

Filled with the Holy Spirit

PreK-
K

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 this age are concrete thinkers. They will be interested in the fact that the Holy Spirit comes to us in many forms: fire, wind, doves. The Holy Spirit is also in our hearts. If parts of the story, such as the fire, are scary for some kids, focus on the idea that today is a celebration—a party made possible by God's Spirit!



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Crayons
- Masking tape
- Pen
- Scissors

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Red star stickers (1 per kid)
- Feathers (1 per kid)
- Red bandannas that can go home with kids (1 per kid)

WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL STORY BIBLES • DVD • FLOOR MAT • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Let kids take turns hiding red crayons for others to find. **Red is the color of Pentecost. Fire is an important part of the Pentecost story, and red reminds us of fire.**

Invite kids to sit around the Floor Mat.

Point out the day (Day of Pentecost), color (red), and icon (dove in flame). **The Day of Pentecost is a special festival day that celebrates the time when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. The Holy Spirit filled the disciples so that they could tell everyone about Jesus' love, even people who spoke different languages. It was awesome!** Give each kid a red star sticker to stick to the Day of Pentecost section of the Floor Mat.

Have kids wave the bandannas as they learn this Pentecost cheer:

**Let's share a Pentecost cheer!
The Holy Spirit is here.
Tell the people about God's love.
Tell everyone far and near.**

Pass out leaflets and crayons.

We have two pictures on the leaflet. They look the same, but there are some small differences. **Let's find the differences—there are eight. Use your crayons to circle the things that are different in the bottom picture.** After kids have discovered that two of the disciples are missing flames above their heads, invite kids to draw in the flames so that all disciples have a flame. **The flames were a sign that the Holy Spirit was filling the disciples.** Collect their leaflets until Respond.

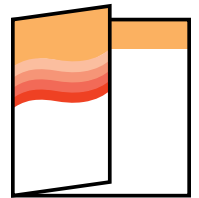
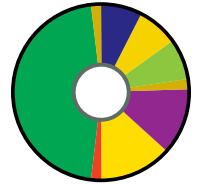
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

The kids in the video are talking about Pentecost, just like we are. Let's watch together to see what they find out about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost.

View Episode 14, "Simple Spirit," on the Whirl Year B Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- What do Victor and Ada draw for their Pentecost pictures?
- How is Clara's drawing different?
- How does Clara's picture make you feel about the Holy Spirit?
- Where is the Holy Spirit right now?
- Share a time when you've done something that felt amazing.



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "A Gust of Wind" on page 438. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the flame and dove in the red circle for the Day of Pentecost. Before you read, invite kids to look for signs of the Holy Spirit in the pictures of the disciples.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- What was the first surprise in the story?
- What did some disciples notice above their heads?
- What do you think the people did when they went home after hearing from the disciples about God's love?
- What words do you know in another language?
- If you could speak another language, what would you tell people about God?

Play together!

Give each kid a bandanna. **Listening is very important in our story today. God wanted everyone to hear about Jesus, so God made it possible for all of the people to understand the disciples, no matter what language they spoke. It was amazing! We're going to do some listening today. Cover your eyes with one hand. Hold the bandanna in the other hand. When I make a sound, listen carefully. When you think you know what the sound is, wave your red Pentecost bandanna.** Make sounds around the room: close a door, tear paper, click a pen, rip masking tape, snap fingers, click your tongue, stomp your foot, etc. **What do you think the wind sounded like when it blew through the house where the disciples were? What about when the disciples were all speaking different languages?**

BIBLE BIT

- Pentecost means "fifty."
- The Jewish festival, known today as Shavuot, happened fifty days after Passover.
- Christians celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Jesus' resurrection.

WATCH IT AGAIN

- **Let's watch the video again. This time, make a "woosh" sound like the wind every time one of the kids says "Holy Spirit."**

OUR CHURCH

- Go for a walk around your church to look for signs and symbols of the Holy Spirit and Pentecost.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and feathers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Have kids place their leaflet squares on the floor on one side of the room and then gather on the other side of the room holding their feathers.
2. **The Holy Spirit came to the disciples as wind. We're going to explore how important wind is.**
3. **Put your feather on the ground and blow the feather toward your leaflet. It's kind of hard to make the feather go where you want it to go, isn't it?**
4. When kids get the feathers to their leaflets, talk about a few photos where some of the feathers landed.
5. **The disciples depended on the Holy Spirit to do amazing things. What amazing things can the objects in the pictures do with the help of wind?**
6. **Let's try blowing the feathers to the leaflet again.** Talk about a few more photos this time.

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

We had fun celebrating the Day of Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples so they could tell people who spoke different languages all about God. What a great day! What are ways we share God's love with people far away from us? Take time to hear kids' responses.

Pass out leaflet panels and scissors.

Invite kids to choose a flame from the leaflet panel and cut it out. **We'll wrap our bandannas around our heads and tuck in the flames so we can go home looking like the disciples did at Pentecost.** Help kids tie their bandannas and tuck in the flames.

Send kids out.

Repeat the Pentecost rhyme and pretend to be disciples pointing at the flames above each other's heads.

Let's share a Pentecost cheer!

The Holy Spirit is here.

Tell the people about God's love.

Tell everyone far and near.

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit at Pentecost so that all people can learn about Jesus. Help us tell the story to others too. Amen.**

Thank kids for helping celebrate the Day of Pentecost. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.