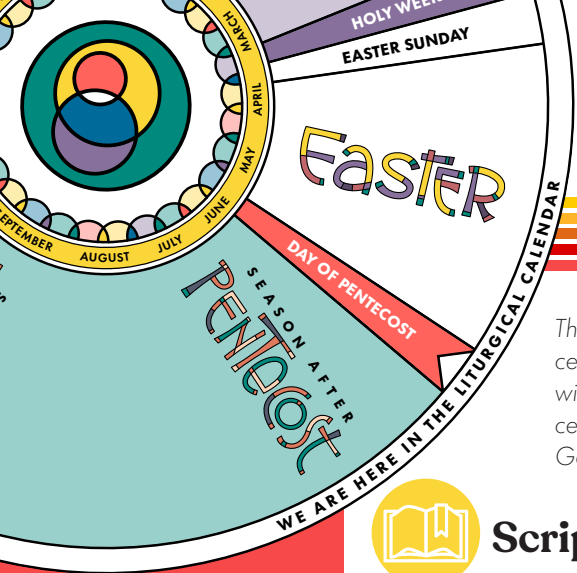


Acts 2:1-12

Day of Pentecost



The Day of Pentecost is when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is also when we typically celebrate the birthday of the church. Its liturgical color is red. The Day of Pentecost was filled with rushing wind, tongues of fire, and people speaking different languages. Pentecost is a celebration of the beautiful diversity found in the church and the world, and a reminder that God's love is for all, no exceptions.



Scripture

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"



Questions

- Today is a special day on the Church calendar; it is known as Pentecost. Did you notice anything different about how the church is decorated?
- Pentecost is the birthday of the Church because it is the day when God sent the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples and early followers in the way of Jesus. Tell us about a special birthday celebration you experienced or attended!
- Reread the scripture or the Bible story booklet. When the Holy Spirit arrived, what amazing thing happened??
- The gift of languages showed that the Holy Spirit wasn't just a gift for the small group who received it but for the whole world! How can our churches and church services show we welcome everyone?
- What do we do on birthdays to celebrate people? What could we do on the Church's birthday to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit?

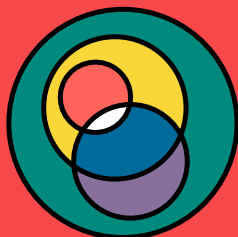
Look it Up!

Since this is the church's birthday, sing happy birthday!

Look up how people sing birthday songs around the world in many languages. Try to learn one or two!



mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Paper	Tissue paper
Scissors	<i>Optional: gift bag items,</i>
Tape	<i>party snacks and drinks</i>
Coloring utensils	

Our Bible story today tells us about Pentecost, a time when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as well as the birthday of the church. Before beginning today's activity, gather in a circle and answer these questions together: what are some ways your family, or community, celebrates birthdays? What is one fun memory you have of your birthday or someone else's birthday?

Celebrations like birthdays help us mark the passage of time together and unite communities around a common goal, theme, or idea. Today, we will throw a Pentecost Party in honor of the church's birth! Individually, or in small groups, make birthday party decorations out of paper. You could create posters, make paper snowflakes, put together paper chains, make tissue paper pom-poms—whatever brings you joy! Make sure to add some color with markers or colored pencils. As you're working, draw pictures of your favorite church memories: Bible study class, church meals, singing together, etc. What makes your church community special to you? Afterward, hang the decorations around your space. Then, put on some music, sing, and have a silly dance party!

If you have time, consider making birthday bags for one another and for members of your congregation. You could include small amounts of candy and snacks, a written prayer, a note of encouragement, stickers, and other items you think community members would enjoy. Distribute the bags the next time you gather together!

Alternate Activity

Materials:

Paper	<i>Optional: bread, butter,</i>
Scissors	<i>sprinkles, fruit</i>
Drawing utensils	

Have you ever thought about how every single person, from every culture and country, has a birthday?

What a cool thing to share in common with every person in the world! While we all share birthdays in common, people often celebrate them differently depending on where they live. Today, let's try out some birthday traditions from around the world:

- In Australia, children eat 'fairy bread' on their birthdays, a slice of bread with butter covered in candy sprinkles. If food allergies allow, make this snack and try it together!
- In Denmark, the birthday person is greeted with the phrase, "**Gefeliciteerd!**" which means, "Congratulations!" Practice saying this phrase to one another! Note: It is easiest to look up how to pronounce Gefeliciteerd online, but one phonetic spelling is **Ghe-fu-lu-si-teert**.
- In Egypt, birthday celebrations often include decorations made of flowers and fruit. Gather flowers outside, or make paper flowers to decorate your space. Have a snack of fruit, if food allergies allow.

What other birthday traditions does your group enjoy? Does anyone celebrate birthdays with a tradition from another country or culture?



Micropractice

When onlookers saw the disciples at Pentecost, they did not understand what was happening. This week when you see someone doing something you do not understand, ask yourself, "I wonder if they could be..." and think of three possibilities that might explain what you are observing.



