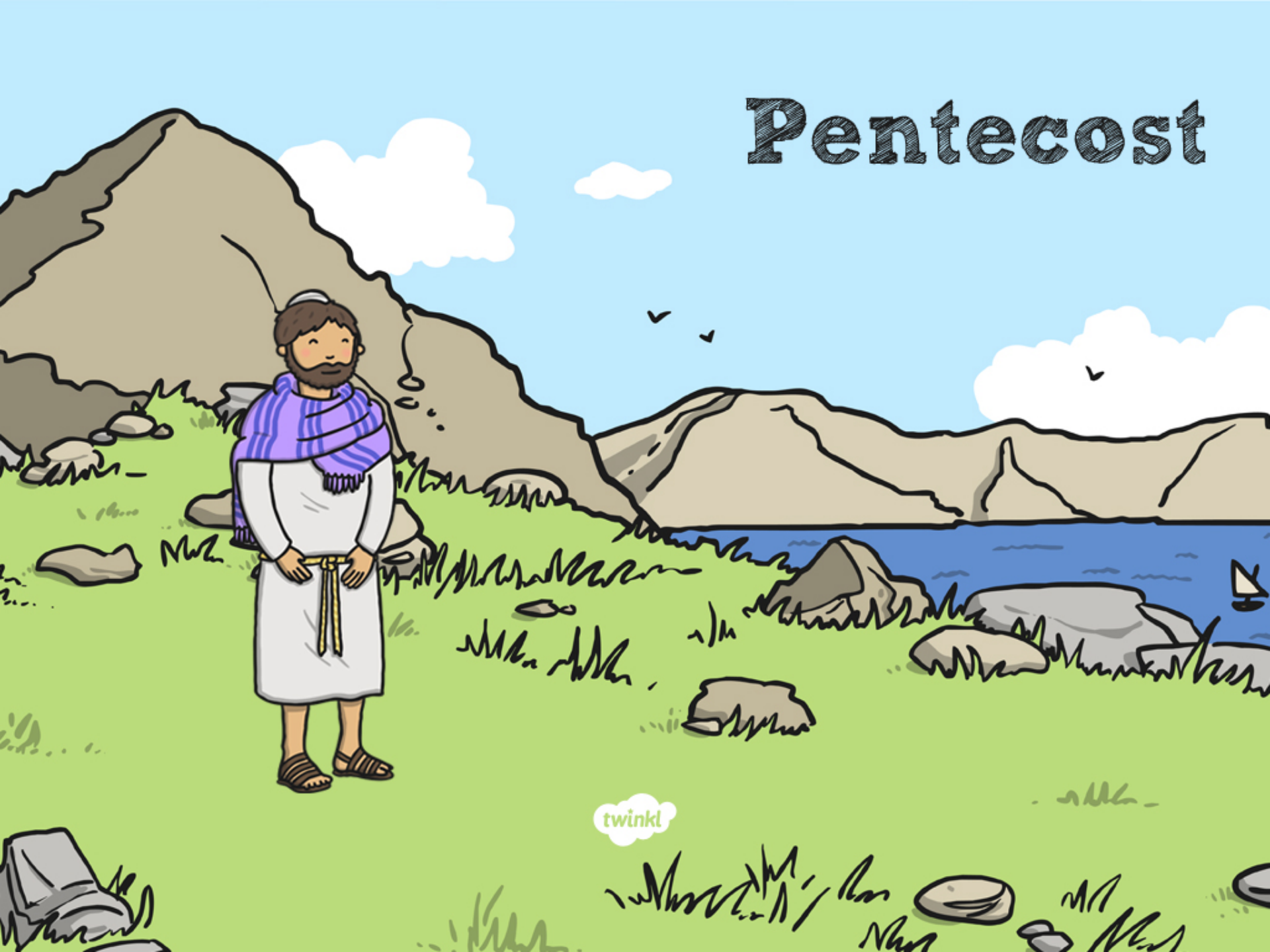

Pentecost
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Pentecost

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter Sunday (this is when Jesus was resurrected). It is a happy time in the Christian calendar. It is thought of as the birthday of the Christian Church.

