

Pentecost (Acts 2:1-12)

Pentecost is a festival like Christmas or Easter at which Christians remember one of the biggest, most important events that happened in the early church.

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, at Easter we celebrate the resurrection, and at Pentecost we celebrate the beginning of people spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.



To begin... Do you own a torch? Talk about how important it is to have batteries inside. The torch needs the power from the batteries to make the light shine and do its job. In the same way, the Holy Spirit gives us power to shine the light of Jesus and do what God wants us to do.

Watch the story ... <https://youtu.be/vuUK6REOWuE>

Explain the story... Many years ago followers of Jesus gathered together to celebrate a Jewish festival called Pentecost. All of a sudden the Holy Spirit of God came upon them. They experienced an amazing event! The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. People from the homes and streets nearby heard all the noise and came to the house to find out what was going on. They were surprised to hear their own languages spoken but didn't understand what it all meant. And then Peter stepped forward. He explained that the promises of God were coming true - Acts 2:41 tells us that about 3,000 people believed Peter's message, became Christians and were baptized that day.

Look at the torch again. The torch and batteries are a great reminder of the power of the Holy Spirit. Batteries provide the power to make the torch shine and the Holy Spirit gives power to God's people to shine the light of Jesus. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would give us power to live for God and to shine the light of Christ. That same Holy Spirit can give us power to live for Jesus today.

Chat together...

What do you find most amazing about this Bible story?

I wonder how Jesus friends felt when the Holy Spirit came to them?

How can the Holy Spirit help us today?

Holy Spirit headband and prayer... cut a long strip of paper or card to fit around your head and staple or stick the ends together to make a headband. Cut out a flame shape from paper and either cut flames from red, yellow and orange tissue paper or draw them and colour them in. As you stick on the red, yellow and orange flames (or colour them in) you could pray for three things:



Red - ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow closer to God

Orange - ask the Holy Spirit to give us courage to tell our friends about Jesus

Yellow - ask the Holy Spirit to help us to be kind to our families

Attach the flames to the front of the headband and end with a prayer...

Dear God, thank you that you sent us the power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us up each day with the Holy Spirit that we would have the power to let His light shine in our lives.

Candle holder and prayer... If you would prefer to make a Pentecost candle holder, then why not try this? You will need an LED tea light, tissue paper and a piece of card. Use the same prayer as above as you attach the flames to the card and turn on the light. **DO NOT** use a real candle!



Other things you may like to do...

Reflection: find a tray (bowl or bucket) of dry compost or a sand tray to represent a desert, a jug of water and a small bowl or container for each person. The Holy Spirit brings life to dry places just as water brings life to a barren desert (you may need to explain what this is and about an oasis!). Spend a few moments thinking about what part of your life or which place or situation or relationship is dry like a desert. Ask the Holy Spirit to flood into that place like a spring of fresh water. Fill a small bowl with water and place it in the 'desert' as a sign of your prayer.

Balloon Races: you will need string, a straw cut into three pieces, sticky tape and at least one balloon. Thread string through a piece of straw and attach each end of the string to two chairs on either side of the room. Blow up a balloon and attach it to the straw with sticky tape (remembering to holding onto the end of the balloon). 3-2-1-GO! Release the air from the balloon and watch it race along the string! To have a race repeat with another string alongside the first. Have fun!

Popcorn is transformed when exposed to heat. An explosion of energy! A rapid expansion! The Holy Spirit also changes and transforms people too! If you have some popcorn, why not share some now and chat about the Holy Spirit while you enjoy eating it together?

Messy Church: take a look at our very own Pentecost Messy Church!

[here.](#)

Puzzle Factory: you might like to have a go at this online jigsaw where you can click on the pieces and drag them into place!



<https://puzzlefactory.pl/en/puzzle/play/for-kids/241955-pentecost>

And here are some colouring pictures too...



illustratedchildrensministry.com



Jesus had promised his followers a special helper - the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4