

14. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)

“As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:20)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Pentecost
Balloon Belief
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversation
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Blow Paint
Whirling Wind
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Card stock | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paintbrushes | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape | Washable paint

Gather: Balloons | Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Multipurpose lighter | Table coverings | Paper straws | Paper clips

Bless: No additional supplies

Before You Teach

As Christians we celebrate Pentecost as the “birthday of the church.” Pentecost originated as a Jewish festival. Pentecost was one of three pilgrimage feasts celebrated 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 a violent wind and appearing like tongues of fire. Jesus promised to send the disciples a helper and now it had arrived.

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. Some joked they were witnessing the effects of strong wine. Spirit-filled Peter responded to this accusation and began to preach. About 3,000 believers were baptized that day.

The Spirit did not just come to the disciples, but to each person gathered there. The Spirit empowered God’s people and gave them courage to continue to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind or see tongues 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 OK to admit to your children that you don’t have all the answers. Mystery is a part of faith.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of an attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as they enter the room.
 - Indicate the location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Pentecost (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 14).

- Distribute “Fire and Wind”/“Windy Words” (pp. 29-30).
- Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.

OR

B—Balloon Belief (Science)

Before class: Obtain balloon.

ASK: What would happen if I blow into this balloon?

- Blow up the balloon and hold it closed with your fingers.

ASK: Can you see the air inside of the balloon? How do you know that the balloon is filled with air?

- Loosen your grip on the balloon and let it go.

SAY: We could not see the air, but we saw the balloon get bigger. And when I released it, we saw the escaping air propel the balloon around the room. You may have felt the air as it escaped, too.

- Let the children interact with the balloons.
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Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Acts 2:1-41*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 14.

ASK: Can you speak another language?

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 14).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the roles of the twelve disciples, then present “Pentecost.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19). Review Unit 3 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 96).

- Recite the Bible verse: “As for us, we can’t stop speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:20).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Blow Paint (Art)

Before class: Cover tables. Obtain several colors of paint and paper straws.

- Distribute to each child a sheet of card stock and a straw.
- Direct the children to put paint in the middle of their papers. They may use up to three colors.
- Demonstrate how to use the straw to gently blow over the paint to move the paint around. Let children blow over their paint.
- Allow the paintings to dry.

OR

B—Whirling Wind (Science)

Before class: Photocopy “Whirling Wind” (Leader Guide—p. 90), one per child. Obtain paper clips. Make an example.

SAY: Today’s Bible story is about a time when Jesus and his friends felt and heard a strong wind.

- Distribute photocopies of “Whirling Wind” and direct the children to fold the illustration as shown. Add paper clips to the bottom of each whirling.
- In an open area in the room, let the children toss up the whirlings and watch them twirl.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 7: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and the cut out Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 7 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Mission Poster (Class Kit—p. 5).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 7 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about the mission. Share the information on the mission poster.

SAY: This is our last week to learn about the John Wesley Community Centre. The mission organization helps children and families in South Africa. They offer services for children who are sick or their family members who might be ill.

ASK: What have you learned about our mission?

PRAY: God, we ask your blessing on the Wesley Centre in South Africa and on the people who receive help from them. Help them all to feel your presence. Amen.

Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares, then sit in a circle on the floor.
- Light a candle to symbolize that this is a special time together (*optional*).

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 14 & 19) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain envelope containing cut out Poster Pieces: Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Kit—p. 27).

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the final poster piece.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Pentecost” poster piece.

PRAY: Dear God, even when we can’t see you, we know you are always there. Thank you. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute the song sheets for “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Changed” (Annual Music CD).
 - Collect the song sheets.
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Blessing

SAY: This month the Bible stories are about spreading the message of Jesus.

ASK: Who remembers today’s Bible verse?

SAY: Together let’s shout out our love for Jesus.

- Invite the children to follow your instructions.
 - Whisper: “I love Jesus.”
 - Turn to your neighbor and say, “I love Jesus.”
 - Shout: “I love Jesus.”
 - Say, “Amen.”
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At Home with God

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets leaflets.

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 14 leaflet.

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Whirling Wind

1. Cut out the whirlings.
2. Fold the whirlings on the dashes.
3. Add a paper clip to the bottom of the whirlings.
4. Throw the whirlings into the air and watch them twirl to the floor.

