

14. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Spirit Fan
Fire Pom-Poms
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Pentecost
Cookie Candles
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper | Scissors

Gather: Paint stirrer sticks | Red, yellow, and orange tissue paper | Colorful tape

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Small paper plates | Napkins | Circle-shaped cookies with a hole in the middle | Pirouette wafer cookies | Tubes of icing | Candy corn

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

As Christians we celebrate Pentecost as the “birthday of the church.” Pentecost originated as a Jewish festival. Pentecost was one of three pilgrimage feasts when Jews gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus had told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was a time of uncertainty for Jesus’ followers. Most likely they were anxious and scared. During this time of waiting in Jerusalem, the disciples and other followers of Jesus were celebrating Pentecost. While they were celebrating, the Spirit arrived. The Spirit arrived—sounding like a violent wind and appearing like tongues of fire. Jesus promised to send his disciples a Helper and now the Holy Spirit had arrived.

The excitement surrounding the arrival of the Holy Spirit attracted a crowd. Not everyone in the crowd was immediately convinced of the Spirit’s presence. Some joked that they were witnessing the effects of strong wine. Spirit-filled Peter responded to this accusation and began to preach. About three thousand believers were baptized that day.

The Spirit did not come to just the disciples, but to each person gathered with them. The Spirit empowered God’s people and gave them courage to continue to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind or see tongues of fire descending on one another, but God’s Spirit continues to empower us and give us the courage to do God’s work.

The concept of the Holy Spirit is sometimes a difficult one for both children and adults to understand. It is okay to admit to your children that you don’t have all the answers. Mystery is a part of faith.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15-18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “Changed” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
 - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
 - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo and Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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A—Spirit Fan (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 14 and a paint stirrer stick.
- Invite the children to create “Spirit Fans” according to the instructions.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we will hear about how the Spirit of God is like wind and flames of fire.

OR

B—Fire Pom-Poms (Art)

Before class: Check your supply of tissue paper. Each child will need a sheet of red, yellow, and orange tissue paper for this activity. You will also need plenty of colorful tape and scissors.

- Give each child three sheets of tissue paper, one of each of these colors: red, yellow, and orange.
 - Help the child stack the sheets and fold them in half lengthwise to create a long rectangle.
 - Help the child cut the long rectangle exactly in the middle to form two smaller rectangles (or two squares) of equal size, then stack the rectangles (or squares) on top of one another.
 - Holding onto the *folded* side of the stacked tissue paper, help the child cut thin strips from the open side of the paper, being sure to STOP about two inches from the fold.
 - Help the child tightly roll the tissue paper along the folded end and secure (wrap it) with colorful tape to create a pom-pom with a handle.
 - Encourage the children to shake their pom-poms.
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Transition to Explore

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Have them move like they are being blown around by a strong wind.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: We've been hearing New Testament stories about Christians and their communities. We've heard about Peter, John, and the man they healed in Jesus' name; about Peter's escape from prison; about how Paul's life changed and how he escaped danger. I wonder who we will learn about today.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about God sending the disciples a Helper—the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised them would come.

- Tell the children the story, "Pentecost" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 446).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 14 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: Do you know another language?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Pentecost" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 14). Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

TIP: Printable "Word Cards" for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday.

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 3 (Class Kit—p. 7) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 96 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 3 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity as though they are flickering flames.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Display "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) and the Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 29).

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: This month we have been learning about and supporting the John Wesley Community Centre. At the John Wesley Community Centre, people help children and families who are affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Even though South Africa is far away, the children, families, workers, and volunteers at the John Wesley Community Centre are a part of our community. How does it feel to know that they are a part of our community?

- Gather any remaining mission offering and send the money according to the instructions in the Mission Letter (Session 10, p. 66).

PRAY: Thank you, God, for community. Please be with the people at the John Wesley Community Centre in South Africa, and be here with us too. Amen.

A—Pentecost (Art)

Before class: Make a copy of "Pentecost" (p. 90) for each child.

- Give the children copies of "Pentecost" (p. 90), and invite the children to color their pictures as you discuss the events of the story.
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OR

B—Cookie Candles (Snack)

Before class: Always remember to check for allergies and have the children wash their hands before any activity involving food. Make a sample "Cookie Candle."

- Have a child help you pass out a small paper plate and napkin to each child, then give each child a circle-shaped cookie with a hole in the center, a pirouette wafer cookie, and a piece of candy corn.
 - Have the children place their circle-shaped cookies in the center of their plates.
 - Help each child use a tube of icing to place a dot of icing in the center of the circle-shaped cookie, and then stand up the pirouette wafer cookie on the icing.
 - Help each child use a tube of cookie icing to place a dot of icing on the top of the upright pirouette wafer cookie, and then add a piece of candy corn. The finished product should look like a candle with a flame.
 - Encourage the children to eat their "Cookie Candles" snacks.
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Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up and then move to the Bible story circle. Have them move like how they imagine the Holy Spirit moves.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 23) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the wind and flames to the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “I Can Listen” (Class Kit—p. 25).

TIP: *If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.*

Blessing

- Sitting in a circle, turn to the child to your right and say, “(Child’s Name), you are an important part of our community.”
- Invite the child to turn to the child on his or her right and say, “(Child’s Name), you are an important part of our community.”
- Have the children continue around the circle in this way until the final child says the phrase back to you.

PRAY: God, we are thankful for our church community. Thank you for the way that you are always with us. Amen.

At Home with God

ASK: What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 14. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 14 with each child.

We want to hear from you! You can help us continue to provide resources that are relevant, engaging, and helpful. We highly value the comments and observations of our children’s ministry partners. Please send us your feedback by completing the brief survey on our website:

www.deepbluekids.com/surveys

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Pentecost

