

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Pentecost – Acts 2:1-12

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SPIRIT

As Christians today, we celebrate Pentecost as the “birthday of the church.” Pentecost originated as a Jewish festival. Pentecost was one of three pilgrimage feasts when Jews gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus had told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was a time of uncertainty for Jesus’ followers. It is likely they were 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 Spirit arrived. The Spirit arrived sounding like the wind and appearing like fire.

This was a great mystery. Everyone was able to understand and speak in other languages and knew God was working in their lives in mysterious ways. The excitement surrounding the arrival of the Holy Spirit attracted a crowd. Not everyone in the crowd was immediately convinced of the Spirit’s presence. Many people were shocked, surprised, and confused. Like many of us, they wondered what this might all mean.

The Spirit did not just come to the disciples, but to each person gathered with them. The Spirit empowered God’s people and gave them the courage to continue to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind or see licks of fire descending on one another, but God’s Spirit continues to empower us and give us the courage to do God’s work.

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 you don’t have all the answers.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week take time to stop, pay attention, and notice God’s Spirit working in your daily life. Set a clock to remind you. When your reminder goes off, spend a few minutes in prayer, reading the Pentecost Scripture lesson or sitting silently to feel God’s Holy Spirit. Like the people who gathered for Pentecost, wonder: *What does this mean?*

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD, Activity Sheets, Class Pack—pp. 16-17, Wonder Box, CD player, paper, writing utensils, table, markerboard and dry erase marker or large sheet of paper, stickers, items that represent the Holy Spirit (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Write today's Faith Word, "Spirit," on a markerboard or large sheet of paper. Display the Faith Word with the Wonder Box. Prepare a place for each child to write or draw his or her answer. Consider placing items in this area that might represent the Holy Spirit, such as a red cloth, images of doves, candles, and so forth.

- Play music (Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD) as the children arrive.
- Greet each child and show the children where to mark their attendance.
- Invite the children to wonder about the word *Spirit*. Encourage them to write or draw about the word *Spirit* on a piece of paper. Let them place their ideas in the Wonder Box.

Tip: The children do not have to place their faith word papers in the Wonder Box. Remind them that some of the ideas in the box will be shared during story time.

- Give each child this week's Activity Sheet (p. 25). Invite the children to complete the color-by-number activity.
- When all or most of the children are finished, have all the children turn their Activity Sheet over for the Bible retelling.
- Assign parts and as a group retell the Bible story (Activity Sheets— p. 26).

ASK: What did you learn from the Bible story?

Sing and Celebrate

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 90, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD, Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD Player, TV, DVD player

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy Song Sheets (Leader Guide—p. 90), one per child.

- Give out the Song Sheets.
- Play music from the CD or from the DVD.
- Let the children sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: CEB Bible, Wonder Box, Unit 3 Wonder Mat and figures (Class Pack—pp. 14 & 19, 4 & 29), Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you in a circle on the floor.
- Wonder together about the word *Spirit*.
- Open the Wonder Box. Share ideas the children had about the faith word *Spirit*.
- Share the faith word definition.

SAY: The Spirit is the feeling that God is with you.

- Lay out the Wonder Mat (Class Pack—pp. 14 & 19) on the floor.
- Read the Bible story, Acts 2:1-12.
- When finished, let a child place the Wonder Figure on the Wonder Mat.
- Watch the DVD segment (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

- What is your favorite part of the Bible story?
- What do you think people looked like with flames over their heads?
- What do you think the Holy Spirit looks like? feels like?
- What do you think it means to “be filled with the Holy Spirit”?

Experience Wonder

Wind Chimes (Art)

Supplies: plastic cups, permanent markers, yarn, beads, small bells, hole punches

- Distribute supplies and let the children decorate the cups with permanent markers.
- Have the children thread beads and bells on a length of yarn.
- Direct the children to punch holes around the mouth of the cup as well as one hole through the bottom center.
- Invite the children to weave their beaded yarn through the holes around their cups.
- Encourage the children to string the yarn through the bottom hole, then tie a knot in the end—inside the cup to create a hanger.

WONDER: What does the wind sound like? Where will you put your wind chime?

Many Languages (Logical)

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 78, writing utensils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Many Languages” (Leader Guide—p. 78) for each child.

- Distribute a copy of “Many Languages” to each child.
- Invite the children to match the English word for *worship* to the word in other languages.
- Let volunteers share their answers.

WONDER: What language(s) do you speak? Do you know someone who speaks another language?

My Words (Creative Writing)

Supplies: writing utensils, paper

- Invite each child to come up with his or her very own word. Encourage each child to write a definition and to draw a picture of the word.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their words with the group.

WONDER: How did you come up with your word? Was it difficult or easy to make up your own word? What would it be like if we did not have words?

Peaceful Place

Supplies: suggested books (“One Family” by George Shannon and “Images of God” by Marie-Helene Deval), quiet toys (dolls with different skin tones, doll house, flashlights or glow sticks)

Prepare Ahead: Locate the suggested books and quiet toys for your Peaceful Place.

- Put the suggested items in your Peaceful Place.
- Allow the children who may want or need a quieter activity on this particular day to choose to visit the Peaceful Place.

Tip: You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities in your Peaceful Place.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice

WONDER: What is the Holy Spirit?

SAY: Anytime you need to remember that God is with you, you can do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice:
 - Hold your hand up and blow on it.
 - Feel the warmth and the air on your skin.
 - Blow on your hand gently, several times.

SAY: The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God's love. This is a wonderful mystery.

PRAY: Holy Spirit, we feel your presence all around. Help us know you are always with us. Amen.

CELEBRATE WONDER Many Languages

Match the language to the word for *worship*.

English

anbetung

yerkrapgel

Spanish

rendir culto

Latin

French

culte

ibada

Greek

German

aanbidden

worship

Dutch

Swahili

latreía

Armenian

cultum

