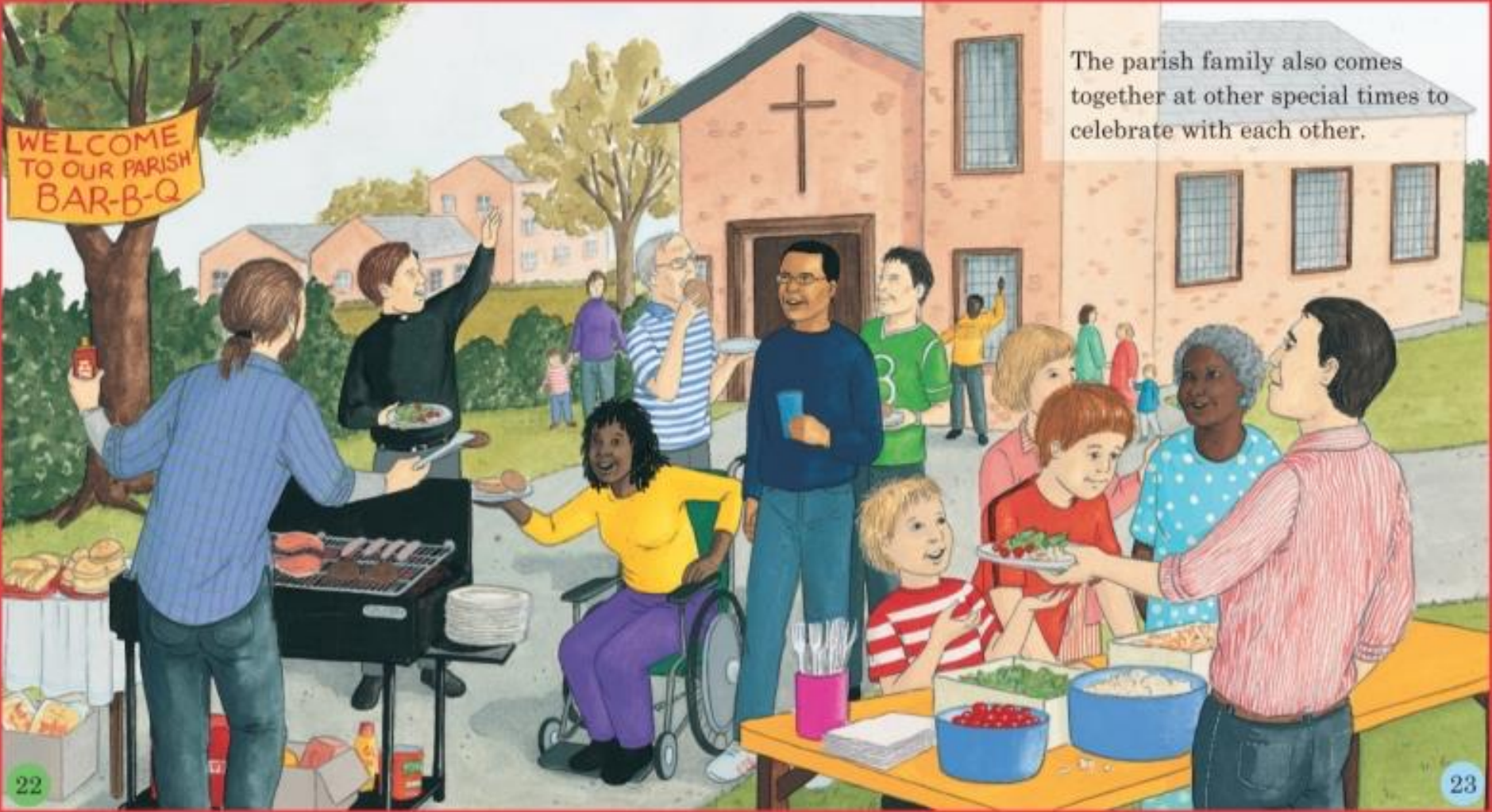
- Q What do you like best about the Pentecost story and why?
- Q What change had the Holy Spirit made to the friends of Jesus?
- Q
- Q How would you be able to tell what the Holy Spirit had done?
- Q What was the Good News the friends shared?

LEARNING FOCUS 5: Pentecost: The birthday of the Church.

I can **describe** the ways in which the Holy Spirit is a helper and guide.

Jesus had returned to God, his Father, and the Holy Spirit was helping the friends of Jesus to pass the message on to others so that they might become his friends too. This marked the beginning of the Church, its birth. Pentecost is a holy day on which many parish families celebrate with a party. On the holy day of Pentecost, the priest wears red vestments at Mass like the colour of fire.

