**Pentecost**

***Preparing to Wonder (from Abingdon Press, fall 2020 Celebrate Wonder Curriculum sample)***

As Christians we celebrate Pentecost as the “birthday of the church”—the day God sent the “Spirit” to the followers of Jesus. Originally, Pentecost was one of three Jewish festivals when the Jewish people would gather in Jerusalem.

Before Jesus died, he promised his followers he would not leave them alone. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The followers of Jesus did not know what to expect as they waited. It was a time of uncertainty. They were probably 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 Holy Spirit arrived. A sound from heaven like a howling wind filled the house. They saw flames like fire above each person’s head and they began to speak in other languages. The excitement surrounding the arrival of the Holy Spirit attracted a crowd. Not everyone in the crowd was immediately convinced of the Holy Spirit’s presence. Some said they were witnessing the effects of strong wine. Peter responded to this accusation and began to preach. It must have been a powerful sermon! The Bible says about three thousand believers were baptized that day.

A simple definition of the word “Spirit” is, “God’s presence that guides, comforts, and strengthens us” .The Holy Spirit did not just come to the disciples, but to each person gathered. The presence of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, comforted those who missed Jesus. The Spirit gave guidance and strength to God’s people to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind, see flames of fire above one another’s heads, or speak in strange languages, but God’s Spirit is with each of us. The Holy Spirit continues to empower us and give us the courage to do God’s work in the world. The concept of the Holy Spirit is sometimes a difficult one for children and adults to understand. It is okay to admit to your children that the stories in the Bible can be hard to understand and that you don’t know all the answers. Tell the children you will read the Bible together. You will wonder and explore together how much God loves us and how we are part of God’s family.

ASK: What do you think wind has to do with the word Spirit?

Read the Bible story

***Scripture***

**2**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. **2**Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3**They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. **4**They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages.

**5**There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. **6**When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. **7**They were completely amazed at this. They said, “Look! Aren’t all these men that we hear speaking from Galilee? **8**But each of us hears them in his own language. How is this possible? We are from different places: **9**Parthia, Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, **10**Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, the areas of Libya near Cyrene, Rome **11**(both Jews and those who had become Jews), Crete and Arabia. But we hear these men telling in our own languages about the great things God has done!” **12**They were all amazed and confused. They asked each other, “What does this mean?”

***Wonder (you will need wind chimes if you have them)***

What if you were in the house when wind appeared? What would you have seen and felt?

How do you think the wind could remind you of the Holy Spirit?

What do you think the Holy Spirit would look like if we could see it?

This Sunday is Pentecost, a special day in the church. This is the day the “Spirit” came to the followers of Jesus. Red is the color of Pentecost.

Show your children wind chimes. Tell the children that there was also a great wind when the Spirit arrived. (Blow the wind chimes.)

We use the word “spirit” to describe God’s presence that guides, comforts, and strengthens us. Sometimes we call it the Holy Spirit.

God’s presence is always with you. We may not be able to see the “spirit”, but we can feel the “Spirit”. We don’t see the wind as it blows the wind chimes but we can feel the wind and see the wind chimes move. If you listen, you can hear the wind chimes. We can’t see the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit is always with us. The Holy Spirit was sent to be with us, comforting, guiding and strengthening us where ever we go.

***Art from goodie bag from church***

If you were able to pick of the children’s goodie bag from the church it included two crafts for Pentecost. A Pentecost praise streamer and a paper plate dove. If you didn’t get to pick up your goodie bag they will be outside the church, under the awning from pick up this week, Tuesday through Friday from 10am – 12pm.

***Bubble prayers***

Say a prayer, “God, hear my prayer for….” and blow a bubble.

SAY: We blow air to make a bubble. Say a prayer as you blow the bubble. We don’t see the air in the bubble, but we know it is there because we see the bubble.

ASK: Is the Holy Spirit with us, even when we aren’t thinking about the Holy Spirit?

PRAY: Pray with me. Thank you God for giving us the Holy Spirit to always be with us. Amen.

***Sing***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFoCpTztkas> Spirit of the Living God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccaFnRYLTok> Spirit of the Living God (hymn)

***Listen to the story***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG22D4NJ9qQ> The Day when God made Church by Rebekah McLeod Hutto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l329Pw8vrag> Godly Play Pentecost story

***A Sweet Treat (from Catholic Icing Website)***



Strawberry syrup – red is the liturgical color of Pentecost and is the symbolic color of the Holy Spirit

Dove chocolate squares – the dove, the most common symbol of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove at His baptism

Fire ball - represents the ‘tongues of fire’. **“Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.”** *Acts 2:3*