

Discuss those names you are not familiar with or have particular admiration for?

Name a special person who has influenced your walk with God.

## Filled With The Spirit's Power

### *Holy Spirit: God's Holy Kiss*

*Definition in the Church – English Dictionary*

*by Wroe, Reith and Parke*

On the first day of Pentecost the disciples experienced the coming of the Spirit as tongues of fire and rushing wind (Acts 2:1-13). Earlier in John's gospel Jesus comes to his disciples and breathes on them saying "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:19-23). In Hebrew wind, breathe, and spirit can all be translated by one word ruach xwr. So in Genesis God breathes life into the new creation (2:7).

What other images could we give to the Spirit of God?

What is most helpful to you?

In his letters Paul talks of both fruit and gifts of the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22-25, 1 Corinthians 12). The Spirit by these enables us to work with God in the World.

Can you see a distinction between gifts and fruit?

Make a list of some of the attributes God gives through the Spirit.

Can you see the spirit's fruit and gifts at work in others?

What would you use to describe the activity of the Spirit in your life at the moment?



# Being Part of the Story



## Unit 3 The Story of Christ's Followers confirmation

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## A Scary Wonderful Day

*When the women ran from the tomb,  
they were confused and shaking all over.  
They were too afraid to tell anyone what had happened.  
Mark 16:8*

Many of us see the Day of Resurrection as a day for great rejoicing. But back then on the actual day they were scared. But from those uncertain beginnings Christianity grew.

What do you think made the difference?  
Do you know where people first called themselves Christians?  
(see Acts 11:27)

At first the Christ was only seen as bringing new light to the Jewish faith and all new converts should become Jews including circumcision. But then Peter in a vision realised that Christ is for all people. (see John 3:16, Acts 10).  
What would have happened if Christ's message had remained wrapped in Jewish law and tradition?

## One Church, One Faith, One Lord

*Each day the Lord added to their group Acts 2:47*

*If St. Paul were still alive he would certainly have become a  
journalist in order to spread Christianity. Pope John*

Unbelievable as it may seem the faith the small group of 12 that surrounded Jesus of Nazareth has grown in 2000 years to being a religion with 2 billion adherents worldwide.

What is your family's religious heritage?  
What part of the world do your roots go back to?  
What churches did your family attend?

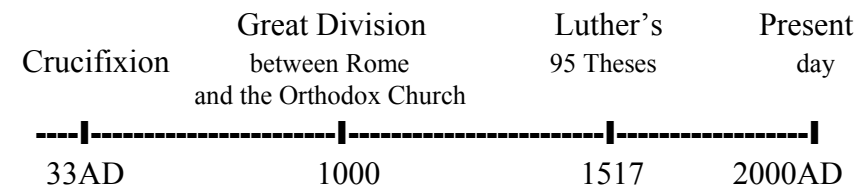
## The Church's Checkered Past

*The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church.  
Tertullian Apologetics c197AD*

The Christian Church has been made up of many individuals who have sought to serve God in their own way. Some were humble ordinary people; others were the movers and shakers of society. At times it has been dangerous to be a Christian from the lions in the arena of Rome to the Communist oppressions of this century. At times it has been Christians doing the oppressing from Constantine's conversion leading to the Roman Empire become Christian and the Crusades against Islam to the pogroms against the Jews and intolerance with those who don't believe quite what we do. As well as those whose actions we shrink from there are many in whom we can take pride for their achievements to change the world, their insights into the meaning of life, and the gift to help us come closer to God.

How does our past impact on our present?  
How will what we do affect those who follow us?

On a piece of paper brainstorm the names of as many people as you can think of from the history of the Christian Church. On a large piece of paper draw a horizontal line. (If you do not have access to newsprint stick 3 sheets of A4 paper together). First divide your paper into 3 roughly equal sections as below:



In between these landmarks try and place the names at roughly the time they lived.