

Short All Age Worship Service

(ShortAAW011)

**The Big Story of God 11:
The Holy Spirit
comes in power**

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THE BIG STORY OF GOD 11

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES IN POWER

Service Aim:

To teach that God first sent His Holy Spirit upon the church at Pentecost and continues to send His Holy Spirit to believers today.

This service can be used on its own or as part of a series of services covering major biblical themes from Genesis to Revelation.

Biblical Reference(s):

Acts 2:1-8, 11b-21, 36-41, Romans 8:15-17, Ephesians 1:13-14, John 16:8, 7:37, Galatians 5:22, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	Matthew 18:20 and prayer
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Warm up:	<p>“Weight – lifting”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The disciples didn’t have the power to follow Jesus. God gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
Bible Reading:	Acts 2:1-21, 36-41 (partly dramatized)
Link:	The disciples were changed (with sad and smiley faces)
Song:	<u>Song about the Holy Spirit</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	God sends His Holy Spirit to believers today
Talk:	With Puppet
Response:	“John 7:37” – Receiving a “drink”
Prayers:	Thank you / Asking.
Lord’s Prayer	
Summary:	<p>God first sent His Spirit at Pentecost, and the disciples were changed men.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God still sends His Spirit to believers today to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help us know our Heavenly Father, change us to become like Jesus, send us into the world, equip us with all we need.
Final song:	<u>Final song</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	Numbers 6:24-26

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service. Explain that the theme of the service is “The Holy Spirit comes in power.” If you are using this service as part of the series: “The Big Story of God”, explain that too. (You might consider draping red, orange and yellow streamers or balloons around the church)

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following verse and prayer:

Jesus said, *“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”*
(Matthew 18:20)

As you promise to be with us Lord Jesus,
We welcome you here today.

**Help us Lord to worship you,
To listen to your Word,
And to pray in faith,
That we might grow in our love for you and for one another.
Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Warm-up:

Have at the front of church a weight training bar with weights on it. Brief a father and a young child before the service to be your volunteers. Invite the child to come forward and try and lift the weights bar. They cannot lift it up at all. Invite the child’s father to come and stand behind the child and then ask the child to try and lift the weights bar again. This time the father helps them and the bar is lifted up.

We do not have the power on our own to follow Jesus and do all the things He has told us to do, like *N* (name of child) didn’t have the power to lift up the bar on their own.

- We cannot change the world as Jesus has called us to do without God’s help.

The good news is that Jesus promised us a very special and powerful gift before He returned to heaven.

¹ Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
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He promised to send us the person of the Holy Spirit to come and live within us – to give us the power we need to follow Jesus.

- The Holy Spirit is a bit like *N*'s dad who came alongside *N* with the power to lift the weights bar.

Jesus first promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to his earliest followers soon after the resurrection. Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem for a special gift.

- We are going to hear what happened as we read from the book of Acts.

Bible Reading:

The Bible reading is partly dramatized and partly read by two Narrators – see Appendix 2.

Link:

You need to make a large “smiley” face. On one side of the “smiley” have a happy smiley ☺ face, and on the other side of the smiley have a sad smiley face ☹

The disciples were changed men after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost.

- Before the Holy Spirit came the disciples were fearful and hiding away. (*Show sad smiley face*).
- After the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were bold and courageous. They came out of hiding and into the streets of Jerusalem where they told people about Jesus. (*Show happy smiley face*)

Before the Holy Spirit came the disciples didn't have the strength or the power to do the things that Jesus had asked them to do. (*Show sad smiley face*)

- After the Holy Spirit came, the disciples had the strength and the power to do everything that Jesus had asked them to do. (*Show happy smiley face*)
- Peter's first sermon resulted in about three thousand people turning to Jesus!
- If you read through the book of Acts, you will read all the amazing things that God enabled the first disciples to do.

The Holy Spirit was given to the disciples to give them the power to continue the work of Jesus and to change the world.

