

Family Sunday School Lesson 7 - Pentecost

Introduction:

In this final lesson of our “Good Shepherd” series, we will learn about what happened on Pentecost and how it affects our mission.



Start the Fun!

The Hunt for Red

On Pentecost Sunday we wear red to remind us of the fiery appearance of the Holy Spirit. Take a pencil and paper and walk around your house, yard or neighborhood.

Write down as many red objects as you can find. You could make this a contest or just do it for fun. Come back and compare your lists after a certain amount of time.



Read together

John 14:26, NIV

Before Jesus died, he promised the disciples:

“... the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Discuss

Ask: What is an advocate?

Discussion points: An advocate is a helper, the kind who knows more about something than you do. You might have an advocate help you in court, for example, if you need help with a legal matter.

Ask: How is the Holy Spirit an advocate?

Discussion points: In this verse, Jesus is promising that the Holy Spirit will expertly help us to spread Jesus’ message. We may not feel qualified to tell other people the word of God, but with prayer and study, we are well qualified because the Holy Spirit will help us.

Acts 2:1-4, NIV

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

To summarize the rest of the chapter, all the people around, who were in Jerusalem for a festival, heard the disciples speaking in all of their languages and wondered what was going on. The disciple Peter, who was not known for being one of the smartest of the twelve, got up and spoke knowledgeably and clearly to the crowd. He told them all about Jesus and quoted prophecies from the Old Testament. In the end, about 3,000 people were baptized that day and became followers of Jesus.

That day is said to be the beginning of the church.

Discuss

Ask: What did the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do?

Discussion points: They could speak in other languages. Peter was able to preach well about Jesus.

Ask: What do you think the Holy Spirit can do for you?

Discussion points: The Holy Spirit lives inside each one of us and will help us with our calling. Although we may think we don't know enough Bible stories or that we're not good speakers, we should remember how the Holy Spirit helped Peter. Ask the Holy Spirit for help the next time you want to talk to someone about Jesus or to show God's love in another way.

Pray

Thank God for your continuous, daily access to the Holy Spirit, for wherever you go she is with you. Each one of us has dwelling within our hearts the omnipotent (all-powerful), omniscient (all-knowing), eternal, glorious, gentle Holy Spirit. Ask God to help you use the power of this helper and to respect everyone else because they have God's spirit inside them, too.

Participate



Make a Pentecost Pinwheel

The Holy Spirit came to the disciples as a wind and a flame. This pinwheel craft reminds us of both forms.

Materials:

- a square piece of paper (red, if you have it)
- scissors
- tape
- a pin
- a thin red marker
- a pencil with eraser top (or a straw).

Directions:

1. Cut a square of paper about 6 inches on a side. The lighter weight of paper you have, the better to make a functional pinwheel.

2. Draw a small circle in the center.

3. Cut four diagonal lines, starting from each corner and stopping when you reach the edge of the circle in the middle.

4. Fold down alternating wings of the pinwheel and tape them securely in the middle.

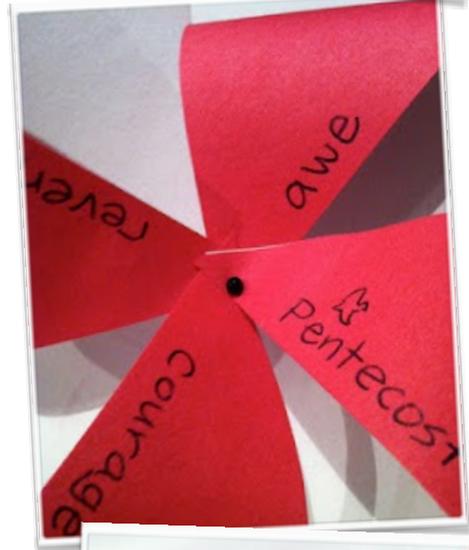
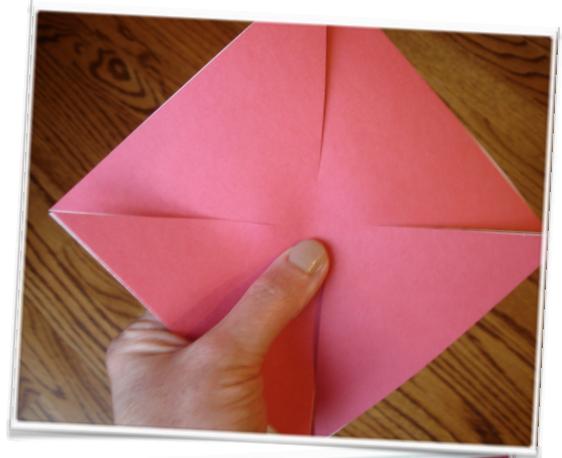
5. If desired, use the red pen to write Holy Spirit on one of the flaps and 7 words that describe the Holy Spirit on the rest of the front and back flaps

**helper, teacher, all-powerful, all-knowing,
eternal, glorious, gentle**

6. Poke the pin into a pencil eraser (*then you don't have to worry about the sharp end.*) Or poke the pin into a straw. The photo shows the sharp end of the straight pin covered by a pipe cleaner wrapped around it. You could also cover it with Playdough or clay.

(Note: These were made with paper that was white on one side and red on the other. Also, they wrote the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit on theirs).

7. As we breathe out to move the pinwheel, we remember the presence of the Spirit alive within us and around us. Happy Pentecost!



Wrap Up

You are loved by a God who lives inside you and who will never leave you. How wondrous God is and how wondrous you are!

Take a Moment to Breathe

Rainbow Breath

We have been on quite an adventure through the Wilderness this past year. We began this adventure with an invitation to look for and discover God in creation and the everyday life around us. As we come to the end of our Wilderness Faith Sunday School lessons, we turn to one of the earliest images of God's promises in the Bible, the rainbow. God is with us on our journey and the rainbow is a reminder of God's big, loving embrace for all of us.

To do the Rainbow Breath, breathe in as your arms go straight overhead. As you breathe out, arc your arms to the sides in a downward motion creating an imaginary rainbow. With each breath in, imagine that you are painting another color to add to the rainbow:

Red - Orange Yellow Green Blue Violet
(what other colors would you like to add to make your rainbow?)

