

## - The Spirit Comes! (Family Service)

- *Get the passage read at the start of each section, with words of that section up on the screen*

### Signs of the Spirit's Coming (1-4)

- Get folk to tell me what the 3 signs of the Spirit's coming were:
  - ie, if you were standing by what would you have seen or heard or otherwise experienced?
  - *in each case spend some time talking about each thing...*

#### Wind

- Spirit, ruach, power, wind on Galilee, invisible
- Symbol of power

#### Flames

- Fire to do with purity, holiness; flames are never quite the same, always moving - gazing into them...; heat; light; energy being released;
- In particular, symbolic of God's judgement

#### Language

- Understanding - how do babies come to learn language, or children to read and write? It passes information on, it allows communication to take place, it facilitates relationship.
- **God who communicates**, who wants us to know and understand him

### Effect of the Spirit's Coming (5-13)

- **BUT!**
  - actual effects of Spirit's coming weren't initially holiness, power, understanding, relationship!
- Rather, what do we get?
  - (again, get people to tell me from the passage...)
- Bewilderment, amazement, perplexity, made fun of
  - explore what each of these words means
  - some questioned, some rejected...
- In other words, the first thing the Spirit does as he comes is **stir things up**, make people ask questions, unsettled people
  - cf **foundations** - got to dig up the soil even before you pour the concrete into the holes to make the foundations

## Results of the Spirit's Coming (14-17, 38-41)

- Brought salvation on hearing the Gospel
  - this is God's blessing of his merciful presence following repentance in the context of coming judgement
- Refer to the Joel prophecy: (Joel 2:28-32)
  - early in Joel is the repeated prophecy of locusts, judgement from God over the people's unfaithfulness
  - but the Lord is merciful, and there comes a day of blessing, then or the pinnacle of which is the coming of the Holy Spirit
  - Judah to be raised up...
- It is not specifically a prophecy of the Spirit's coming in particular, as God's presence so soaking his people as His Spirit comes upon them and lives in them
- 3000 repent and believe and receive new life as the Spirit comes and dwells within them
  - no hint that the flames came upon them, or that they spoke in other languages at this point
- Our common image of the HS is what - dove, peace - not flame, unsettled!