

Sunday School 3rd-4th Pentecost
May 31th, 2020

Read the Pentecost story in Acts 2: 1-21.

On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit spread and moved among and within the people. But Pentecost is not just an ancient story, it is about us, here and now. It is about the ongoing life of the followers of Jesus.

What festival were the disciples celebrating? (Pentecost) What blew through the house? (a great wind) What did it look like each disciple had on his or her head? (a flame that did not burn them) Who had come as Jesus promised? (the Holy Spirit) Suddenly they could understand different languages! Do you know any words in a different language?

Discussion

Today is the birthday of the Church! We tell the story of how the Holy Spirit came down and rested with the disciples. The Holy Spirit came down like a wind—a breath from Heaven—and it filled the disciples and everyone around them up with so much love. They were so filled with God’s love that they started telling the story of Jesus right in the middle of town, to anyone who would listen. God made it possible for them to hear and understand languages they didn’t know, so that they could tell even more people about Jesus’ love for us. The Holy Spirit comes to rest on us, too. At our baptism, we are sealed to the Holy Spirit—kind of like the way lipstick can stick to our cheek when someone kisses us, only we can never wash that kiss off. That means that the same Holy Spirit that came to help the disciples tell others about Jesus’ love—that same Holy Spirit—rests in and on you. Happy Birthday, Church!

Activities:

Because Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, celebrate it just as you would any other birthday in your home—break out the cake and ice cream.

Wear something red. The color of the vestments worn by priests on Pentecost is red, to symbolize the love of the Holy Spirit, or the tongues of fire that appeared over the heads of the apostles on Pentecost. And don’t just stop at wearing red. Use a red tablecloth for dinner, eat off red paper plates, eat red foods, etc. See how many ways you can incorporate the color red in your celebration.

Pentecost pinwheels

We can hear and feel the wind, but we cannot see it. We can see the results of the wind, but we cannot see the wind itself. In the same way we can feel the Holy Spirit and see its effects, but we cannot see it.

Materials needed:

One square piece of (heavy) construction paper
scissors
thumb tack
pencil (with an eraser) per child, preferably new
Crayons, colored pencils, and stickers for decorating the pinwheels

- Fold the construction paper on the diagonal from corner to corner. Open the paper up and fold on the second diagonal across the other two corners. When the paper is opened flat, the folds make an “X” across the square.

- Make one cut along each fold beginning at the corner and cutting toward the center. The cut should stop about halfway toward the center. The cut should not go all the way to the center of the square.
- Decorate each section of the square on both sides of the heavy construction paper using the materials provided.
- Take every other corner, one at a time and gently pull it up to the center of the square.
- When all four corners meet at the center, take the thumb tack and push it through all four corners through the center of the square.
- Push the thumb tack through the eraser of the pencil. Don't push it too far or the pinwheel won't spin and you might poke yourself!
- Blow on the pinwheel and watch it spin!

Prayer: Dear God, thank you that you have sent us the power of the Holy Spirit. Please fill us up each day with the Holy Spirit that we would have the power to live for Jesus and let his light shine in our lives. Amen.