



Adventures in Faith

Pentecost

Hi families,

Welcome to our 'Adventures in Faith' resource - Pentecost

This resource links to our video clip 'Pentecost' which can be found on our Youtube channel so do head on down there and check it out on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7Pr7sx4XyU>



I'd love to hear your feedback, stories and see anything that the children have made.
Sharon

Connection

Have you had your birthday in 2020? Is it coming soon? What do you do to celebrate? Sometimes Pentecost is called the birthday of the church because it is when the Holy Spirit came and the New Testament church began. Maybe you would like to have a 'Happy Birthday party' for the church.

Tell the story

This story is documented in Acts chapter 2. After Jesus had ascended to heaven the disciples were still meeting together as it tells us they were 'all together in one place' when 10 days after His ascension the Holy Spirit came down. It is thought it could be a large room in the temple. The Holy Spirit came as a rushing wind - wave a fan, turn on an electric fan etc to get the feel of this. The Bible also says that 'tongues of fire' also came upon them. We don't know how this may have looked or felt but we know that God wouldn't bring physical harm on them and so we can only imagine how that looked or felt. At that moment many of those in Jerusalem heard them speaking in their own language. In giving them these 'tongues' God gave them the ability to speak fluently in another language that they couldn't humanly speak. Many thought they were drunk but the people said that it was too early in the morning from that and that also these men were from Galilee and they didn't usually speak that well. What's more they could understand them in their own language.



Peter then stood up and explained the whole story of Jesus and how He came to earth and died for us. He then called the people to 'repent' to turn back to God. Amazingly 3000 people turned back to God and believed in Jesus.

Explore the story

Some questions to discuss...

- In the Hebrew, Greek & Latin languages, the word for spirit (as in Holy Spirit) is the same word for breath or wind. Isn't that amazing? The disciples would've known that. How do you think that would've helped them when the mighty wind suddenly came rushing through the room that they were in?

- Why do you think the disciples suddenly spoke in different languages?
- Why do you think 3000 people suddenly believed in Jesus that day?
- If you were there which bit would you like to see the most?

Reflection

God wants all of us to come to a saving faith in Jesus. This story gives an ideal opportunity to explore that with your children. Children often respond with simple child like faith and this can vary according to their age and understanding. Often they believe first with their heart in simple faith, as they begin to understand more they believe with their mind too. In teenage years this becomes a real choice to believe with their 'will'.

We can however drift through without asking our children if they believe, so I encourage you to take time to talk through Jesus dying on the cross for them to make them free to have a relationship with God and receive forgiveness.

Faith in everyday life

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came upon specific people (the prophets), at specific times, for specific purposes. Can you name any? Samuel, Jonah etc

At the end of the Old Testament Joel prophesied "in the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people." Pentecost was the beginning of that promise and Peter quotes this passage in Acts 2: 17-21

We are now living in that time. How does it feel to know that God wants to pour out his Spirit on us, young and old, so that we will have vision, dream dreams, prophesy and believe in Jesus?

You can stop and just simply ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill you, just as He did the disciples. Open your hands as a way of showing you what to receive a gift and pray 'Come Holy Spirit'. We are unlikely to feel anything as dramatic as the disciples but we do sometimes feel a tingling, or a warmth and we too can receive the gift of tongues and use that to praise God.

This is for young and old so you can pray this with your children from whatever age they are so it becomes natural to them.



Prayer

• Popcorn prayer - see below

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• Make a Holy Spirit dove kite and use it to pray - see below

• Or you may like to light a candle and think about the Holy Spirit as represented by a flame and say the prayer below (or your own)

Pentecost Prayer

We light the candle to remind us that God is with us and that he hears our prayers.

Holy Spirit,

Wrap your dove wings around us,

Spark your bright flame with us

Blow your refreshing wind among us,

So that we can be your Pentecost people today

Amen.



Activities



- Make some props to represent the Holy Spirit and use them to help to retell the story. These may include streamers, balloons, or 'flame' crowns.



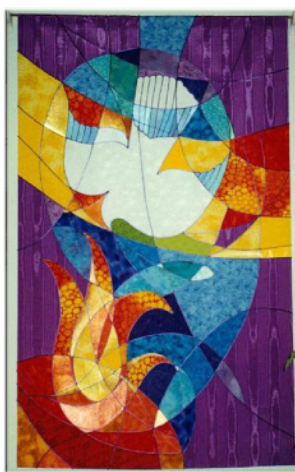
- You may also like to play some worship music, eg 'Holy Spirit you are welcome here' and use the balloon or streamers to dance and worship with.



- Painting - use paint to express the movement of the Holy Spirit
- Put runny paint on a page and use straws to create a 'wind' and blow the paint



- For younger children, or just a less messy activity, cover the paint with cling film and use hands to move the paint about. Remove the clingfilm at the end to reveal the final picture.

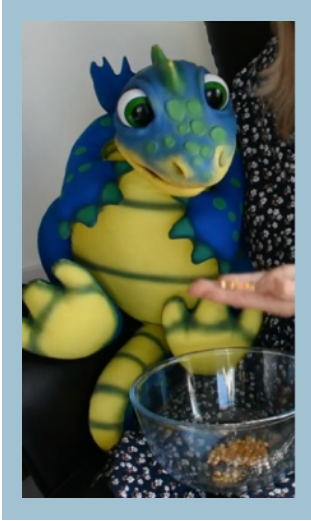


- Encourage the children to paint an expressive picture representing Pentecost. Find pictures on the internet, such as these on the left to inspire them.

