

Pentecost The Holy Spirit – Preschool to 1st grade

Acts 2:1-21

May 19, 2024

GATHER

Ask: How many of you like to go to birthday parties? What is the most fun birthday party you have ever been to? Why?

Say: We're going to celebrate a special birthday today, right here in Sunday school. Today is a special day in the church year called Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came to the disciples in a flame of fire at Pentecost. Yet the fire did not burn them? When you see the red of Pentecost, think of those amazing flames and the power of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the beginning or the birthday of the Christian church. We'll learn more when we hear our Bible story today.

Ask: When do we see candles burning? (on a birthday cake, at a fancy dinner, in church, when the electric power goes out). During worship, we light candles that sit on the altar. The flames remind us that God is with us. During our prayer today, we have this little flame burning. Watch this flame flicker as you listen to the prayer. The little fire can remind you that God is right here, in this room, with all of us.

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you for birthdays, and parties, and churches!
Thank you for being with us today as we celebrate the birthday of the Christian church!
Help us to celebrate all the good things you give us!
Amen.

Open the Bible

Say: The disciples were celebrating a festival called Pentecost, when a very special guest showed up. Who was it? This special guest changed their festival into a birthday party.

[Gift of the Holy Spirit](#)

Discuss:

1. Who was the special guest at the disciples' party? (The Holy Spirit)
2. How did the disciples know they had received God's gift of the Holy Spirit? (a strong wind blew through the house and there was a loud noise. It looked like each disciple had a flame of fire touching him)
3. What new thing could the disciples do after the Holy Spirit came? (speak in different languages).

Activate Faith

1. Spirit Streamers - Craft

Pentecost The Holy Spirit – Preschool to 1st grade

Acts 2:1-21

May 19, 2024

Kids make streamers that blow in the wind as they remember to share the Spirit.

Supplies: rulers, stapler or duct tape, streamer materials (curling ribbon, ribbons, crepe paper, fabric strips, etc.), handle materials (shower rings, dowels or unsharpened pencils), music.

Set Up:

Cut lengths of ribbon, streamers, or fabric in lengths of 12-24 inches (30-61 cm). Plan to use 3-4 pieces per kid.

Instructions:

Today, we are learning about Pentecost. How did the Holy Spirit come to the disciples during our story? (*fire, wind, and spoken word*) Can you see fire? (*Yes.*) Can you see wind? (*No.*) Today, we are going to make something that will help us "see" the wind and remind us that even though we can't see it, the Holy Spirit is very powerful and it is always with us. We will use the streamers we make to praise the Lord with our dances!

1. Have each kid choose 3 or 4 pieces of material or ribbon for his or her streamer.
2. Invite each kid to select a handle, then use a stapler or duct tape to secure one end of each streamer to the handle.
3. When kids are finished constructing their streamers, ask them spread out in the room and practice using them. Show kids how to move the streamers up and down, side to side, in circles, like a snake, zigzagging, and making figure eights.
4. Now that you've had a chance to show how the wind of the Holy Spirit may have moved the streamers, I'd like you to use your streamers to praise the Lord and dance along with some of our favorite songs!
5. Play music and invite kids to dance creatively to the music.

Say: I know that the power of the Holy Spirit was in each of you as you danced today! I hope that every time you dance or move with your streamer, you'll remember to share

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 plates 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.

Pentecost The Holy Spirit – Preschool to 1st grade

Acts 2:1-21

May 19, 2024

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.

Good-bye Time

Say: Thank you for coming to class today! We learned about the Holy Spirit who first came to the disciples so long ago. We also celebrate the church's birthday. We can tell others about the amazing things that happened at Pentecost. Let's share the Spirit with our friends and families this week!

Additional Activities for Pentecost

If you are looking for some alternate ideas of things to do for Pentecost, [this website](#) has a ton of information and suggestions.