

- Family service

The Spirit is Among Us (1): World quiz

- Connection to Pentecost introduction
- How many countries are there in the world? (image: map)
 - 195
- How many languages are there in the world? (image: boys)
 - something like 4,600!!
- How many of these have the whole Bible translated? (image: Bible)
 - 438; a further 1,168 have the New Testament, and another 848 have at least one book of the Bible completed!
- How many nationalities are present here today? (image: Fintry)
 - I reckoned something like 8-10
- Finish this bit by making observation about how amazing the fact is that God has brought people from all over the world to know him, and many of them here in Fintry!
 - especially in a world where so often other things separate us...
 - language, skin colour, culture and upbringing, wealth, educational background, etc

The Spirit is Among Us (2): Promises Kept

- Longest film or story?
 - (image: film strip)
 - how long was it?
 - (different ways you could measure that...)
- Interesting? Main point?
 - were there critical points where you could see the story developing?
- God's great rescue story:
 - began with Abraham going out on a journey
 - God promised him something when he set out (image: promise, Genesis 12:2,3)
- That promise seemed often to fail, but it never fizzled out completely
 - many times people seemed to forget God and his promises...
 - but he often sent them reminders of himself
 - in particular, prophet Isaiah came and gave new hope; we read some of what he had to say earlier (image: promise, Isaiah 60:3)
- That promise was never completely lost
 - then Jesus came... his life, ministry, death and resurrection
 - salvation had come... but how were the nations changed?
 - and that is what happened when God's Spirit was given at Pentecost!
 - God's people from many nations were present in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Pentecost, or Feast of Weeks, which was originally a barley harvest festival, and became associated with God's giving of the Law over the years
 - (image: map, nations of Acts 2:9-11)
- And as they were gathered God fulfilled his promise and made his people a blessing to the world, pouring out his Spirit upon them
 - fulfilling Jesus' final promise to his disciples just days before (image: promise, Acts 1:8)
 - from this beginning the first Christians spoke to Romans (Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10&11)... and then all over the world!
- God's Spirit unites us and empowers us to be good news to the nations