- But what about today?
- Do believers today need the power of the Holy Spirit like the first disciples did?

The answer to that is “yes.” Followers of Jesus still need the power of the Holy Spirit for we cannot follow Jesus and do the things He asks us to do in our own strength.

- The good news is that God has promised to give every believer this precious gift of His Spirit, and God always keeps His promises.
- Following Jesus is not a matter of “will power” but “Holy Spirit power”
- Let's stand and worship the Lord.

Song:

A song about the Holy Spirit as per Appendix 1

Talk:

The talk is a dialogue between the preacher, an offstage “God” voice and a puppet; teaching about the various roles of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life. (See Appendix 3)

If you don't have a puppet, you could dramatize the puppet parts of the talk with someone dressed as a school boy.

Response

Explain to people that you are going to give them an opportunity to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Explain that this gift is given to those who have turned away from their old lives of sinning and turned to Jesus to follow Him. Have small glasses² of water laid out on trays, which are then passed around to people, so that each person has a glass. Then say something like:

Jesus said: *"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink"* (John 7:37)

- If you are thirsty for life today, please join me as we sing a simple song³ inviting the Holy Spirit to come and fill us.

After you have sung the song a couple of times say something like:

You might like to drink your glass of water as a symbol of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.....saying something in your heart like, "I receive you Holy Spirit."

Prayers:

Prayers could be led by the service leader or by a family etc.

The first prayer could be a prayer of **thanks** for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The second prayer could be **asking** God to show each person present someone they know who needs to hear about Jesus. After a pause, ask the Holy Spirit to equip them to show this person God's love and to share the message of the Gospel at the right time.

The third prayer could be **asking** God to change a situation in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lord's Prayer:

End by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Summary:

Summarize the teaching points of the service ie:

God first sent His Spirit at Pentecost, and the disciples were changed men.

- God still sends His Spirit to believers today to:
 - Help us know our Heavenly Father,
 - change us to become like Jesus,
 - send us into the world and
 - equip us with all we need.

Final Song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

² You can purchase disposable Stacking Plastic Shot Glasses (25ml) from Party Plastics cheaply at: <http://www.partyplastics.co.uk/shop/v1053p1319/disposable-stacking-plastic-shot-glass-25ml-crystal-polystyrene-ce-stamped-to-rim>

³ Sing together a couple of time: "Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me" (Daniel Iverson © 1935. Renewed 1963 Birdwing Music)
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Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service, something like the blessing prayer from Numbers 6:24-26 ie:

The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. **Amen.**

You might like to have a “birthday cake” to share after the service, to celebrate the “birthday of the church.”

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) Opening songs. Ideas include:

- Bless the Lord O my soul (Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2011 SHOUT! Music Publishing)
- Come down O Love divine (Bianco da Siena, Richard Frederick Littledale)
- Come Holy Spirit (Loralee Thiessen © 1993 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- He is the Lord and He reigns on high (Kevin Prosch © 1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1989 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)
- Praise God from whom all blessings flow (Andy Piercy, David Clifton © 1993 IQ Music Limited)
- Spirit break out Ben Bryant, Luke Hellebronth, Myles Dhillon, Tim Hughes © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- Who O Lord could save themselves (Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman © 2008 SHOUT! Music Publishing)

ii) A song about the Holy Spirit. Ideas include:

- Breathe on me Spirit of Jesus (Tina Pownall Kent © 1987 Sovereign Music UK)
- Fall afresh (Jeremy Riddle © 2011 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- O God of burning, cleansing flame (Lex Loizides, William Booth © 1994 Thankyou Music)
- Please fill me Lord with your power (Alan Price © 1990 Song Solutions Daybreak)
- There must be more than this (Tim Hughes © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- This is the air I breathe (Marie Barnett © 1995 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)
- When the Holy Spirit comes upon you (Christine Jackson, Jenny Oliver © 1987, 1991 Powerpack)
- You have called us chosen (Andy Park © 1991 Mercy / Vineyard Publishing)

iii) Final song. Ideas include:

