

God's Spirit alive in the Church

FOCUS

1. Courage is needed to bear witness to the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit, alive and active in our lives, who gives us the courage to follow Jesus.
2. It was the Holy Spirit working in the disciples that inspired them to spread the Good News.
3. There are many examples of people (Apostles, saints and heroes) who demonstrate courage in their lives. They model for us the courage to live as witnesses who speak the truth.
4. Our parish is part of the world-wide Catholic Church.
5. The Pope leads the Catholic Church.

During these lessons your child may have:

- *described times when the Holy Spirit gave courage to the followers of Jesus;*
- *identified situations when they need to speak and act with courage;*
- *developed an awareness of the lives of particular saints;*
- *developed a sense of belonging to their local parish community through appreciating that they are always welcome in the house of God.*

Acts 2:1-7

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:1-22

While Peter and John were still talking to the people . . . They were arrested and . . . kept in prison till the next day . . . The next day the rulers, elders and scribes held a meeting in Jerusalem . . . They made the prisoners stand in the middle and began to interrogate them. . . . They were astonished at the fearlessness shown by Peter and John, considering that they were uneducated laymen; and they recognised them as associates of Jesus; . . . So they ordered them to stand outside while the Sanhedrin had a private discussion. "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. . . . to stop the whole thing spreading any further among the people, let us threaten them against ever speaking to anyone in this name again." So they called them in and gave them a warning on no account to make statements or to teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John retorted, ". . . We cannot stop proclaiming what we have seen and heard." The court repeated the threats and then released them. . . .

Matthew 16:18

So now I say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it.

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

1. Discuss with your child the people who tell us the story of Jesus. How do they do this today?
2. Using a book on the lives of the saints, or information found on the internet, select and read a short story of one of the saints. Ask your child how this saint showed courage in following Jesus.
3. Encourage your child to develop a knowledge of your local parish including the name of the parish priest and any special celebrations held during the year.
4. Assist your child to complete the activity on the next page.
5. More activities can be found at <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org> Click **Curriculum overview/ Stage 2/Extension Activities**.