- Use play dough to tell the story - make the disciples, people listening, and the 'tongues' of fire.
- Have a birthday party for the church and thank God for His church and the people in it that we know and love



Popcorn Prayer



Making popcorn is a good way of helping us to pray.

When we look at the hard yellow popcorn kernels we can think how sometimes our 'hearts' are 'hard' towards God, which means we want to do our own thing and not listen to God and love Him with all our hearts.

Hold the kernels in your hand and think about where you don't like to follow God. You may like to say this prayer...

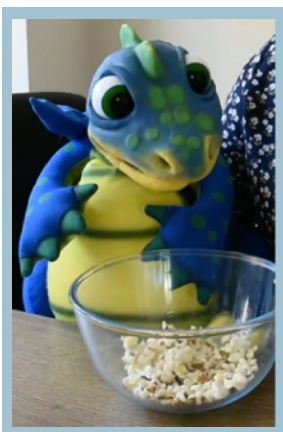
'Holy Spirit, please help me to have a soft heart that loves and follows God'.

With an adults help heat up a pan and put a little bit of oil in it. Add the popcorn kernels and turn the heat down. Put on the lid. Occasionally shake the pan to move the popcorn around.

Watch as the popcorn heats up and 'pops'. Sometimes we don't understand that Jesus died for us. The Holy Spirit helps us and sometimes it happens suddenly like the popcorn suddenly popping. You might like to say this prayer...



'Holy Spirit please help me to understand the truth about Jesus, right now'



Enjoy eating your popcorn. The popcorn is soft and lovely and just how God wants it to be. God wants us to be lovely and just who He made us to be. You might like to pray this prayer as you eat your popcorn...

'Holy Spirit, help me to continue to discover the lovely, amazing person you made me to be.'

Add you own prayers too and finished with...

'In Jesus name, Amen!'

Make a 'Holy Spirit' Dove Kite

(Demo on video)



You will need ; white A4 paper, yellow paper for beak, paper for tail feathers Or feathers), stapler, glue, scissors, hole punch, cotton or thin string.

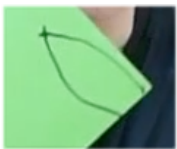
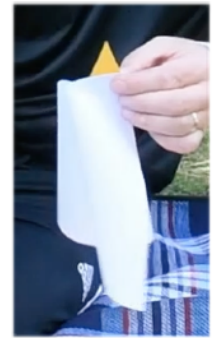
Start with your A4 white paper and fold in half length ways.



Fold the outside corner in to the middle fold and repeat on the other side to make folded 'wings'. Staple together.



Cut out a beak and slip in to front fold. Glue or staple.



Cut out 4 tail feathers from a colour of your choice or use craft feathers. Attach to the other end of your dove.

Punch a hole in the bottom of the bird near when the wings are stapled.

Attach cotton or fine string.



Run and pull your dove kite behind you and pray...



Make up your own prayer or you could pray this prayer...

'I can't see the wind but I can see it and feel it's effects tugging my kite so I know the wind is there. I can't see you Holy Spirit but I believe you are there.

Please guide me and help me in my life,

In Jesus name, Amen.'

Find the Acts 2 in the Bible, how many word from the passage can you find in the word search below? There are 19 words hidden.

Pentecost

G	P	E	F	E	A	E	N	H	F	T	J	D	C	B	W	W	F	X	E
Q	M	E	V	Q	S	P	C	C	I	P	E	N	T	E	C	O	S	T	V
G	E	A	T	I	I	R	D	R	I	S	S	U	A	M	E	U	S	S	I
D	S	Y	M	E	E	O	I	O	F	S	U	J	M	M	N	P	N	B	E
W	N	O	S	X	R	P	Z	C	E	E	S	W	S	S	X	S	W	C	C
W	R	A	Q	Z	S	H	H	T	Y	N	N	Q	N	G	B	M	Y	T	E
P	M	T	S	Y	V	E	G	S	A	E	G	R	I	P	F	J	J	P	R
G	P	Y	L	U	N	S	V	Y	D	V	R	N	S	O	E	V	I	R	K
T	F	O	O	T	O	Y	Y	B	W	I	E	R	I	F	V	C	P	F	W
F	H	F	T	J	D	H	A	O	T	G	P	Y	V	A	A	H	B	I	W
R	E	P	E	N	T	P	T	Y	M	R	Z	W	Z	O	J	D	N	Z	F
X	H	Q	F	S	T	E	B	E	X	O	J	W	X	T	F	D	A	P	Q
D	Y	G	N	I	W	O	L	B	E	F	C	E	O	H	U	T	B	N	E
R	L	G	S	W	F	E	F	S	C	R	B	R	R	X	V	O	M	Z	K
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X	W	Q	N	Q	V	N	Z	J	P	O	W	N	A	Y	Y	Q	L	B	X
V	A	D	J	V	E	O	T	Z	Y	O	Y	Z	O	N	M	N	J	E	D
H	F	J	J	H	N	R	D	H	U	N	R	P	J	T	H	Z	X	A	M

If you need some help have a peep at these words to the side to give you hints.

BAPTISED
BLOWING
FIRE
FORGIVENESS
HOLY SPIRIT
JERUSALEM
JESUS
JEW
PENTECOST
PETER
PROMISE
PROPHECY
RECEIVE
REPENT
SAVE
SINS
THREETHOUSAND
TONGUES
WIND



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES' RESOURCES

Email your feedback, pictures and stories
to Sharon

sleeson@sjbchurch.co.uk



**ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST
CHURCH**
LEICESTER