



PENTECOST

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

OLDER CHILDREN (5TH-8TH GRADE) LESSON PLAN

Lesson Objectives

At the end of the lesson, the learner will be able to

- Tell what happened at Pentecost
- See that the symbol of flames represents God's Spirit
- Explore how the promises of God are for them, for others, and for all

In advance

Set up table and chairs

Cover a table with paper or a disposable tablecloth

Attach a large sheet of craft paper to a wall

Gather

10–15 minutes

Entry Activities

The Spirit Spreads Out into the World

Supplies:

- Paper plates
- Straws
- Red, orange, and yellow paint
- Spoons
- Paint smocks

Greet the children and ask them what the color of Pentecost is and what it represents. If necessary, tell them that red is the color of Pentecost and it represents the flames that symbolize the Holy Spirit igniting the disciples to go out and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Give each child a paper plate, a straw, and a paint smock. Add some water to the red, orange, and yellow paints. Instruct the children to place a small spoonful of each paint in the center of their plates. Demonstrate how to hold the straw vertically over the plate and gently blow through the straw to spread the paint outward from the center of the plate.

Then tell the children that the Holy Spirit first came to the disciples.

Blow more forcefully to spread the paint to the outer edges of the plate, showing how the Spirit spread out into the world.





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OLDER CHILDREN (5TH–8TH GRADE) LESSON PLAN *(continued)*

Opening Prayer—*Open with this prayer or one of your own.*

God of Wind and Flame, blow into our lives, inspiring us to see your vision. Set our hearts on fire, igniting us to do the work Jesus calls us to do. May we be like the disciples long ago, made bold by your Spirit to share the good news. May we be disciples of Jesus today, trusting that the Holy Spirit is with us today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.

Explore

35–40 minutes

Telling the Pentecost Story

Supplies:

Copies of Activity Sheet 1, “The Pentecost Story,” for each person

Give each person a copy of Activity Sheet 1, “The Pentecost Story.” Invite everyone to stand in a tight bunch in the center of the room. Tell the children that they will take turns reading one sentence at a time. Instruct the children that after each sentence is read, the one who has just read will take a step out from the center. Continue in this manner through all the verses. If you have fewer children than sentences, have children take another turn reading. Before the last sentence, instruct everyone to move to the outer circle and read the verse in unison.

Ask the children how the way they read the passage mirrored the story that they read.

Pentecost Mural

Supplies:

- Large craft paper
- Blue and green paint
- Paint brushes
- Red, yellow, orange, and white construction paper
- Markers

Invite the youth to paint a large world using blue and green paint on a sheet of craft paper adhered to a wall. After they have finished, give them red, yellow, and orange construction paper. Instruct them to tear out four flame shapes each. As the children are cutting out flames, tear out a dove shape from the white paper. Invite the children to write a promise from God on each of their four flames: promises for you, for your family, for children and youth in your neighborhood or city, and for children and youth of the world. Invite the children to glue their flames—or stick them on the wet paint—to the world, placing the flames moving out from the center: promises for you, families, neighborhood or city, and world.





OLDER CHILDREN (5TH-8TH GRADE) LESSON PLAN *(continued)*

“The Promise Is for You” Infographic

Supplies:

- Copies of Activity Sheet 2, “The Promise Is for You” infographic, for each person
- Pencils, crayons, markers

Hand out Activity Sheet 2, “The Promise Is for You” infographic and invite the children to fill it out. When they have finished, invite the children to share their thoughts with the group.

Closing

5 minutes

Litany

Invite the children to repeat the phrase “For me, for others, for all” as a response in the litany.

We meet in expectation of your Spirit filling us up.

For me, for others, for all.

We hear the wind of your Spirit roar through this place.

For me, for others, for all.

The fire of the Spirit lights us up.

For me, for others, for all.

May it be for us as it was then, a moment of empowerment,

For me, for others, for all.

An awareness of God’s glory in this world,

For me, for others, for all.

A life-changing experience,

For me, for others, for all.

Amen.

Written by Rev. Meg Rift, Director of Christian Education, Fair Oaks Presbyterian, Oak Park, Illinois

