

Pentecost Sunday School Lesson: God Gives the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21)

 ministry-to-children.com/pentecost-sunday-school-lesson

Written by Kelly Henderson Last updated October 23, 2018 5

Comments

April 1,

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This printable Bible lesson would serve well in children's Sunday School. You could also modify it for children's church. It teaches about the [Day of Pentecost](#) where God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the early church. Be sure to note the additional resource links at the end of the lesson for more crafts and activities.

Bible Story: Pentecost and the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Target Age Group: Age 9 – 11 (U.S. 3rd – 5th Grade)

Learning Context: Sunday School

You Can Help: Please leave your feedback and suggestions for this lesson plan. Others will benefit from your ideas.

Supply List: Wrap a box with a removable lid. Objects to put in the box: heart, 2 flashlights (one without batteries), Bible, Family Picture and something to represent prayer. You might also enjoy this [Sunday School Craft for Pentecost](#) . We've also created a [Pentecost Coloring page](#) based on the image above. We've compiled a long list of resources to help you [explain Pentecost for Kids](#).

Learning Goal: Students will learn that God's promised Holy Spirit came and indwelt believers on Pentecost.

Learning Indicator: Students will discover answers from reading Scriptures throughout the Bible lesson. Students will be able to recall events and characters from the story by answering review questions.

Learning Activity:

Use the wrapped box to introduce Bible lesson. The items inside the box are to draw students attention to gifts that believers receive from God.

Show the class the gift. We all love to receive gifts! Inside this box are gifts that God gives to everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus. Ask volunteer to come and take one thing from the gift box. After each volunteer has taken an item discuss the gift that God has given to believers. Keep the flashlights for last.

Heart-It is a gift to know that God loves and comforts His children.

Bible-God's Word is a gift to His children because we find His promises and instructions inside.

Family-It is a gift to be a part of God's family and be able to pray together and help each other.

Flashlight-Have students who chose the flashlights stand together. Have them turn on the flashlights. Talk about why one came on and the other did not. Let the students open the flashlight and discover the batteries and the empty flashlight.

The flashlight with batteries reminds us of another very important gift that God has given to believers. When we are saved God gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit. He comes and lives in our hearts and gives each of us power to live a life that pleases God. A person who has not been saved has no power to live a life that pleases God.

Put the items back in the gift and put the lid on.

Bible Lesson: God Sends the Gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

(Provide Bibles for students who did not bring one.)

Let's open our Bibles to Acts 2. Before we get into our lesson for today let's have a quick review of what we have learned about Acts so far. Who wrote Acts? (Luke) How many days did Jesus stay on the earth after His resurrection? (40) What did Jesus tell the disciples to do before He returned to heaven? (Go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit.) What did the apostles do while they waited in Jerusalem? (Prayed and chose Matthias to replace Judas.)

We have an idea what it is like to wait for a gift don't we? Has there been a time in your life that you knew you were getting a gift you wanted but had to wait for it? (Allow students to share.)

The apostles were obeying Jesus' instructions and were gathered in Jerusalem. It had been 10 days since Jesus had ascended (went back up) to heaven. On this day Jews that had travelled from many different countries were gathered in Jerusalem. The Jewish people were gathered to celebrate a feast called Pentecost. This special feast is a time where God's people brought gifts as offerings to God. (Leviticus 23:15-21)

Let's read Acts 2:1-4. (Have volunteers to read verses.) What did it sound like in the room that the believers were gathered in? (Verse 2) What unusual sight happened in that room? (Verse 3) Who filled the believers? (The Holy Spirit) What did He help them to do? (Speak in other languages) (Verse 4)

God kept His promise and He sent the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. To help us understand what the Holy Spirit was going to do for all believers let's look at our Memory Verse for today.

Memory Verse: John 14:26 "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." (This verse can be sung to 10 Little Indians or any other tune that you can help this verse to be easily memorized.)

(Discuss the meaning of the verse.) Another word for counselor is teacher. God the Holy Spirit would teach believers how to live lives that please God the Father. When believers read God's Word, the Holy Spirit helps them to understand what they are reading. God speaks to believers through His Word. When we memorize God's Word, the Holy Spirit brings it to our minds when we need to remember it.

The believers gathered together in that room had experienced an amazing event! God kept His Promise and sent the gift of the Holy Spirit! The noise caused the Jews visiting Jerusalem to gather and find out what was going on. Let's read [Acts 2:6-7](#). These Jewish people that lived in different countries and spoke different languages were confused. Each one of them could hear the believers from Galilee speaking their very own language. Let's find out what they heard the believers filled with the Holy Spirit saying in their language. Read the last part of [Acts 2:11](#).

What they experienced would be similar to us visiting another country where the people do not speak English and we don't speak their language. If they began to praise God in English so we could understand we would be amazed!