- Come set your rule and reign (Rend Collective © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- God of justice (Tim Hughes © 2004 Thankyou Music)
- Hear the call of the Kingdom (Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend © 2006 Thankyou Music)
- I'm not backing down (Tim Hughes © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- Lord the light of your love is shining (Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music)
- Shine from the inside out (Nick Jackson © 2007 Powerpack)
- The Spirit lives to set us free (Christopher Tambling, Damian Lundy © 1978 Kevin Mayhew Ltd)
- We are His children (Go forth in his name) (Graham Kendrick © 1990 Make Way Music)
- We'll walk the land (Graham Kendrick © 1989 Make Way Music)
- We want to see Jesus lifted high (Doug Horley © 1993 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 – Dramatized Bible Reading

Acts 2:1-8, 11b-21, 36-41

Cast: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, four people to operate streamers and “speak in tongues,” (P1, P2, P3, P4), Peter

Props: Sound effect of wind,⁴ red, yellow and orange streamers,⁵

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Narrator 1: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent **wind** (*Play sound effect of wind for a few seconds*) came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Narrator 2: They saw what seemed to be tongues of **fire** (*Have four people (P1,P2,P3,P4) run from the four corners of the church around the church waving red, orange and yellow streamers over the congregation for a few seconds. They then return to their four corners*) that separated and came to rest on each of them.

Narrator 1: All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

P1: (*shouts from one corner of the church*) Praise the Lord!

P2: (*shouts from one corner of the church*) Prega il Signore!

P3: (*shouts from one corner of the church*) Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum!

P4: (*shouts from one corner of the church*) Δόξα τον κύριο (thOksa ton kEEreeo)

Narrator 2: Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked:

Narrator 1: Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!

Narrator 2: Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another,

Narrator 1: What does this mean?"

Narrator 2: Some, however, made fun of them and said,

⁴ A wind sound effect can be found on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqPAAwR_32M. Alternatively you could use a wind sound effect from a sound effect CD like “Natural Sound Effects CD consisting of a Violent Thunderstorm, Strong Wind and Torrential Rain” which can be bought from Amazon at: www.amazon.co.uk

⁵ You can purchase “Gym Dance Ribbon Rhythmic Gymnastic Streamer Rod Baton Twirling” in red, orange and yellow colours from Amazon at: www.amazon.co.uk

Narrator 1: They have had too much wine.

Narrator 2: Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

(Enter Peter who stands in the pulpit if you have one, or on a chair so that he is raised up)

Peter: Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

P1-P4: *(All shout together loudly)* Hooray!

Peter: Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.

Narrator 2: When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles,

Narrator 1: Brothers, what shall we do?

Peter: Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.

Narrator 2: With many other words he warned them and he pleaded with them.

Peter: Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.

Narrator 1: Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

(Exit all)

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Appendix 3 – Puppet Script: “Pentecost”

Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, God, who is an “off-stage” male voice and the Preacher. The puppet is operated by a person from behind a screen and so it is essential that their voice and the off-stage voice is heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

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Enter James flopped over the puppet screen – “dead”

Preacher: The Bible tells us that the body without the Spirit is dead.

However, when the Spirit of God convicts us of our sins, and we come to Jesus, confessing our sins to Him and turning away from them; Jesus not only gives us His forgiveness, but He also gives us the most amazing gift. He gives us the gift of His Holy Spirit - the life of God - to live within us.

James comes alive and starts to look around.

Preacher: The Holy Spirit living within us helps us get to know our Heavenly Father

James: Father, Father, I can call you Father.

God:(*voice offstage*) Yes James.....isn't it wonderful? You are my precious Son and I will always be with you to love you and help you through your life. Spend time with me James because I want you to grow to know me and I want to know you.

