

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Pentecost
Lesson Plans for Younger Children
Revised Common Lectionary Acts Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Background

Today we celebrate a significant day in the life of the Church—Pentecost. The story of Pentecost tells us about when the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples while they are gathered in Jerusalem. The festival of Pentecost, held fifty days after the Passover, brought many Jews from all over the world to a celebration in Jerusalem. While gathered during this celebration, the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin speaking many languages. Peter tells the crowd about the good news of Jesus, and many of them decide to become followers because of Peter’s testimony. To this end, many see Pentecost as the “birthday of the Church.”

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost fulfills a promise that Jesus makes to his disciples before his ascension. In Luke 24:49, Jesus tells his disciples that he will send “what [his] father promised.” Then, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples and they are equipped to share the good news of Jesus with those who are in the city with them. The fulfillment of Jesus’ promise gives them the ability to tell others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Theme: We Share the Good News with Others

Before Class: Read the story in Acts 2:1-21 prior to the start of class. You may wish to practice reading it out loud from the children’s or story Bible you will use to tell the story. Several of the activities below require special supplies. Pick additional activities and gather supplies. If you are making the craft, you may wish to make a sample kite in advance.

Beginning: Sing the song “Jesus Loves Me” with students.

Opening Prayer: Mighty God, you are always with us. Be present with us today as we learn more about how you help us share the good news with others. Amen.

The Story: Acts 2:1-21 Read the story of Pentecost from your favorite children’s Bible or story Bible.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how the disciples felt when they were gathered in the house at the beginning of the story. How would you feel?
- I wonder how the disciples felt when the wind started rushing and the Holy Spirit came. How would you feel?
- I wonder how the people in Jerusalem felt when the disciples started talking to them in different languages. How would you feel?
- How do you think the people reacted after Peter’s address? How would you react?
- Is it easy or hard to tell others about Jesus? Why?

Activity

Option 1: Play a game of telephone. Invite students to sit in a circle. Begin by turning to the person on your right and whisper a statement of good news about Jesus (for example, “Jesus loves you!”) into that person’s ear. Ask them to pass the good news to the person on their right. Pass the word around the circle and see what happens when the news gets to the end of the circle!

Option 2: Make paper bag kites as a reminder of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Decorate your kite with red, yellow, and orange colors, as well as scenes from the story. You can find instructions for making a paper bag kite at this link: <http://www.sophie-world.com/crafts/paper-bag-kites>

Option 3: Play with a parachute (or use a large sheet in place of a parachute). Use it to make wind!

Getting Closure: What helped the disciples share the good news of Jesus with the people of Jerusalem during Pentecost? How can you share the good news of Jesus with other people?

Closing Prayer: Holy God, you sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples tell others about Jesus. Give us the strength and courage to share the good news of Jesus with other people, too. Amen.

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