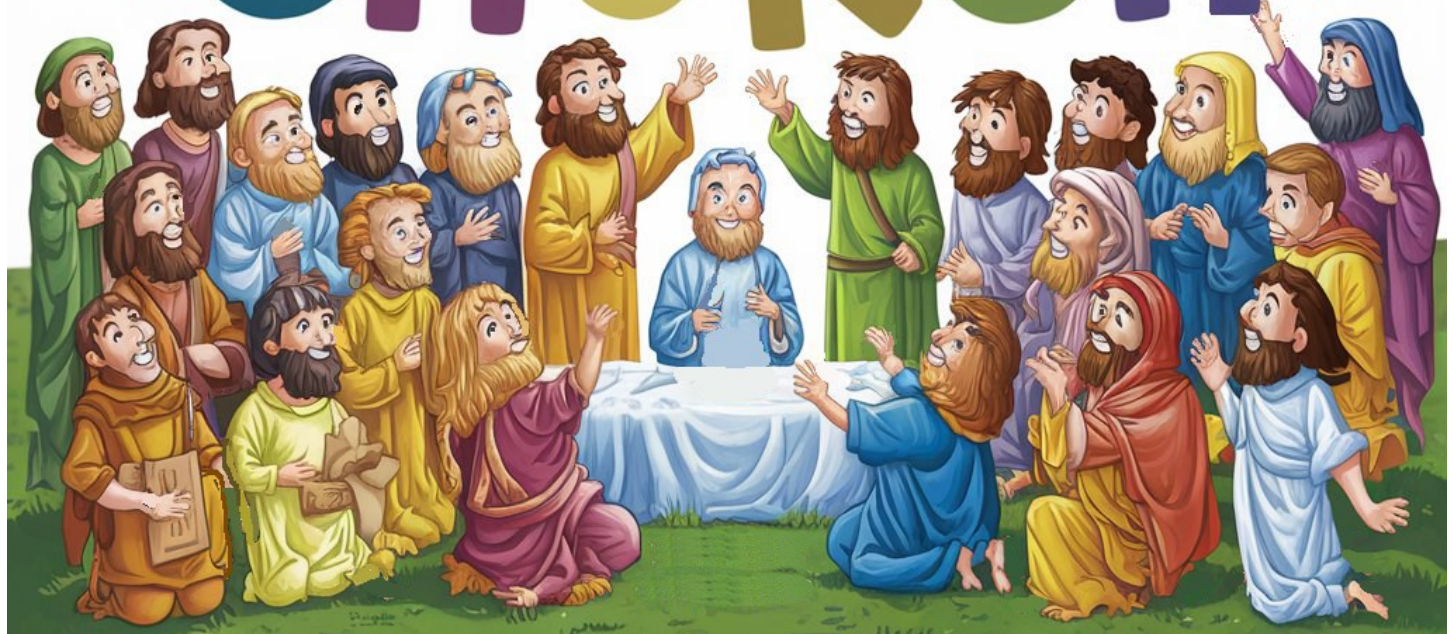


THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH





The Birthday of the Church

Pentecost Sunday

Power Point

Text: Acts 2:1-21

Today's lesson is about the church's birthday!

In our last lesson we talked about how Jesus promised to send the disciples a special present that would help them share about the news of the Gospel. All of a sudden, there was a big sound like a rushing wind. (You could have a leaf blower to use to demonstrate) Then, there were little bits of fire that appeared! (You could give each child a flameless candle or tealight to hold above their heads.) Then another thing happened. The disciples started speaking in other languages. Sometimes we don't know what to say or how to pray. The Holy Spirit comes in to help.

And they started eagerly sharing the story of Jesus. Some people criticized them, but Peter assured everyone that they were not drunk or crazy. They were full of God's love! And with that, they all continued talking about the story of Jesus and sharing the amazing things He had done.

So at Pentecost we get to celebrate the birthday of the church! It was the start of an amazing way that God allows us to serve and love each other. And that is the truly exciting thing... Once we are "on fire" and have received the light of Jesus, we can take that to other people and "light up" their lives as well. God wants us to share His story and His love with the whole world. It only takes a spark or a single candle to get others going. Let's celebrate, and let's share with one another! Shall we thank God for that?

Jesus is our
Baptizer with
the Holy Spirit.