Let's read the story of Jesus' ascension and Pentecost to find out more…



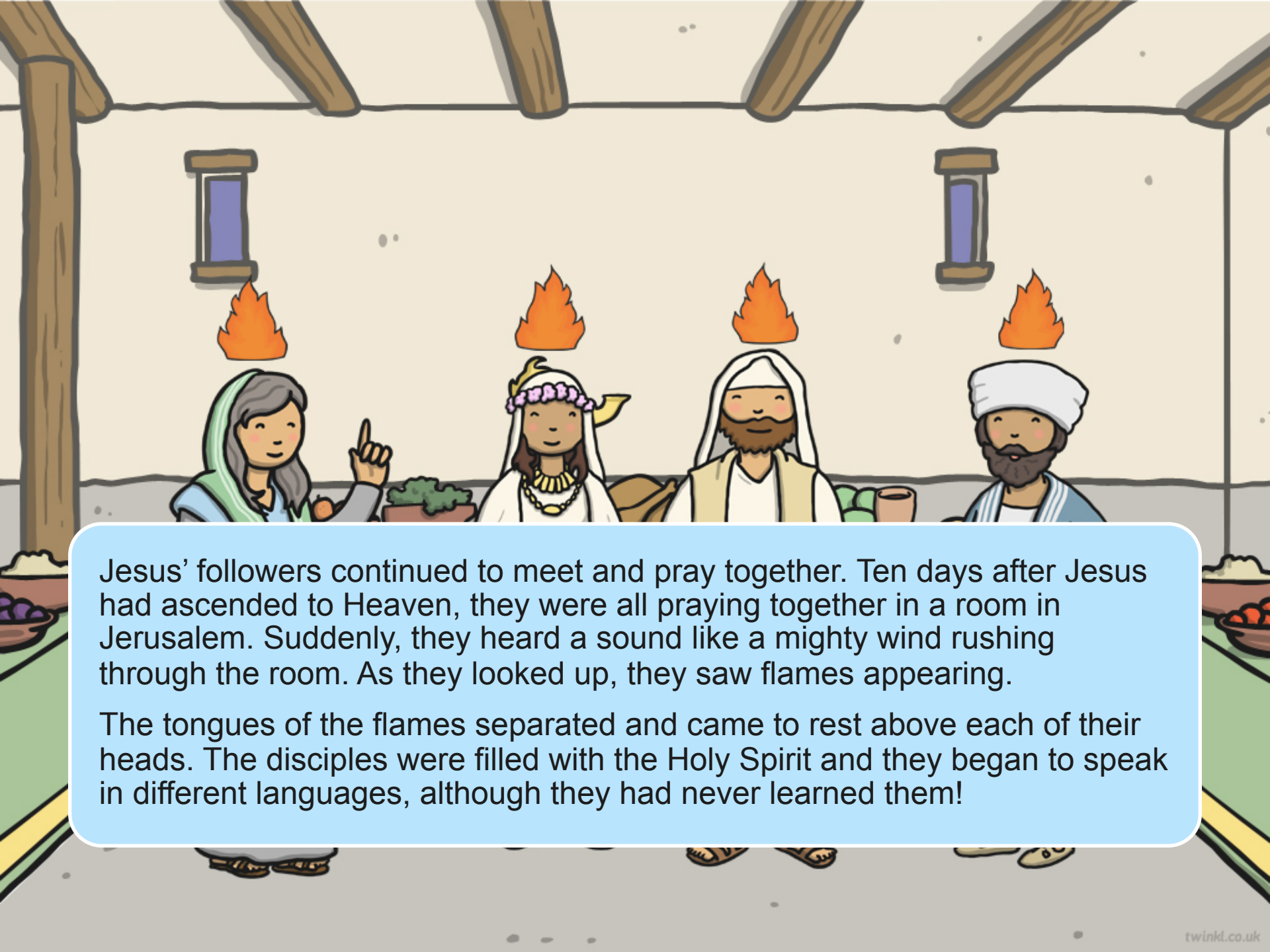

After Jesus' resurrection, He remained on Earth for 40 days. During this time, He travelled to many places, talking to people about God and His love for them.



One day, Jesus took His followers to a mountain to speak to them for the last time. He told them they were to tell people about God's love and how He had been raised from the dead. He said that this wouldn't be easy, but that He would send them help. He told them that they would receive the Holy Spirit, which would stay with them forever and give them the power they needed to tell people about God. He promised that this gift would come but they would have to be patient and wait for it.

