

Filled with the Holy Spirit

Grades
3-4

FILLED • DAY OF PENTECOST • YEAR B

ACTS 2:1-21



What is happening in this story?

Pentecost was originally a Jewish festival celebrating God's giving Moses the law on Sinai. Jews in the first century assumed that God's Spirit rested upon individuals while they were called to perform a specific task. When that task was done, God's Spirit left them. Pentecost is unique because the Spirit remains with the apostles as their constant companion. When Peter quotes the passage from Joel, he is suggesting that the time when the Spirit remains and fills God's people, as prophesied, has come.

Why does this story matter for kids?

One way to communicate this story to kids is through a discussion of talents. Previous lessons have focused on God being love, and on how we are called to participate in that love. The gift of the Spirit on Pentecost can be seen as an aid that helps us participate and abide in God's love by using our talents to help our neighbors. Further, kids might wonder what makes them special, and this text reminds them that we are all special because of God's gift of the Spirit. God's Spirit lives in us! Through the Spirit we are given the ability to go and make disciples!

What is the lectionary connection?

On this festival Sunday, we receive the Holy Spirit. During the remainder of the season, we grow into being open to that Spirit. For kids, that could mean coming up with fifty (the big Pentecost number) things they could do together, thanks to being empowered by God and called to serve.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Kids love a good celebration. There's a lot to celebrate today! Help kids use the winds of the Holy Spirit to remember how they've been filled with learning about God all year long. Remind them God's Spirit will stay with them forever.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Clear tape
- Markers

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Water pitcher
- Basin
- Paper strips (red)
- Scraps of paper

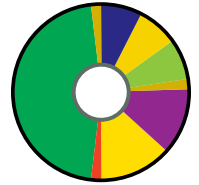
WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL NRSV BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Place red paper strips and markers near a sign that says: "Decorate the Tongues of Fire. Place them all around our room!"

Invite kids to look at the Wall Chart.

Point out today's date, church season, color, and icon. Invite one kid to write "Easter" at the top of today's wall chart space, and another kid to write "Pentecost" at the bottom of the space. **We call today "Pentecost" because it's been fifty days since Easter Sunday. Pentekostos is the Greek word for the number fifty. Greek is the original language of the New Testament.** Invite a final volunteer to write "50" between Easter and Pentecost.

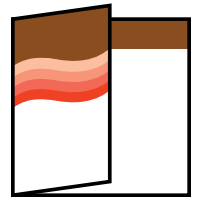


Invite kids to extend their hands over an empty basin. Pour water from a pitcher over their hands. If needed, pour several times. **The waters of Christ's Spirit send us out into the world.**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Some early Christians used the five-pointed *pentagram* to represent the "five wounds of Christ." It was also a symbol for the "fire of the Spirit" at

Pentecost. Today you'll hear many languages in the Bible story. Practice saying the names of the languages on the star (Phrygian, Elamite, Galilean, Egyptian, Parthian). Invite kids to trace the star with their fingers. **Can you see the order the colors were placed to make this star? Start by naming the colors at the top and bottom. See if you can figure out the rest.** (Colors from top to bottom are: pink, red, yellow, green, blue.) **Write your answers under the star.**



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Wave your hands over kids dramatically, and say: **Abacadabra! Do you feel anything? Watch Mimi confuse the powerful spirit at Pentecost with magical powers.**

View Episode 14, "Spirit Spirit," on the Whirl Year B Spring Grades 3–6 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- Name four things Mimi thought she could do magically because of the power of the Spirit at Pentecost.
- How do Monty, Jamila, and Gabe set Mimi straight?
- Does Mimi actually have power from the Spirit? What is it?
- When have you wished you had superpowers?
- Monty says the Spirit can inspire us to share. What does the Spirit urge you to share?



Pass out Whirl NRSV Bibles and help kids find Acts 2:1-21.

Do the Day of Pentecost Year B Preview Activity together on page 1276 and compare responses.

Read Acts 2:1-21 in this creative way together: Give each kid a red strip of paper and a piece of tape, or use the tongues of fire kids made as they arrived. Ask them to follow along as you read the first eight verses. After you read verses 1-3, ask kids to place a tongue of fire on someone else. Be sure everyone has one. Then read verses 4-8.



Now let's all read verses 9-11 out loud. We'll all read at the same time, but don't worry about trying to stay together. Ready? Start reading. After the noise stops, read verses 12-13, then ask a volunteer to read Peter's words in verses 14-19.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- What did the Holy Spirit sound like at first? Invite someone to read verse 2 again.
- What did it sound like when we were all reading together? I wonder if this is what it sounded like on the Day of Pentecost.
- When have you been in a place where everyone was talking at the same time and you couldn't understand anything?
- What did some people think was happening?
- Verses 17-19 name gifts the people were filled with. What gifts has the Spirit filled you with?

BIBLE BIT

When the Holy Spirit arrived, many Jewish people were in Jerusalem for *Shavuot*, a celebration of God's giving Moses the law on Mount Sinai.

WATCH IT AGAIN

Pause the video whenever Mimi tries to achieve a "miracle" to talk about what she thinks will happen.

OUR CHURCH

Bring a copy of your church's baptismal service. How many times does it talk about the Holy Spirit?

RESPOND 10

Open leaflets and pass out markers.

Tear off leaflet square.

1. **Think of a time when you were nervous about doing something but then found the courage to do it. Maybe you did something kind and caring for yourself or for someone else. That courage might have been the Holy Spirit giving you the nudge you needed.**
2. **Fill your mind with some of those good or courageous deeds. Grab a marker and write one idea in any space inside the number 50.**
3. **Now walk around the room and help everyone fill all ten spaces inside the number 50 with kind and loving actions the Spirit nudged you and others to do this year.**
4. Be on the lookout for kids who are hesitant and need the Spirit's nudge to engage in this activity.
5. **Look at everyone's squares that are filled with the Holy Spirit. What was the source of these actions? How did the nudge to do the right thing happen? What did it feel like?**
6. Let's say "Good-bye!" as we're sent to a summer filled with nudging from the Holy Spirit.

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

God is the source of the Spirit's power. On the Day of Pentecost we think about the Spirit's work, but the Spirit works through all seasons of the church year. Ask kids to find a partner and share something new or meaningful they learned about God or about being Christians this year.

Return to the leaflet panels. Pass out Whirl Bibles, markers, and scraps of paper.

On each scrap of paper, draw a leaf and something you and your partner talked about. Ask kids to read aloud the seasons of the church year from the leaflet. **Put your leaves on the tree and blow the Spirit into a summer filled with God's love.**

Send kids out.

Invite kids to extend their hands over an empty basin. Pour water from a pitcher over their hands. If needed, pour several times. **The waters of Christ's Spirit send us out into the world.**

Pray together: **O Holy Spirit, you gave the gift of the Spirit to the apostles at Pentecost. Send us out through all seasons with the power of the Spirit to spread your good news like the wind! Amen.**

Thank kids for their time working hard to learn the seasons of the church. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.