



BACKGROUND

The day of Pentecost marks the fulfillment of all that Jesus accomplished in his passion, death and resurrection. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the 'Holy Trinity is fully revealed'. God's love is poured into our hearts and all those who believe in him can share in his Kingdom (CCC, 731-733).

In the book of Joel, the prophet writes, 'The days will come when I will give my Spirit to everyone' (Joel 2:28). Filled with the Holy Spirit, these are the words Peter begins with as he preaches to the crowd as he tells them about all Jesus has accomplished in God's great plan. Their eyes are opened and about 3000 are baptised that day.

But it didn't stop there! It was Pope Paul IV who said 'The Sacrament of Confirmation makes the grace of Pentecost perennial in the Church' (DCN, 1971). This reminds us that the same Spirit who came upon the disciples so long ago continues to be active in the Church and in each of us. Just as the disciples were changed at Pentecost, so too are we through Confirmation. In the Catechism is says:

"It is evident from its celebration that the effect of the sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost (CCC. 1302).

Through Confirmation, we too are deeply rooted in our identity as children of God; we are more firmly united to Christ - our souls imprinted with an indelible spiritual mark - the "character," which is the sign that Jesus Christ has marked a Christian with the seal of his Spirit; and we are empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live like Jesus did - to share the faith by word and action as his faithful witnesses (CCC. 1303).

The days will come
when I will give my
Spirit to everyone



INTRODUCTION

In this activity, we reflect on the story of Pentecost. Begin this activity by reading the scripture with the children. Then discuss some of these signs of the Holy Spirit's presence and action in scripture together. There are some questions below to get the conversation started. Then introduce the flame activity.

Question for discussion

- *How did the Holy Spirit come in this scripture?*
- *How did the disciples change because of the Holy Spirit?*



THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - ACTS 2:1-17, 38-39, 41-42

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the Spirit let them speak.

Many religious Jews from every country in the world were living in Jerusalem. And when they heard this noise, a crowd gathered. But they were surprised, because they were hearing everything in their own languages. They were excited and amazed, and said: Don't all these who are speaking come from Galilee? Then why do we hear them speaking our very own languages? Some of us are from Parthia, Media, and Elam. Others are from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, parts of Libya near Cyrene, Rome, Crete, and Arabia. Some of us were born Jews, and others of us have chosen to be Jews. Yet we all hear them using our own languages to tell the wonderful things God has done.

Everyone was excited and confused. Some of them even kept asking each other, "What does all this mean?" Others made fun of the Lord's followers and said, "They are drunk."

Peter stood with the eleven apostles and spoke in a loud and clear voice to the crowd: Friends and everyone else living in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I have to say! You are wrong to think that these people are drunk. After all, it is only nine o'clock in the morning. But this is what God told the prophet Joel to say, "When the last days come, I will give my Spirit to everyone".

[Peter continued preaching to the crowd about all the things that Jesus had done. When they heard all that Peter had said they asked each other, 'what should we do?']

Peter said to them, "Turn to God and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and your children. It is for everyone our Lord God will choose, no matter where they live."



On that day about 3,000 believed his message and were baptized. They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together.



PAPER FLAMES

As one of the signs of the Holy Spirit in the story of Pentecost is flame, the children can make their own spirit flame to take home.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Red, Orange and Yellow Paper
- Paper cutter
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Ribbon

INSTRUCTIONS

Prepare before the session:

- Stack 5 coloured sheets of A4 paper on top of each other (red, orange, yellow, orange, red)
- Cut with a paper cutter 1cm wide strips down the length of the paper
- Staple one end to secure top of flame
- Pieces of ribbon 20-30cm (optional)
- 2 completed flames

At the session:

1. Children listen to the story of Pentecost.
2. Children choose which flame they would like to make (have a completed one of each to show).

Straight Flame

1. Hold the paper at the bottom and separate the pieces of paper.
2. Yellow paper stays in the middle and it straight.
3. Slide the orange paper up until you get the desired internal flame size.
4. Slide red paper up, creating the outside flame.
5. Staple the base of the flame.
6. Trim the excess paper.
7. Attach ribbon to the top of the flame so children can hang it at home.



Twisted Flame

Follow Steps 2 to 5 from straight flame.

6. For a simple twist, twist the yellow piece of paper, or children could twist the orange and/or red paper.
7. Staple the base of the flame.
8. Trim the excess paper.
9. Attach ribbon to the top of the flame so children can hang it at home.

