

## 29. Pentecost

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## 29

# Pentecost

**Leader Notes:**

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "Pentecost" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions.*

**NOTE:** *It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close with this "Hallelujah" litany, encouraging your group to clap along as they repeat each phrase after you.*

**Hallelujah, praise the Lord.  
Praise God with each note and word.  
Praise that Jesus did arise,  
Praise that Jesus is alive!  
Praise that Jesus lives above,  
Lord of all! Lord of love!  
Praise God that the Spirit came—  
giving power in Jesus' name.  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!  
Hallelujah!**

*End with prayer, thanking God for sending his Holy Spirit to the first church and to us today.*

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #140\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Arrival Activity: Print and cut enough of [these nametags](#) for each child. As kids arrive, explain that each nametag says Hello! in a different language. Invite them to choose a nametag and add their names to the line. If you're meeting virtually, consider sending nametags for the children to choose from at home. Or assign each child a language by messaging them as they arrive. Have them make nametags at home, holding them up so everyone can see.*

*Greet one another with the greetings on each tag. Give everyone time to guess the language on their nametag before providing them with the answers. Connect the activity to the story by saying: **Jesus' friends wanted to tell the story of Jesus to people from different countries, but they couldn't speak those languages. Today we'll find out how God helped them.***

Pronunciation Guide:

Aloha (a-LOH-hah), Hawaiian

Kiana (kee-AH-nah), Inuktitut

Bonjour (bohn-ZHOOR), French

Hei (HAY), Norwegian

Guten tag (GOO-ten TAHG), German

Geia sou (YAH-soo), Greek

Shalom (shah-LOHM), Hebrew

Sawubona (sah-woo-BOH-nah), Zulu

Jambo (JAM-boh), Swahili

Namasté (nah-mah-STAY), Hindi

Konnichiwa (koh-NEE-chee-wah), Japanese  
Ní h<sup>^</sup>ao (nee HOW), Mandarin

## Story: Pentecost Acts 2

After Jesus returned to heaven, his friends and disciples stayed in a house in Jerusalem, waiting for the gift Jesus had promised would come. We all know how hard waiting for a gift can be. As they waited, they prayed to Jesus: “Lord, send us your Spirit. We wait for your promise to arrive.”

While they were waiting, people were arriving in Jerusalem in great numbers—all of them were coming to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. There were people everywhere. Parents, grandparents, little kids, big kids—babies too! What a crowd! People had come from every nation. Think of that!

**Can you remember a time when you went to a big festival or celebration where the crowds were huge? Describe what it was like.** *(Pause for responses.)*

That’s a lot like the crowds in Jerusalem. The town was packed! But while this was going on, the disciples were still waiting in the house where Jesus had told them to wait.

Finally it happened! On Pentecost, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples. A roaring sound like the mightiest wind filled the whole house where the disciples were staying. But outside the trees were not bending or waving. And that’s not all. As the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, small flames hovered above their heads. Their hair was not burned, though. But there was one more amazing thing that happened. Each of the disciples began to speak in a language he had never known before.

**Close your eyes and imagine the scene in your minds.** *(Pause for a moment for kids to do that.)* **Open your eyes and describe what you saw and heard.** *(Pause for responses.)*

And that’s how it happened. All of Jesus’ friends were filled with the Holy Spirit. Everyone in that room felt the joy and power of Jesus. Each of them praised Jesus for his promise in a different language. The Holy Spirit gave them new and special powers. Wow! What a glorious day!

You might think that the people outside had no idea of what was going on in that house. But they did. They all heard the roaring sound of wind, and a crowd started to gather. And then they each heard the disciples speaking in their own language. Everyone wondered what was going on! How could they each hear and understand what the disciples were saying as though they were speaking their own language?

People were all talking at once. These were the things you might have heard people saying:

“It’s coming from that house over there! See! Look!”

“That noise was scary!”

“They must be burning up—it looks like they have fire on their heads!”

“One of them is speaking my language! Amazing!”

“I can hear one speaking in my language too!”

“Hey! That guy is speaking in my language. How does he know it? He’s not even from my country!”

“I think those guys are drunk!”

Finally, Peter stood so people could see him. In a loud voice he called out to the crowd, “We’re not drunk! What is happening is that Jesus sent his Spirit—the Holy Spirit. It’s a gift he promised to send. Jesus’ Spirit has filled us!

“Let me tell you what it means. You remember Jesus’ miracles and his teaching. You remember how he loved and cared for people. You heard that he was killed and buried. But he is alive. He arose from the grave and ascended into heaven. He’s living with God the Father. Today he has sent us his Spirit. That’s what the wind, the tongues of flame, and the languages are all about. They are signs that God is with us—God’s Spirit is here!

Some people shouted: “What should we do?” Others called out, “Yes! Tell us, what can we do?”

**If you were Peter, how would you have answered their questions?** *(Pause for responses.)*

Peter was quick to reply, “Each of you must ask Jesus to forgive your sins. Ask him to give you the Holy Spirit too. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to everyone who loves him and who believes in him.”

Many people wanted to be baptized and belong to Jesus. In fact, three thousand people believed and were baptized that day! The Holy Spirit came and filled each new believer. Each one was filled with the love and power of Jesus through his Spirit.

Soon after this exciting day, the Holy Spirit led the believers to realize that together they were one big family of God. The Holy Spirit led them to act in love toward each other—sharing their belongings so everyone had what they needed. They ate together. They worshiped together. And the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the power to perform miracles. That day was the birthday of the Christian church!

## Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [2nd-3rd Grade: Pentecost](#)
  - [4th-5th Grade: Peter at Pentecost](#)
  - [6th-8th Grade: The Covenant Extended](#)
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