

Pentecost- Acts 2:1-11

THE POINT

Focus:

God the Father sends the Holy Spirit
God is the one who made and grows the Church

Application:

We trust that God is with us through the Holy Spirit
We believe that God is the one who grows the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

HEART CONNECTION (5-7 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- shallow, wide pan with a lip
- milk (with some fat; not skim)
- food dye (liquid drops)
- dish soap (Dawn is recommended)
- cotton ball

Content: Complete a science experiment that illustrates the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news between people all over the world.

- 1) Fill a shallow pan with a about 1-inch of milk. Explain that this represents the world.
- 2) Drop liquid food dye around the surface of the pan, explaining that these represent different people groups from all over the world. Can the children name any people groups or countries around the world?
- 3) Talk about how all the different groups were separate, just like the colors of food dye drops are separate. When God builds the church, though, God sends 1 Holy Spirit and makes 1 church of people from all over the globe. Hold up the dish-soap soaked cotton ball and say that it represents the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Place the dish-soap cotton ball in the center of the dish and watch the dye start to spread and meld.

You can watch a video of the science experiment here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ5_2OykNrk

STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Red decorations like balloons, streamers, table cloths, etc.
- A “party” snack like muffins, fruit or special cereal
- a birthday candle for each child
- a globe print-out

Optional: If you have a large group, consider rotating to stations for a “birthday party” with the science experiment above, snack, and story. You might also consider showing a portion of the *What’s in the Bible Vol 11* DVD to give a fun and informative visual for the story behind Pentecost in lieu of reading the text below.

Instructions: Pentecost is the “birthday of the church”. Before you read the story of the Holy Spirit’s arrival, talk about how this is the day that the church was “born” on earth, and that a sign of the Holy Spirit was a flame. That’s why we have red “fire” decorations, birthday candles, and party food.

After you read the story, consider coloring the globe print-out as a group; you can add written prayers, missionary cards from people your church supports, and written verses around the edge or on the image itself.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

The day of Pentecost is 50 days after the Resurrection of Christ and 10 days after Christ's Ascension to the Father. Pentecost is often understood as the "birthday of the church".

Acts 2:1-8, 11 (NIRV)

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.

5 Godly Jews from every country in the world were staying in Jerusalem. 6 A crowd came together when they heard the sound. They were bewildered because each of them heard their own language being spoken. 7 The crowd was really amazed. They asked, "Aren't all these people who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then why do we each hear them speaking in our own native language? ... 11 Some of the visitors are Jews. Others have accepted the Jewish faith. Also, Cretans and Arabs are here. We hear all these people speaking about God's wonders in our own languages!"

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WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what the believers were saying to the people from all over the world.

I wonder what it was like to see

I wonder...

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.