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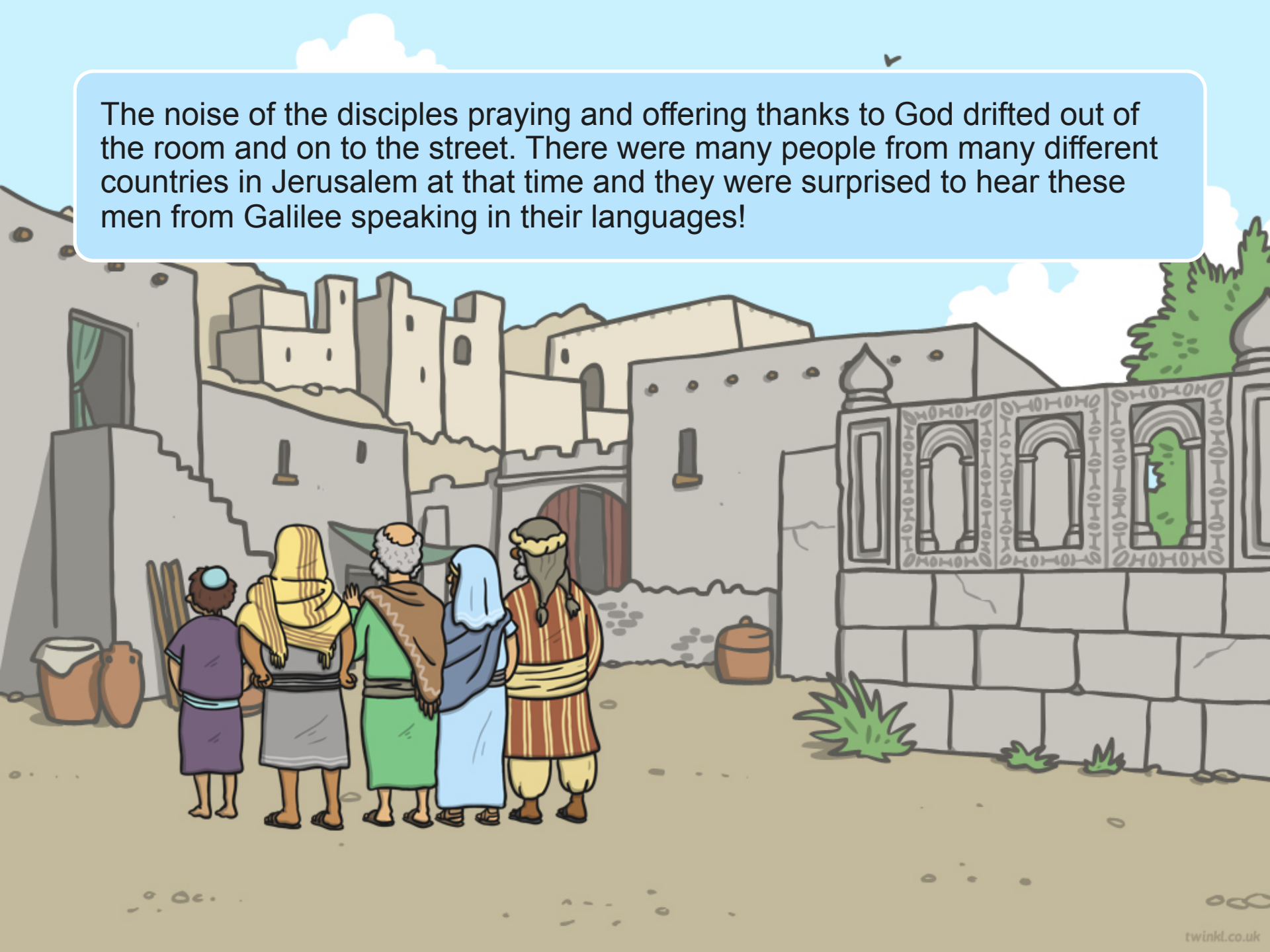

After He had finished speaking, Jesus was taken up to Heaven. He had ascended.



Jesus' followers continued to meet and pray together. Ten days after Jesus had ascended to Heaven, they were all praying together in a room in Jerusalem. Suddenly, they heard a sound like a mighty wind rushing through the room. As they looked up, they saw flames appearing.

