**2.6 THE CHURCH IS BORN / THE FIRST CHRISTIANS**

**CONCEPTS:** Church, Holy Spirit, Virtues

**About this unit**

This unit is designed to develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of the beginning of the Church. They will learn that the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to spread the Good News and about what the early Christian community was like. The children will reflect on how they can spread the Good News.

**Where the unit fits in**

This unit builds on previous learning in the Foundation Stage during the unit F6 ‘Church’.

**Prior learning**

It would be helpful if the children had some knowledge of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and how it transformed the disciples.

**Key words**

Waiting, promise, Holy Spirit, Pentecost, fear, joy, good news, fruits of the Spirit, apostles, community, Christian, friends, church, God’s family, Peter, Temple, prison,

**Links to ‘God’s Story’ and ‘Church’s Story’**

*God’s Story 2*, p. 80-81, 84-85

*Church’s Story 1*, p. 4-13

*Church’s Story 2*, pp. 78-79

**KEY SCRIPTURE**

Acts 2: 1-13 (Pentecost)

Acts 2: 42-47 (The early Christian community)

Acts 3: 1-10 (The cure of a lame man)

Acts 12: 1-17 (Peter’s arrest and miraculous escape)

**KNOWLEDGE SEQUENCE**

• Christianity – the people of God who follow Jesus – began at Pentecost

• The way Christians lived at the beginning is carried on today

• The disciples of Jesus received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

• The Holy Spirit changed the disciples and sent them out with the good news (apostles)

• The Holy Spirit gave them the virtues of faith, courage and generosity and gave them power to heal the sick

• The children are called to live like the first Christians with faith, courage and generosity.

• Christians believe that through Baptism the Holy Spirit brings them gifts to use to live good lives

**WTL LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

• *Know how the Holy Spirit helped the Apostles*

• Know that we can help spread the good news

• Know about the first Christians

• *Think of ways we can be like them*

• Know that the apostles realised that God could work through them

• *Know how Jesus was able to help Peter and John*

• *Be aware that we can trust Jesus to help us*

• *Recall that the Holy Spirit was able to help the Apostles*

*•* *Be aware that the Holy Spirit helps us*

• Know about Peter’s escape from prison

• Reflect on what we can learn from it

**BY THE END OF THIS UNIT PUPILS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO:**

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| Recognise the link between Pentecost and the beginning of Christianity | Describe how the Holy Spirit helped the apostles | Give examples how the Holy Spirit can help them in their own lives (remember, understand, courage) | Ask and respond to questions about Peter’s cure of the man who could not walk |
| Retell the story of Peter’s escape from prison | Ask and respond to questions about Peter’s escape from prison | Use religious words like, Holy Spirit, Pentecost, good news, fruits of the Spirit, apostles, Christian, church, God’s family, Peter, Temple | Make a simple link in their work between the actions of the first Christians and themselves |