[Narrator] Today's story from scripture is about the very first day of the Church, the day when the Holy Spirit first came, the day that the Church was born. In our story are Peter and some of the other original followers of Jesus. In another group are people from Parthia, Rome, Egypt and other places, all of them are in Jerusalem for a big festival. Let's say hello to them and see how the Spirit got them and the rest of us in the Church going.

[Scene] There is a seated group of people on one side including Peter. On the other side there is a group of people milling around including visitors from Parthia, Rome, Egypt and maybe other places. Visitor from Parthia approaches visitor from Egypt.

[Visitor from Parthia] Excuse me, I'm here for the festival and I'm from Parthia. I don't know what happened to the people I was with, we were supposed to meet at...

[Visitor from Egypt] [shakes head] I'm sorry, I don't understand you but There are some very good food stalls around the corner, Isn't this a great festival!!

[Visitor from Rome comes up to visitor from Parthia] I'm sorry, can you tell me where the food stalls are located?

[visitor from Parthia] [Throws up hands] This is so confusing. So many people have come from so far away to share in this festival but it's so hard to talk with each other because we all speak different languages and we can't understand each other.

[Narrator] At the same time the Jesus followers were talking among themselves.

[follower #1]There are so many people out there, and though the festival is always wonderful it's confusing. So often people seem to not understand me because of my language. When they do know my language, they pretend that they can't understand me because of my Galilean accent. I hate it when people look down their nose at me because of where I'm from. Peter, could you tell us again when the spirit Jesus told us about will come? Maybe it will help us to understand each other better. Just think, if we could tell all of these people about Jesus, well...

[Peter] You're right, being able to talk with all of the people who are here and be understood would really be wonderful. Maybe that is something that the spirit will help us with but I'm not sure how we could do that. You know we've all been working together at remembering everything that Jesus taught us and we know it will be great, but the spirit coming hasn't happened yet. Let's give it a little more time and maybe it will show us how to talk with people who we think can't understand us.

[Narrator] Then something amazing happened. Something like a big wind began to blow and each of the followers of Jesus seemed to be touched by a flame. Don't worry, nobody was hurt, In fact they all suddenly knew what they had to do.

[Scene] People in audience start to wave red scarves.

[Follower #1] Wow, I think I understand. I want to start telling people about Jesus.

[scene] follower Turns and approaches person from Parthia.

[Follower #1]I'm sorry, I think I heard you say that you were looking for your group? I think I can help you with that, and while we are going there, I was wondering if you have heard about Jesus of Nazareth?

[person from Parthia] You're speaking my language, how did you do that. Thank you, I had heard a little bit about this Jesus, but I've been so busy trying to find out where things are that I haven't had time to ask about him.

[Scene] Followers start to walk up to people coming from the audience and talk with them.

[Scene] People respond.

[visitor from Rome] He's not speaking Parthian, he's speaking Latin.

[visitor from Egypt] No this person is speaking Egyptian.

[Narrator] And so it went on, with the followers of Jesus telling everyone they met about Jesus and the people who were interested all hearing the good news in their native language. But, unfortunately there were others who just didn't believe and thought that everyone was just babbling. For the people who listened and were ready to understand it was great because they got an opportunity to learn about how Jesus showed and taught us about how much God loves us. And so it went on all day with thousands of people coming together to learn about Jesus and how much God loved all of them. Many people from many places started to follow Jesus that day. They took what they learned home and told their friends, family, and anyone else who would listen. The Spirit really got them going, and we call what got started the Church. The Spirit has helped us to keep going, telling people about Jesus and trying to live the way he told us about ever since.