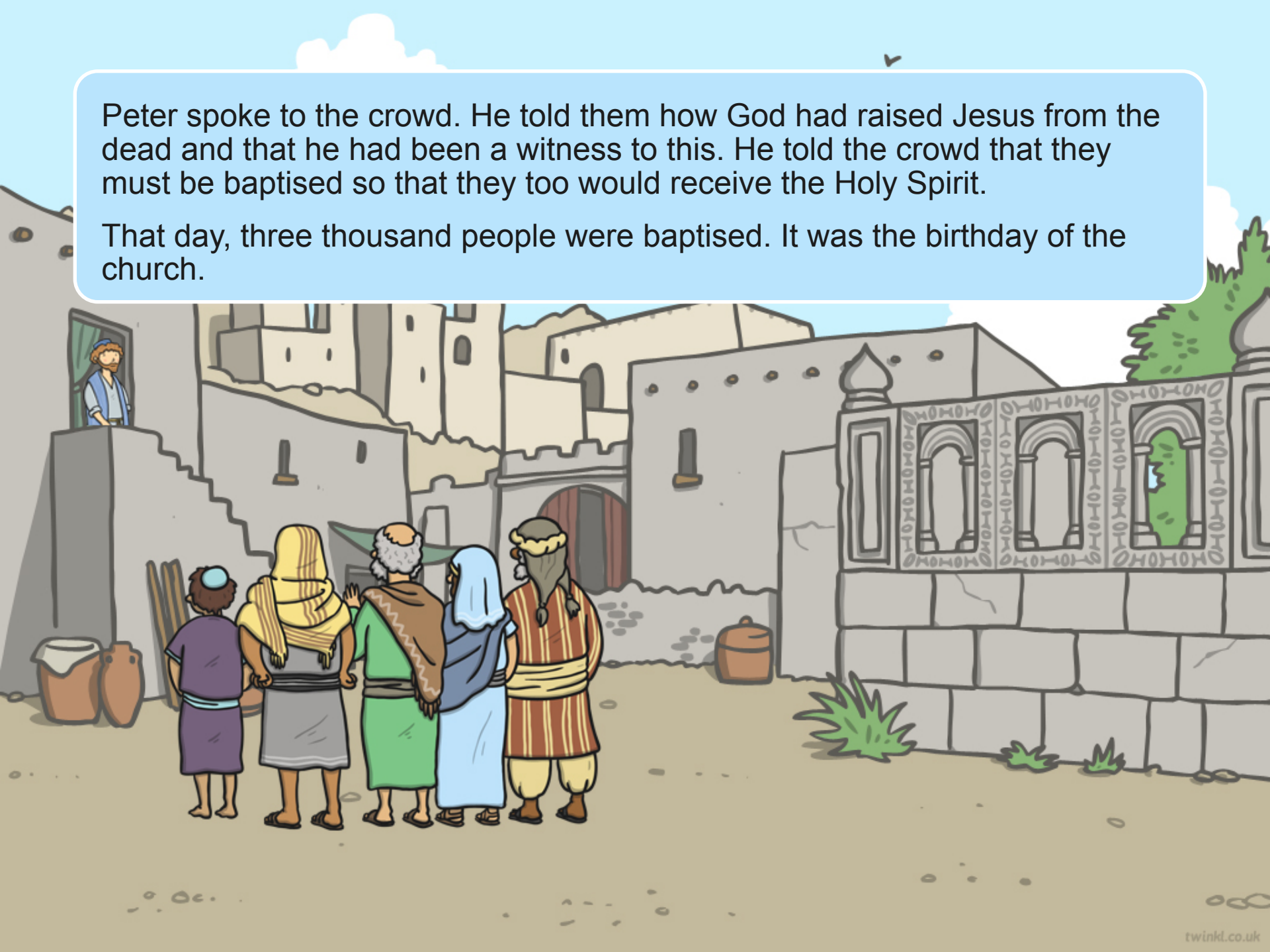
The tongues of the flames separated and came to rest above each of their heads. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in different languages, although they had never learned them!

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The noise of the disciples praying and offering thanks to God drifted out of the room and on to the street. There were many people from many different countries in Jerusalem at that time and they were surprised to hear these men from Galilee speaking in their languages!
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Peter spoke to the crowd. He told them how God had raised Jesus from the dead and that he had been a witness to this. He told the crowd that they must be baptised so that they too would receive the Holy Spirit.

That day, three thousand people were baptised. It was the birthday of the church.



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Symbols of Pentecost

Christians believe that they receive the Holy Spirit when they accept Christ and become Christians. They believe that the Holy Spirit never leaves them and therefore, God never leaves them.

They believe that the Holy Spirit teaches them, comforts them and helps them to do the right thing.

During Pentecost, red is used in the church and often, the ministers will wear red. The symbol of the flames that appeared above the disciples' heads will also be seen.

Sometimes the symbol of the dove is used to represent the Holy Spirit. This is because earlier in Jesus' life, when He was baptised, a dove brought the Holy Spirit to Jesus.

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