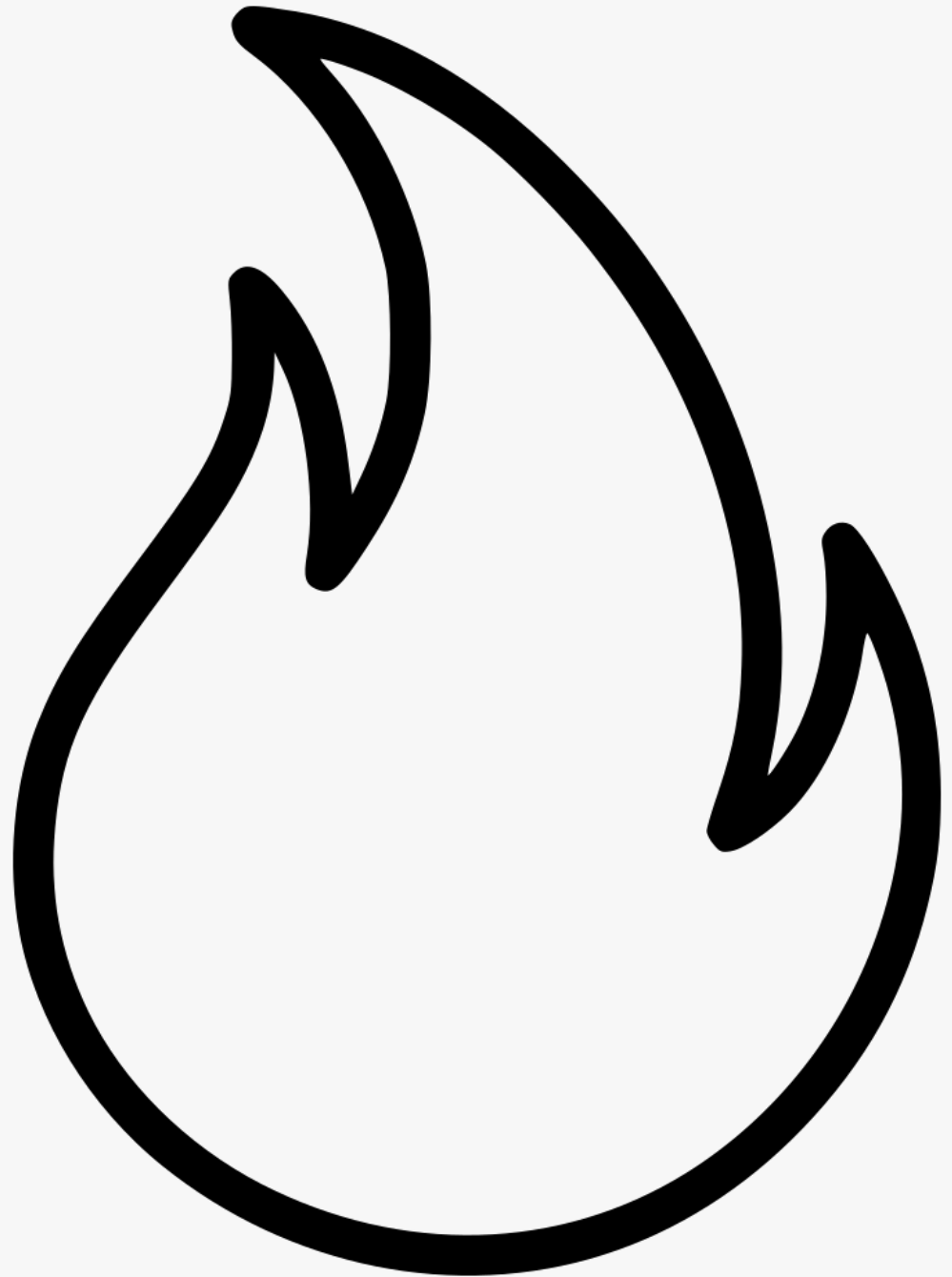




The parish family also comes together at other special times to celebrate with each other.

