

PENTECOST

Memory verse: When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place.
Act 2:1

Study Plan: You will learn why we celebrate Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.



Step 1: What happened at Pentecost?

Leader's Initials: _____

The first Christian Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter. It is a very special celebration in the church. The cloths on the altar and the vestments of the priests and deacons are **red**. Traditionally, Pentecost is a day for baptisms. The day is also known as **Whitsunday** because of the white clothing of those being baptized.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-8, 11b-21, 32-33, 38

When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from the sky which sounded like a strong wind blowing, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak.



There were Jews living in Jerusalem, religious people who had come from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a large crowd gathered. They were all excited, because all of them heard the believers talking in their own languages. In amazement and wonder they exclaimed, "These people who are talking like this are Galileans! How is it, then, that all of us hear them speaking in our own native languages? All of us hear them speaking in our own languages about the great things that God has done!"

Amazed and confused, they kept asking each other, "What does this mean?" But others made fun of the believers, saying, "These people are drunk!"

Peter's Message

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven apostles and in a loud voice began to speak to the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, listen to me and let me tell you what this means. These people are not drunk, as you suppose; it is only



nine o'clock in the morning. This is what the prophet Joel spoke about: This is what I will do in the last days, God says:



St. Peter preaching at Pentecost, bronze sculpture by Christopher Slatoff, a contemporary Californian sculptor.

“I will pour out my Spirit on everyone. Your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your young men will see visions, and your old men will have dreams. Yes, even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will proclaim my message I will perform miracles in the sky above and wonders on the earth below. There will be blood, fire, and thick smoke; the sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn red as blood, before the great and glorious Day of the Lord comes. And then, whoever calls out to the Lord for help will be saved.”

God has raised this very Jesus from death, and we are all witnesses to this fact. He has been raised to the right side of God, his Father, and has received from him the Holy Spirit, as he had promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us.”

Peter said to them, “Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit.”



As the apostles received and absorbed the Holy Spirit, they took heart and realized that God was with them in a new way. They were able to speak God's message in many languages. The apostles were no longer afraid and boldly began to proclaim Jesus as the Christ.

- ❖ How has Peter changed from the eve of the crucifixion, when he denied Jesus three times? What do you think has caused the change in him?



Do three of the following activities, including the number one.

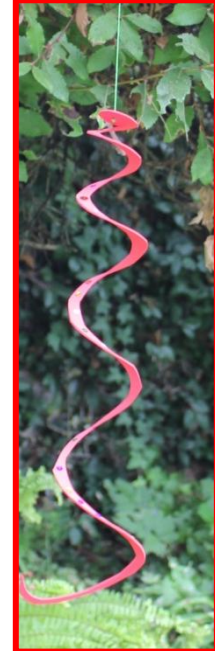
1. Attend the Pentecost service at your church. Wear something red!
2. Read the collects on page 227 of the Book of Common Prayer.

3. Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the church because it marked the beginning of the apostles' public ministry. Create birthday cakes to share at church on Pentecost.
4. Create a wind twirler to show that the Holy Spirit is always moving, even though it cannot be seen.
 - a. Cut red fun foam into a 6 inch circle, and then cut around the circle in a spiral towards the middle.
 - b. Decorate the spiral with other foam shapes, glitter or sequins. When hung outside with a piece of yarn or string, these wind twirlers will spin even when no wind is evident.

a.



b.



Step 2: The Holy Spirit at work in all of us Leader's Initials _____

In his letter to the church at Corinth, the apostle Paul answers some of the questions of the new Christians who lived there. One of those questions was about gifts of the Spirit; some people in Corinth were claiming that certain gifts were better than other gifts.



From the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians
1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service; but the same God gives the ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while to another person he gives the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the ability to work miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.



Discuss

- ❖ What gifts of the spirit do you see at work in your church?
- ❖ What are your gifts?

Do It!

Discuss this quote from Marianne Williamson, the founder of *Project Angel Food*:

It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

- ? What do you think of this quote? Discuss how allowing our own light to shine can cause others to shine more.
- ? When you are with someone who is very smart, talented, or strong, does it inspire you to be your best?

Do It!

Do at least one of the following activities:

1. List your gifts: Start your list with:

The Holy Spirit works through me. I can...:

2. Create a heart touched by fire:
 - a. Cut a heart shape from heavy paper.
 - b. Brush a layer of glue all over it.
 - c. Glue small pieces tissue paper to the heart to represent fire.
 - d. Scrunching the tissue over the eraser end of a pencil simplifies placing the tissue on the gluey surface.
 - e. Hang the heart with a ribbon.

