

Pentecost – year C

Preparation

Read [Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b](#) and [Acts 2: 1-21](#). 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/yearc/pentecdc.htm>

http://archive.episcopalchurch.org/lessonPlans/109452_115787_ENG_HTM.htm

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

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

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

http://www.sermons4kids.com/power_source.htm

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

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

<http://www.faith-at-home.com/tips/pentecost.html>

Gathering

Materials needed

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

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Praise God for new life!

Praise Jesus for new beginnings!

Praise Holy Spirit for new paths! Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children if they know how many days it has been since Easter Sunday. *Wait for their responses.*

Tell the children it has been 50 days – count out loud with the children to 50.

Ask the children if that feels like a really long time to them. *Wait for their responses.*

Explain that the 50 days is the biggest celebration that the church has and today's celebration is almost as big as Easter. Ask the children if they can remember what Jesus promised God would send to his friends after he left them. *Wait for their responses.*

Tell the children that in today's story they will hear about the gift that God sent to those first friends and continues to send to all of us who follow Jesus.

Story Time

During this season a paraphrase of a verse of the psalm of the day will be used as a refrain for the story.

Instructions

- Teach the children the following phrase to be used during the story:

I will sing to God! I will sing to God forever!

It is Jerusalem and all of Jesus' friends are gathered together. They have been remembering the promise that Jesus made that God would send the Holy Spirit. It was the day of Pentecost. 50 days since they had all gathered together with Jesus for the Passover and when he had given them the special meal of bread and wine.

I will sing to God! I will sing to God forever!

Incredibly and with no warning there came a sound from heaven like the biggest wind that has ever been heard. It filled up the whole room where they were all sitting! No one could hear themselves think the sound was so big and strong! Tongues of fire appeared in the middle of them and a tongue of fire landed on each person's head. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other languages – languages that they had never known before!

I will sing to God! I will sing to God forever!

Now there were people from all over the world who had come to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. They heard the great noise and gathered outside the house where Jesus' friends were. All of those people spoke different languages and they had another big surprise coming their way. The people who gathered began to hear Jesus' friends, the apostles, who came out of the house, begin to speak in their own language. So the Greeks heard Greek. The people from Rome heard Latin. The people from Arabia heard Arabian. Everyone heard the new apostles speaking about the powerful love and work that God had done in Jesus by raising Jesus from the dead!

I will sing to God! I will sing to God forever!

The people gathered began to ask each other, "What does this mean?"

Some others were rude and said, "They are just people from Galilee! They must be full of new wine! They must be drunk!"

Peter, who was to become a leader in the new church of Jesus, heard what they were saying. He raised his voice and started to talk to all the people who were gathered. Peter told them, "People of Jerusalem, God's people, listen to what I have to say. We are not drunk as you might think for it is still early in the morning. We have been given a great gift by God so that we can share with you the good news of Jesus."

I will sing to God! I will sing to God forever!

Peter went on, "Remember what the prophet Joel said would happen. Joel said, 'In the days to come says God, I will send my Spirit on to all my people. Your sons and daughters will speak in God's name. Your young people will see visions and your old people will dream dreams. Everyone who calls on God's name will be saved.' If you follow Jesus you too will be blessed by God with the Holy Spirit."

I will sing to God! I will sing to God forever!

Response

Project Idea 1: Flame Suncatcher

These suncatcher will be a way for the children to remember the gift of the Holy Spirit every time they look at it hanging in a window in their homes.

Materials needed

- wax paper
- crayons
- vegetable peelers
- tea towels
- iron and ironing board
- flame image (at the end of the lesson)
- scissors
- sharpie marker
- hole punch
- yarn or ribbon

Instructions

Make a copy or bring the flame shape from the lesson. Give each child two pieces of wax paper about 30 cm (12 in) square. Have the children help to peel the paper off the outside of the crayons. Then show them how to peel off shavings from the long side of the crayon over one piece of wax paper. Encourage them to use colours that will show off well as a flame. As the children are peeling their crayons put up the ironing board and set the iron on a low heat. When the children are satisfied with the amount of crayon peelings that are on their piece of wax then have them put the other sheet of wax paper on top of it. Place a tea towel on the ironing board and then put the wax paper sheets on top of it and place another tea towel on top of that. Gently iron the whole thing and then check to see how the crayon peelings have melted. If they are not then iron over the whole thing one more time. Show the children the flame shape and invite them to use a sharpie marker to make a flame shape on top of the wax paper. Then have them cut out their flame shape and when they are done that punch a hole in the top and tie a piece of yarn through the hole to make a hangar. Encourage the children to find a window at home to hang up their suncatcher and remember the gift of the Holy Spirit when they look at in the window.

Project Idea 2: Flame Streamers

The story of Pentecost is one with lots of action and noise and these streamers will help the children be connected with that action.

Materials needed

- flame shape (at the end of the lesson)
- card stock
- red, yellow & orange streamers
- craft sticks
- red, yellow & orange markers
- scissors
- strong tape

Instructions

Copy the flame shape at the end of the lesson and cut it out. Trace onto the card stock. Make two flames for each child. For younger children you will probably want to cut the flames out for them, older children will be able to do this for themselves. Give the children their flames and have them colour them with the red, yellow & orange markers so that begin to look like flames. With the strong tape attach the flames so that the uncoloured sides face each other to a craft stick. With the children cut one piece of each colour of streamer into about 60 cm (24 in) lengths and then attach them with the strong tape to just under the flames. When all the children have their flame streamers ready get up and march around saying the refrain from the story together. Remind the children that when they look at their flame streamers that they can think about the story of the Holy Spirit coming to Jesus' friends.

Project Idea 3: Flame Headbands

The flames of the Holy Spirit danced on the heads of the apostles and the children can experience that by making these headbands.

Materials needed

- flame shape at the end of the lesson
- poster board
- red, yellow & orange construction paper
- markers
- scissors
- stapler with staples
- markers

Instructions

Cut the poster board on the long side into 10 cm/ 4 inch widths and make one for each child. Copy the flame shape, cut it out and trace it onto the red, yellow & orange construction paper. Make enough traces so that each child has at least 6 flames to put on their headbands. For younger children you will want to cut out their flames from the construction paper. Give each child a prepared poster board strip and their flames (let the older children cut out their own). Have them print across the front with a marker **“God sends the Holy Spirit to all of us”**. Have them attach the flames to the top edge of the poster board and then have them put the poster board headband around their heads and assist them by stapling the edges together. Have everyone enjoy having flames dance on their heads like they did for the apostles. Encourage the children to share their headbands with their families and share the story of the Holy Spirit coming for us all with them.

Closing

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

Alleluia! Thank you God for our time together!
Alleluia! Thank you Jesus for being with us!
Alleluia! Thank you Holy Spirit for leading us! Amen.

Flame Shape

