

VIRTUAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Pentecost – year B

Preparation

Read [Acts 2:1-12](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/pentecdb.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115939_ENG_HTM.htm

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/pentecost.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/jprom.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/Seasonal/Pentecost/FR-Pentecost.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwv.htm#p00>

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/Acts/HolySpiritArrives.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/earlychurch.htm>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/285TheDayOfPentacost.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Red cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candle. If you know some words or phrases in another language then start by saying them. Ask the children if any of them understood what was being said. Ask the children if they know any other languages. Get them to say a phrase or two if they do know another language. Ask the children what it feels like when someone speaks to them in a language they don't know or don't know well. Ask them what it feels like when someone they don't expect to speak to them in their own language. Explain that in today's story they will hear about some people who got surprised when they heard God's good news about Jesus in their own languages.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story – on the floor with cushions or around a table
- Make a pop up puppet following the instructions of the third response suggestion

Instructions

Make sure that the puppet is handy, but not immediately visible to the children.

Have the children group as close together as they can.

Jesus' friends were all gathered together in Jerusalem. They were remembering what Jesus had promised them. They were waiting for the next step on their journey to begin. They were praying together that God would not forget them.

Have the children spread out and say the next bit in a loud voice.

The wind began to blow and blow. The friends all looked at each other. They started pointing at each other. They could not quite believe what they were seeing. They could not quite believe what they were feeling.

Bring out the puppet and put it up so that the children can see the flame on its head.

The wind blew and blew among them. They could feel the power of the Holy Spirit moving in the middle of them. The Holy Spirit was dancing amongst them as flames on their heads. They could feel the Holy Spirit moving them outside of the room.

(Dance the puppet around by popping it up and down.)

If you have space move with the children to another part of the room.

Jesus' friends were full of the Holy Spirit. They knew that they needed to get out onto the streets of Jerusalem. They went out and they began telling everyone about Jesus and the wonderful things God had done through Jesus. What surprised everyone who heard them was that they heard Jesus' friends in their own language.

There were people from all over the world in Jerusalem. They couldn't understand what was going on.

Finally one of Jesus' friends named Peter spoke to those who were listening. He said, "People of Jerusalem and friends from far away. Yes, I know this seems most amazing. Listen to me. We are speaking to you through the power of God's Holy Spirit just as Jesus promised us. Do you remember Jesus? The leaders in Jerusalem had him put to death on the cross. Then God raised him from the dead on the third day. Jesus has given us so much to share with you."

(show the puppet to the children again)

The people listened and listened to Peter and to the rest of Jesus' friends. Many of them became believers and were baptised. It was an amazing, wonderful God filled day for everyone!

Response

Project Idea 1: Decorated Cupcakes

Happy birthday church! Have fun and celebrate with the children today.

Materials needed

- plain cupcakes
- small paper plates
- tub of plain icing
- decorative icing tubes
- cake decorating red sprinkles
- paper towel
- flat knife

Instructions

As the children will be working with food get everyone to wash their hands first. Set out a paper towel in front of each child. Give them each two cupcakes to decorate on a small paper plate on which you have already spread some plain icing. Set out the icing tubes and sprinkles for them to use. As they are decorating their cupcakes tell the children that Pentecost Sunday is often celebrated as being the birthday of the church. That when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends it empowered them enough to go and tell others the Good News of God's love in Jesus. Tell the children that one of the cupcakes they are decorating is for themselves and that they are to give the other one to someone else and remind them that this is the anniversary of when the Holy Spirit came to the church.

Project Idea 2: Pentecost Tambourines

There was a lot of noise on the first Pentecost Sunday – wind & flames – this response will let the children express those in an active way.

Materials needed

- aluminium pie plates or heavy duty paper plates
- stapler
- red, yellow and orange streamers
- small dried beans or small pebbles or small pasta
- sharpie markers

Instructions

Cut each child 6 pieces of streamers (2 of each colour) in 1 metre (3 ft) lengths. Give each child two pie plates or paper plates. Let them take a handful of beans, pebbles or pasta and put on one of the plates. With assistance staple the other plate on so that the bottoms become the two outside parts of the tambourine. (You may want to do this ahead of time for younger children.) Give the children their streamers and help them to staple on to the outside edge of the tambourine. Let them use the sharpie markers to decorate their tambourine as they want. When they are done get everyone to give their tambourines a good shake. Remind them that the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' friends in wind and fire and with a lot of noise.

Project Idea 3: Pentecost Pup Up Puppet

Children love puppets and this idea is a great follow up to today's story and will encourage them to share the story with their families.

Materials needed

- person shape for puppet at end of lesson
- flame shape at end of lesson
- scissors
- craft sticks
- tall paper cups
- glue
- fine line markers
- red & yellow tissue paper
- construction paper
- strong tape

Instructions

Copy out the person shape and the flame shape at the end of the lesson so that each child has one. Give each child a paper cup, the person shape, the flame shape and a craft stick. Invite the children to colour in the person shape with the markers. When they are done have them glue scrunched up bits of red and yellow tissue paper on to the flame shape and then glue it on to the head of the person. When they are done that use the strong tape to attach the craft stick to the bottom half of the person. Cut a small slit into the bottom of the paper cup. If the paper cup is not plain on the outside then use the construction to cover it up. Push the puppet through the slit from the inside of the cup so that the craft stick comes out the bottom of the cup. With the children practice popping their puppet up and down in the cup. Remind the children that the Holy Spirit came like flames to show Jesus' friends that they had the power to share the message of God's love with others.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles.
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**

Person Shape

