



PENTECOST

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Invite the children to stand in a tight bunch surrounding you in the center of the sanctuary. Tell them that you are going to read the story of Pentecost. Give them the following instructions:

- After I read each sentence, I will point to one or two of you. You will stay in place and everyone else will take a giant step outward.
- We will do this after each sentence.
- Before I read the last sentence, I will point to all of you and everyone will move to the outer circle.

If you have a small group of children, seven or less, point to just one child after each sentence. If you have a large group, point to several children to stay in place after each sentence.

Use the following adaptation of the Pentecost story from Acts 2:

On the day of Pentecost, friends of Jesus were gathered together in one place.

Suddenly there was a noise from the sky that sounded like a strong wind blowing.

They looked up and saw what appeared like flames that spread out and touched each one of them, filling them with the Holy Spirit.

They jumped up, everyone in their own language shouting and praising God.

Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, told the crowd all about Jesus.

The people said, "What should we do?"

Peter told them to stop doing bad things and be baptized and become part of God's family.

Peter said that God's promise to be with them was for them, their children, people who are far from them, and all God's people everywhere.

Gather the children back together, either in the front of the sanctuary or in the center, and ask them why they thought you had them move out from the center. Explain, if necessary, that they were imitating what happened on Pentecost: the Holy Spirit came to the group of disciples all gathered together in one place, just like they all were in the center of the sanctuary. The Holy Spirit moved the disciples out and into the crowds and then Peter began telling everyone about Jesus. That was the action of the children moving out from the center. Finally, they heard that the promise from God was for all people. When they were all on the outer circle, they represented the whole world.





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Pentecost Offering *(continued)*

Let us pray—*Close with this prayer or one of your own.*

Dear God, thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit to excite us and move us out into the world to tell your good news of Jesus Christ. May we remember your promise to always be with us and know that the promise is for us, for our families, for those far away, and for all your people around the world. Amen.

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