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrdm.in/minirevAPentecost



Prayer

Dear God of joy and wonder, thank you for giving us the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Church. Help us look for moments of celebration and awe in your wide, beautiful world. Amen.

ALL ^{of} THEM

WERE FILLED

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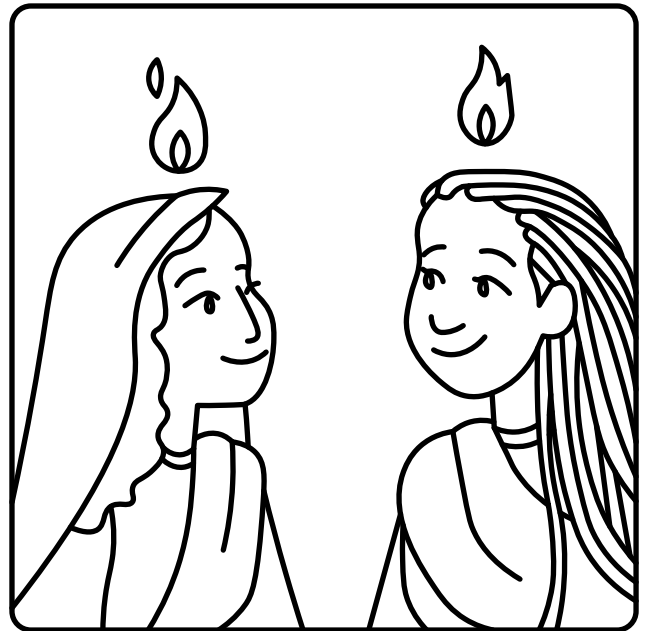
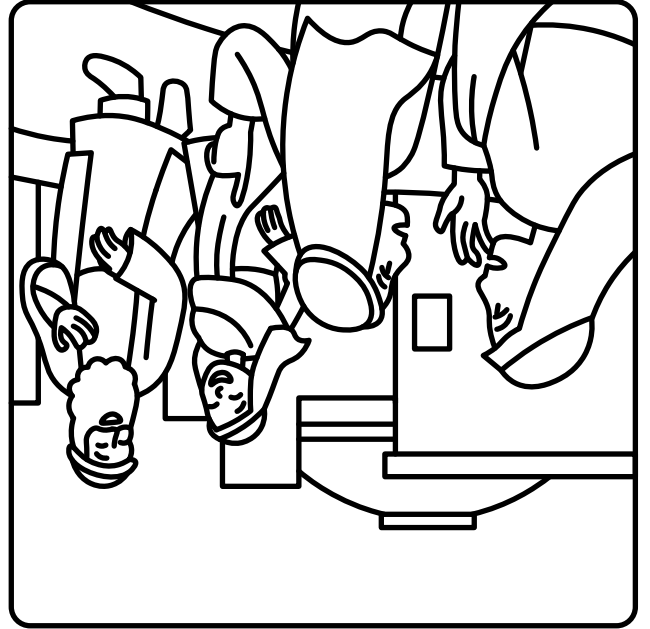
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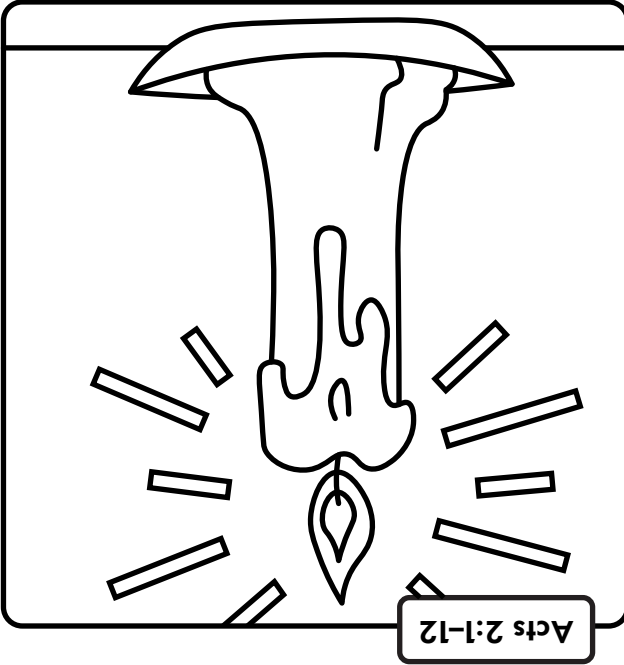


4. As the disciples went into the streets to tell the story of Jesus, people were amazed. They wondered, "These people are all from one small town, how are they speaking in so many different languages? What does this mean?"



3. The Holy Spirit looked like a fire. Then, the fire split apart and floated above each of their heads. The disciples knew what to do next. They spoke about God's love in many different languages.

1. This is the story of Pentecost—the birth of the church. Happy birthday, Church!



2. After Jesus went up to be with God, the disciples were confused about what to do next. They prayed together and asked God to show them what to do. Suddenly they felt a rushing wind; it was God's Spirit!