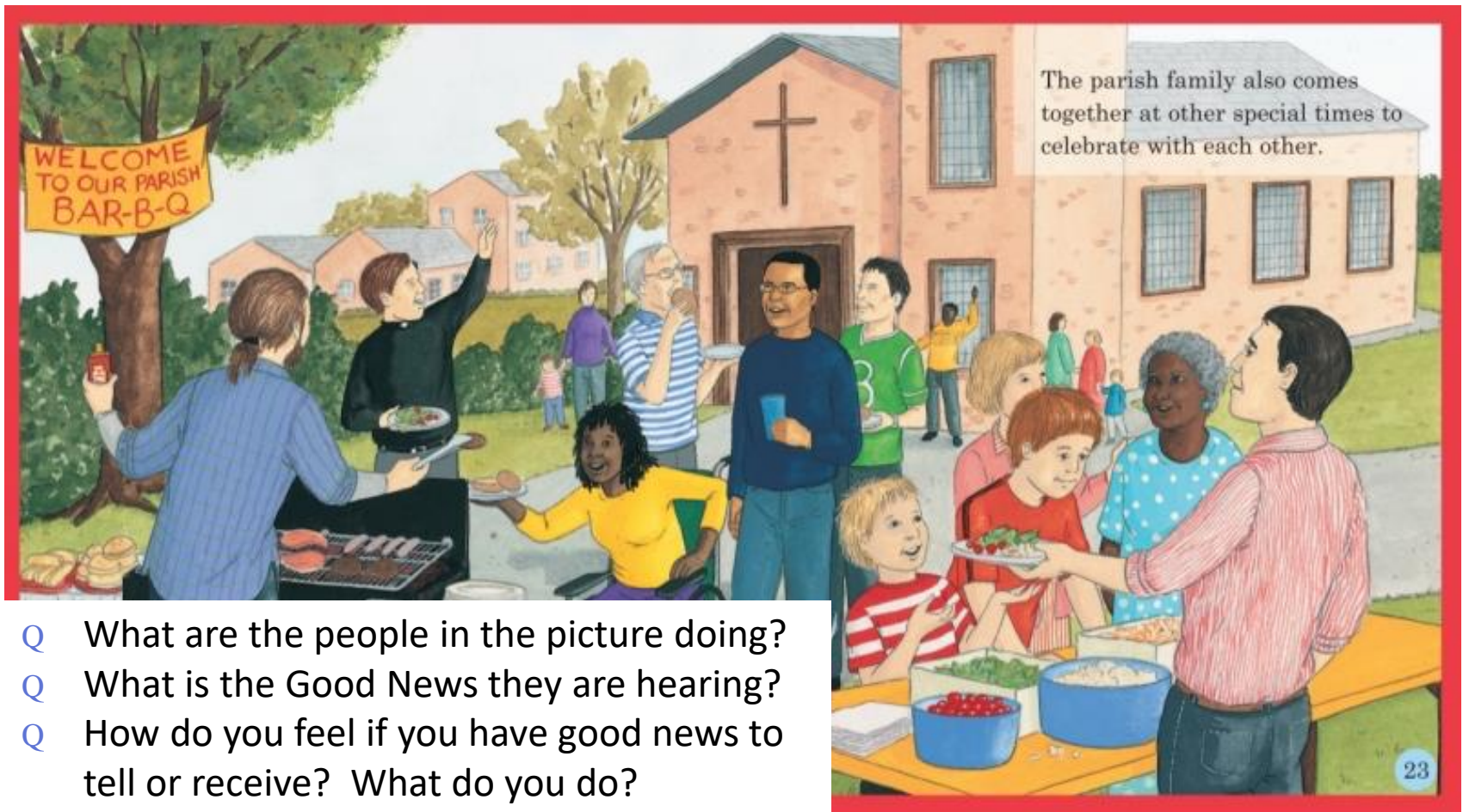
- Q Who is in the picture?
- Q What do you think the people in the picture are celebrating?
- Q How do you celebrate a birthday?
- Q Why is Pentecost a holy day?

- On the flame shape template write how the Holy Spirit guides you to help and serve others.



LEARNING FOCUS 6: Spreading the Good News.

Look again at the picture. Holy days, like holidays, are times for celebrating and enjoyment. We relax from ordinary life and think about other things. Holy days are special times for thinking about the life of Jesus and about God the Creator's love and care for us. This is Good News. The Holy Spirit guides us and gives us strength and courage to share that Good News with others.



- Write a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for help and guidance in sharing the Good News of Jesus.



RESPOND

Remembering, celebrating and responding to holidays as days to be
happy
and Pentecost: A holy day, the feast of the Holy Spirit

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection.

Light a candle and make the sign of the cross.

Provide your child with the opportunity to engage with questions of meaning and purpose related to the experience of *Holidays and Holydays*.



Remember

Pentecost symbols



Can you name
the symbols and
explain the
meaning of each
one?



Ask the children if there is anything they wonder about

- Holidays being different from ordinary days.
- Holidays being happy times.
- Holidays are times to relax and do something different.
- Thanking God for holidays and holy days.
- The Holy Spirit is a guide and helper.

Provide the opportunity, possibly by one of the means above, for your child to remember

What a holy day is.

Pentecost is a holy day.

The promise Jesus made to his friends.

Pentecost: the birth of the Church.

The Good News of Jesus.

Rejoice

Say a prayer together asking for the Holy Spirit's help.

Apply their learning

How can I help to make a holiday a happy time?

How will I let the Holy Spirit help me and guide me this week?

Some suggested ideas

After a time of quiet reflection and prayer invite your child to talk about one thing they might do this coming weekend to make it happy for others and for themselves. Complete the sentence; 'This weekend I will take time for...'

Go out and tell your family about the Good News of Jesus. Try to do something for them to show that you have understood this message.

Make the sign of the cross.