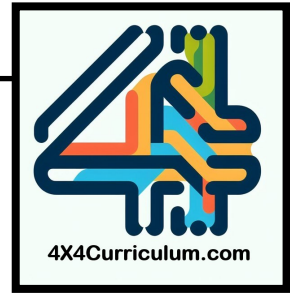
A Life that Pleases God

Lesson Application: If you aren't sure if you have been saved, sometimes a good question to ask is, "Do I live a life that tries to please God?" If you have been saved you will want to do what pleases God. Believers cannot live lives to please God without the power of the Holy Spirit living inside of their heart.

If you ask God to help you live a life that pleases Him, the Holy Spirit will give you power to do the things you know you need to do.

Pray: (Have the children repeat each line after you) Dear God/Thank you/for the gift of/the church/and your Holy Spirit./Help us to/feel and see/and be filled with/your power. /Amen.





Have a Party for the Birthday of the Church

Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church, so why not have a birthday party?

- **Decorations:** Decorate with colors and symbols of Pentecost, such as red and flames.
- **Have cupcakes:** Decorate with flames (Consider putting trick candles that cannot be blown out on one to illustrate the fire of the Holy Spirit.) Or a cake in the shape of a dove.
- **Games:** Plan party games that feature wind, like blowing through a straw to move a plastic cup or ping pong ball. Or balloon games. Or just games for fun.
- **Crafts:** Makes kites, or pinwheels, or music shakers, or draw Happy Birthday Church pic-

Have a feast: Use your imagination. Kids love food. Have a picnic.

Sing Songs of Praise: Have a guitar play some music to sing by. Use recorded music to sing with. Use YouTube kid's worship videos.

Have a Prayer Time: Teach kids to pray. Kneel and pray. Stand and pray.

Watch Kid Videos: Find a YouTube video suitable for kids to watch that tells the story of the first Pentecost.

Party Snack Idea

Pentecost "Sundae"



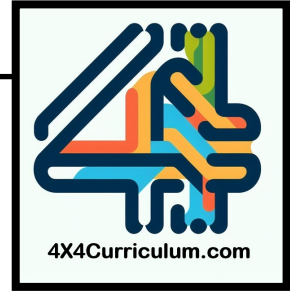
Strawberry Syrup—Red, a symbolic color for Pentecost Sunday.

Dove Chocolates—Dove is the most common symbol of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove at His baptism. (You can also get actual dove-shaped candies in the wedding section of craft stores.)

Fire-Ball Candy—Topped with a fire-ball to represent the "tongues of fire." "Then there appeared to them tongues of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them." (Acts 2:3)

Ice Cream: All served on vanilla ice cream.





How do we receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Guidelines to use with children who seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit:

1. The child should be taught what the Bible says.
2. The child should know the purpose and value of this gift from God.
3. The child should desire the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
4. Assure the child that Jesus is the Baptizer and so the experience will be a positive one.
5. Explain to the child that when God gives the gift of praying in an unknown tongue, it is an ongoing, lifetime gift.

How do we receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Everything we receive from God is done so by faith (Hebrews 11:6).

We receive by faith:

- Faith in the promise of God (Lk. 11:11-13; Mk. 11:24).
- Faith that the promise is for you (Acts 2:38, 39; Lk. 11:10).
- Faith with an attitude of praise and thanksgiving.

We receive by yielding to Christ, Who baptizes us. Caution: Speaking in tongues is a gift from Jesus (Luke 11:9-13) and should never be forced or manipulated. The Holy Spirit seeks to shine through us, not control us. He will utilize our tongue, lips, and voice which are yielded to Him.

Take the Lesson Home (*Ideas for Families*)

Lesson topic: Baptism with The Holy Spirit.

Bible passage: Today's lesson is from Acts chapter 2 and how Peter was changed after he was baptized with the Holy Spirit.

The kids learned: That what happened to Peter can happen to anyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

Jesus said that God wants to give the Holy Spirit to us as a gift (Acts 1:4). This gift is for all, in all ages, who believe on Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 2:38, 39; 10:34, 35, 44-48; 11:15-18).

We also shared with the kids what happened on the day of Pentecost when the disciples first received God the Father's gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts chapter 2).

Review these Scriptures with your family:

- There was the sound of a violent wind. (Acts 2:2)
- Tongues of fire rested on their heads (Acts 2:3).
- They spoke in other languages (Acts. 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6).
- They praised God (Acts 2:11; 2:47; 10:46).
- They had overflowing joy (Acts 2:46).
- They had a deep burden and desire to testify about Jesus (Acts 1:8; 2:14-18; 3:31; 19:6).

By studying the rest of the book of Acts we learn that there is one baptism with the Holy Spirit, but many fillings. Ephesians 5:18 translated literally, means "Be being filled with the Spirit." This is to be our new way of life, a continuous experience.

