

Pentecost Prayer Background



Celebrate Pentecost

Pentecost is a wonderful day in the Christian Calendar! Before Jesus went back to be with his Father in heaven he promised the disciples a gift. The day of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, is the day they received this gift of the Holy Spirit. From this day forward the disciples travelled the globe sharing the Good News, making disciples and baptising people in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

This Pentecost PRAYER Pack is filled with ways to celebrate this momentous day and help the children encounter Jesus through prayer as they learn they too have this awesome gift of the Holy Spirit.

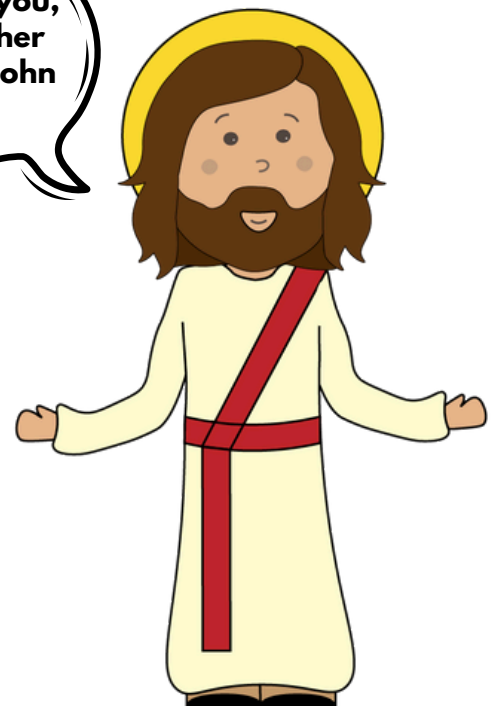
"And all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:4



The Birth of the Church

The day each of us was born is a very important day. A day to celebrate. Birthdays celebrate the day you were born. The day of Pentecost is the day the Church was born. Like all birthdays, we should celebrate on this day. The best thing about the day of Pentecost is that it wasn't just for the disciples, it's for everyone. Everyone can be gifted with the Holy Spirit. For those of us who have the Holy Spirit with us we have an important job to do. Because Jesus is no longer on the earth it's our job to continue his work. To be disciples of Jesus we must share his story and work towards creating God's dream for the world.

"I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." John 20:21



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Tell the story of Pentecost

The story of Pentecost is an exciting one filled with colour, light and boldness! Here are a few ways to tell this amazing story!

- Read the story of Pentecost from **scripture**. It is quite a long scripture so the suggested portions would include Acts 2:1-17a, 22-24, 37-42.
- Make it into an **interactive story** experience using props to create atmosphere. Electric fans, drums and clapping sticks can remind the children of the wind. Red, yellow and orange streamers can represent the flames. The children could wear their fire crowns to recall the tongues of fire that came to rest on each person.



Prayer ideas

The Holy Spirit is always active in our lives. Learning to listen to it is not always easy and requires practice. Guide the children through these various prayers designed to help them encounter God's love and hear God's voice.

These ideas are explained in more detail on the following pages.

- Scripture Story - Use the Pentecost Storyboard and little characters to retell the story of Pentecost.
- Pentecost Playdough Mats - Print and Laminate the mats and use playdough to finish the story
- Guided Meditation - During meditation we listen to the heart and through stillness and breathing we hope to encounter Jesus.
- Litany to the Holy Spirit - Litanies are simple ancient prayers that use repeated statements of praise, petition, praise or blessing.
- Prayer through Art - praying through art encourages children to nurture their spirituality through creation and imagination.