James freezes

Preacher: The Holy Spirit works in our lives, changing us from the inside so that we become more and more like Jesus.

James comes alive

James: You are just not going to believe this....I am finding it hard to believe it myself. Yesterday I found six packets of unopened football stickers in the changing rooms at school. I knew that they belonged to Harry because they were by his sports kit, but naturally I picked them up and stuffed them in my pocket before anyone saw that I had taken them.

Normally I would have taken them home, opened them up and stuck the ones I needed into my sticker book, without even thinking about it. But yesterday something odd happened.....I think it must have something to do with the prayer I prayed to Jesus on Sunday!

Anyway, while I was sitting in my last lesson.....Maths as it so happened, I started to feel guilty.....not a little bit guilty, but really very, very guilty. I tried to put the stickers out of my mind, but all I could think about was how Harry would feel when he realised his stickers had gone.....

So I asked the teacher if I could be excused and go to the toilet. While I was there, I prayed and asked Father God to forgive me for taking the stickers and asked for his help in knowing what to do next. Into my head came the thought:

God: Go and give the stickers back to Harry and say sorry

James That was hard you know, but I did it....I can't believe it, but I did it. And do you know what? I feel so clean inside now. I don't ever want to take other people's things again, even if they are small things.

James freezes

Preacher: The Holy Spirit also sends us out into the world. He helps us to share Jesus with others by the things we say and do and by the sort of people we are.

God: James, James

James comes alive

James: Yes Father.....here I am

God: James there is a boy in your class called Brian.....

James: Oh Brian the brain.....I know him.....no-one likes him.

God: I know James....but I love him....and I want you to share my love with him.

James: You have got to be joking!

God: No I'm not joking James. I want you to go and share your packed lunch with Brian today because he has forgotten his lunch and he hasn't told anybody how hungry he is. When he asks you why you are being kind to him, I want you to tell him about me and about how much I love Him.

James: Oh help, oh no, OH NO....I couldn't possibly do that....I mean I am hopeless when it comes to talking about you.

God: James, I will be with you.....and I will give you all that you need. Trust me.

James: Couldn't you send one of your big angels to do it? If Brian saw an angel he would believe.

God: James.

James: Oh alright....but as long as you promise that you won't leave me on my own Father.....I must admit that I feel really sorry for Brian as he does get bullied so much.

James freezes.

Preacher: The Holy Spirit gives us special gifts, so that we can carry on doing Jesus' work of building His kingdom in the world.

James comes alive

James: Oh gosh, I'm so excited, I've got to tell someone what's happened.....oh good there's lots of you to tell.

I was visiting my Grandad the other day and when I got to his house he was in bed and very ill with a chest infection.

In fact my mum didn't think I should go and see him. I was so sad because I love my Grandad a lot....and then into my head I had the thought,

God: Pray for your Grandad

James: So I persuaded my mum to let me go into Grandad's room very quietly and then I put my hand on Grandad's shoulder, shut my eyes and asked Jesus to make him better.

As I opened my eyes, Grandad opened his eyes too and he told me that as I prayed, he felt this heat going through his body and he felt this wonderful love of Jesus filling him.

He then slowly sat up and asked my mum for a cup of tea and he gave me a hug. After he had had his cup of tea he was even able to get out of bed and come downstairs and play a game with me.

Imagine that..... God answered my prayer and his power made my Grandad better....isn't God wonderful?

Exit James

Preacher: We have heard of four different ways in which the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of followers of Jesus:

- 1) The Holy Spirit is living within us and helps us to get to know our Heavenly Father.
- 2) The Holy Spirit is changing us from the inside out so that we become more and more like Jesus.
- 3) The Holy Spirit sends us out into the world to share the good news about Jesus and
- 4) The Holy Spirit gives us special and powerful gifts so that we can carry on doing Jesus' work of building His kingdom in the world.

What a generous God to give us His Holy Spirit!