

Pentecost The Holy Spirit – Middle to Older Elementary

Acts 2:1-21

May 19, 2024

GATHER

As kids enter the classroom, direct their attention to a table with paper, markers and other art supplies. If possible, play some motivational music used at sporting events or that reinforces themes of power. Examples of such songs include “We Will Rock You/We Are the Champions” by Queen, “Eye of the Tiger” by Survivor, “Gonna Fly Now” (theme from “Rocky”) by Bill Conti, etc.

Say: Today’s we’ll discuss the Holy Spirit, and to start things off, let’s write about a time when you felt powerful. Accompany this with a drawing or decoration. What were you doing? Why did you feel powerful? Would you or could you have this experience again? It’s time to feel the power all over again!

(Bring in a couple of paper fans and ask for a volunteer to create wind during the prayer).

Prayer:

Dear God,
When the Holy Spirit came like wind –
Invisible...without voice, without body –
He left the disciples filled
Like Billowing sails on the Sea of Galilee.
We look to you, Lord, eager and empty
Like sailors piloting freshly launched boats:
Take us where you want us to go.
“Amen.”

Open the Bible

[Pentecost for kids](#)

Ask: What are the three big signs that the Holy Spirit has visited and gifted the disciples? (the rush of wind, the tongues of fire, and the new ability for them to speak in other languages). After the 3,000 were baptized, what do you suppose they told others, and how did it affect the new church?

Activate Faith

The group present at church will be working on a special art project gift for Pastor Todd. Kids who were present the previous week can start with one of the activities below. If there is time, the other kids will join them. The activity chosen will depend on your group. Pick whichever activity or activities work for your situation.

1. The Point Is...- Craft

Kids use a fancy painting technique as they remember the Holy Spirit fills believers with power.

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Supplies: *Cotton swabs, watercolor paints, small cups for water, pencils with erasers, construction paper or watercolor paper*

Set Up: If able, create a painting to use as an example. Create shape stencils to use as guides (optional)

Say: On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit revealed itself as flames of fire on the heads of the disciples! The Holy Spirit is very real, but it isn't often seen or heard. As Jesus' followers, we need to seek out the Holy Spirit's message for us. It might not show up as obviously as a flame of fire, but it is ALWAYS there. Today, you are going to create paintings of Christian symbols, but you may only use dots to create them, no lines. The symbols might seem hidden, but when we back up and view them from a distance, their messages will be clear.

1. Make sure each kid has access to cotton swabs, paint sets, water cups, and paper.
2. Today, you will be using a technique called pointillism to create a painting. When artists use this technique, they apply small dots of color to the paper so that at a distance, the dots blend to create a picture.
3. First, sketch out your drawing very lightly with a pencil. When your painting has dried, you will erase the lines, so make them very light. You may choose to sketch a cross, a flame, or another symbol that reminds you of the Holy Spirit.
4. When kids are finished sketching, say, Now choose two colors that you will use in each section of your painting. It is best to use just one or two similar colors in each section. For example, you can use red and orange dots for your cross and purple and blue for the background. To create your painting, wet a cotton swab and dip it into your paint, then dab dots onto your paper. Try to avoid making dots along your sketch lines. The closer the dots, the clearer your picture will appear.
5. Allow the paintings to dry, then erase the pencil lines.

Your paintings look great! I hope whenever you see these great works of art, you'll remember that the Holy Spirit fills believers with power.

2. Balloon Ball – Game/Activity

Show kids the “flat” balloon, then blow it up and tie it. Give each kid a small paper plate and toss the balloon into the air. The children must work together to try to keep the balloon in the air by waiving their places back and forth. Play for a short time, then sit and discuss.

Ask: what gave the balloon its shape? How did the paper plates keep it moving and up in the air?

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Remind kids that just as the air gave the balloon its strength and shape, and the wind from the paper plates made it move – the Holy Spirit strengthens each of us and our whole church. That is God's gift to each of us.

3. God's Gifts - Activity

Divide your children up into teams. Have each team select a person to write for their team. Have the team writer print the alphabet on a sheet of paper. On the word "go," each team should try to come up with gifts from God that start with each letter. The team that has the most after a certain amount of time wins.

4. Wind and Fire Relay - Game

1. Before class cut crepe paper into two foot lengths.
2. Divide your children up into teams and give them each a straw and a piece of crepe paper.
3. Have them use the straw to blow the crepe across the room and back. If you don't want them to get on the floor you can have them blow the crepe across a table.