

Celebrating Pentecost at Home

Here are some ideas for celebrating Pentecost, the day Jesus sent the Holy Spirit in fire and wind to form the church, with your children this Sunday.

We are especially aware this year that the church is not a building and not even the people of God all gathered in one place. The church is the body of Christ being sent out into the world, into our homes, around our neighbourhoods and streets, filled with the Spirit of God wherever we are, to live and tell the story of Jesus.

If you're able, take a look ahead of time to see if there is any prep you would like to do before Sunday (find your story Bible, gather craft materials, bake the cake so it's ready to decorate, etc.) so that things go more smoothly on the day.

The Pentecost Story:

Prepare one Christ candle and enough smaller candles, one for each person.

Light the Christ candle:

One: Jesus, you have gone up into the heavens to be close with God and we are waiting.

All: We are waiting for your promise that you are sending the Holy Spirit.

One: Open our ears and our hearts to hear your story.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Depending on the ages of kids in your family, read one of the following:

- Acts 2:1-47
- Acts 2:1-4, 14, 22-24, 36-39
- a version of the Pentecost story such as "God sends help" (page 326) in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*

Take turns each lighting a smaller candle from the flame of the Christ candle.

Wondering: *(Not right or wrong questions; don't feel like you need to ask them all.)*

- I wonder if you have a favourite part of this story.
- I wonder which part you think is the most important, the part you couldn't leave out.
- I wonder what it felt like to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- I wonder how Jesus' friends knew this was the Holy Spirit.
- I wonder what it was like for the people to hear Peter tell the story of Jesus.
- I wonder what it was like when people from all kinds of faraway countries loved the story of Jesus and became Jesus' new friends and helpers.
- I wonder what will happen if we love the story of Jesus and become Jesus' friends and helpers.
- I wonder what will happen when our neighbours hear the story of Jesus.

Pentecost Cake: Decorate a cake to celebrate the birthday of the church!



Fruit of the Spirit

Look up Galatians 5:22-23a in two or more versions (i.e. NIV and the Message). Make a chart with the nine different fruits of the Spirit that are mentioned in the passage and compare the different ways that each gift sent to us by Jesus is described.

Discuss with the people in your family which fruits you:

- think are the most important
- like best or are most attracted to
- struggle with the most
- find easier
- have noticed that other people are full and overflowing with

Have each person consider which fruit they feel called to be inspired by in this Pentecost season. Pray for each other that the Holy Spirit would grow these fruits in our lives and in our community:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your children.
Kindle in us the fire of your love. Alleluia! Amen.*

Pentecost Mobiles, Branches and Pinwheels:

Create a visual reminder of the fire of God's love in our midst.



Pinwheel instructions:

<http://www.catholicinspired.com/2011/06/pentecost-pin-less-pinwheel-symbol-of.html>

<https://onelittleproject.com/how-to-make-a-pinwheel/>



Blessings to you all on this holy day!
May the love of Jesus fill our lives in unexpected places, in wind and fire ways, this season.

Peace,
Melanie