Many in the crowd wanted to know what was happening and wanted to know what this meant. Some in the crowd made fun of the believers and said they had been drinking too much wine.

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and he stood up along with the other eleven apostles. He told the crowd that they were not drunk. It was only 9 o'clock in the morning. He began to explain to the crowd that God's promise to send the Holy Spirit had happened that very day on the Day of Pentecost.

God spoke to the prophet Joel many years before this day. Remember what our memory verse says the Holy Spirit will do? (He will remind you everything I have said to you.) Having the Holy Spirit inside him, Peter remembered the words from Scripture that Joel wrote. Let's read [Acts 2:17-21](#).

On that very day the people witnessed God's promise that He made so many years ago come true. God kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit.

Since that time so many years ago every person who has believed in the Lord Jesus has received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. We don't see flames of fire resting on our heads or hear loud wind noises but we do receive the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live lives that please God.

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 (remember the flashlights from earlier?). 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: Father, You know the hearts of every person in this room. You desire for all to be saved. If there is anyone in this room this morning who has not been saved, speak to their hearts and help them to obey what they know they need to do. For each believer here help us to allow your Holy Spirit to give us the power to do the things we know will please You. Let us see your power in our lives this week as we trust you each day. In Jesus Name we pray these things. Amen.

Review Questions:

1. What special celebration was taking place in our story? (Day of Pentecost)
2. How did the Jewish people celebrate Pentecost? (By bringing a gift to offer to God)
3. When the believers were gathered together what sound did the believers hear? (Loud wind)
4. What did the believers see? (Flames of fire resting on their heads)
5. Who filled each of the believers on the Day of Pentecost? (The Holy Spirit)
6. Why were the people in Jerusalem confused? (They could hear the believers from Galilee speaking in the language they could understand)
7. What did they hear the believers saying in their own language? (wonders of God)
8. Which prophet wrote about God's promise to send the Holy Spirit? (Joel)

Holy Spirit “Pinwheel” Craft for Sunday School

 ministry-to-children.com/spirit-pinwheel-craft

Written by Amy Brown Last updated May 16, 2016 1 Comment

May 17, 2011

This craft activity is great for a windy, spring day. It's would be a great Pentecost Sunday School craft. The children will make a pinwheel to teach them about how God is a spirit. A lesson can be taught, followed by making the craft and the children will finish by playing with their pinwheels outside. [Click here](#) to leave your comments or suggestions about this craft idea.



Target Age: 2nd-5th grade

Key Verse: John 3:8 “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Time Needed: 20 minutes for the craft only (The children may spend a long time decorating their pinwheel. The length of craft depends on how detailed your children will want to decorate. You know your children best and can judge how long this craft will take.)

Materials Needed:

- One square piece of heavy construction paper per child
- One pair of scissors per child
- One thumb tack per child
- One pencil (with an eraser) per child, preferably brand new
- Crayons, colored pencils, and stickers for decorating the pinwheels



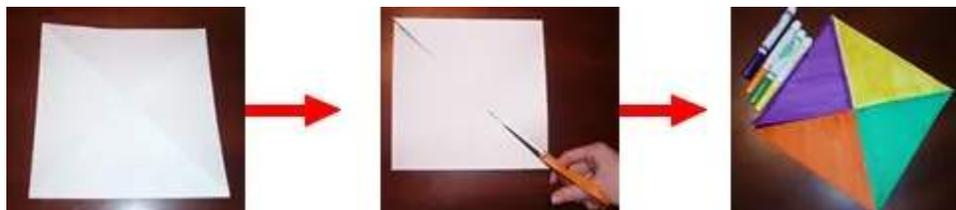
Procedure:

1. Fold the construction paper on the diagonal from corner to corner. Open the paper up and fold on the second diagonal across the other two corners. When the paper is opened flat, the folds make an “X” across the square.
2. Make one cut along each fold beginning at the corner and cutting toward the center. The cut should stop about halfway toward the center. The cut **should not** go all the way to the center of the square.
3. Decorate each section of the square on both sides of the heavy construction paper using the materials provided.

4. Take every other corner, one at a time and gently pull it up to the center of the square.
5. When all four corners meet at the center, take the thumb tack and push it through all four corners through the center of the square.
6. Push the thumb tack through the eraser of the pencil.
7. Blow on the pinwheel and watch it spin!

Use this craft to teach the children about how we can hear and feel the wind, but we cannot see it. We can see the results of the wind, but we cannot see the wind itself. Relate this to God. We can hear His voice through His Word and feel His peace, comfort, joy, etc. We cannot see Him, but we can see the results of His work.

If you are using this for your Pentecost Craft in Sunday School, be sure to see our other resources to help you [explain Pentecost for children](#).

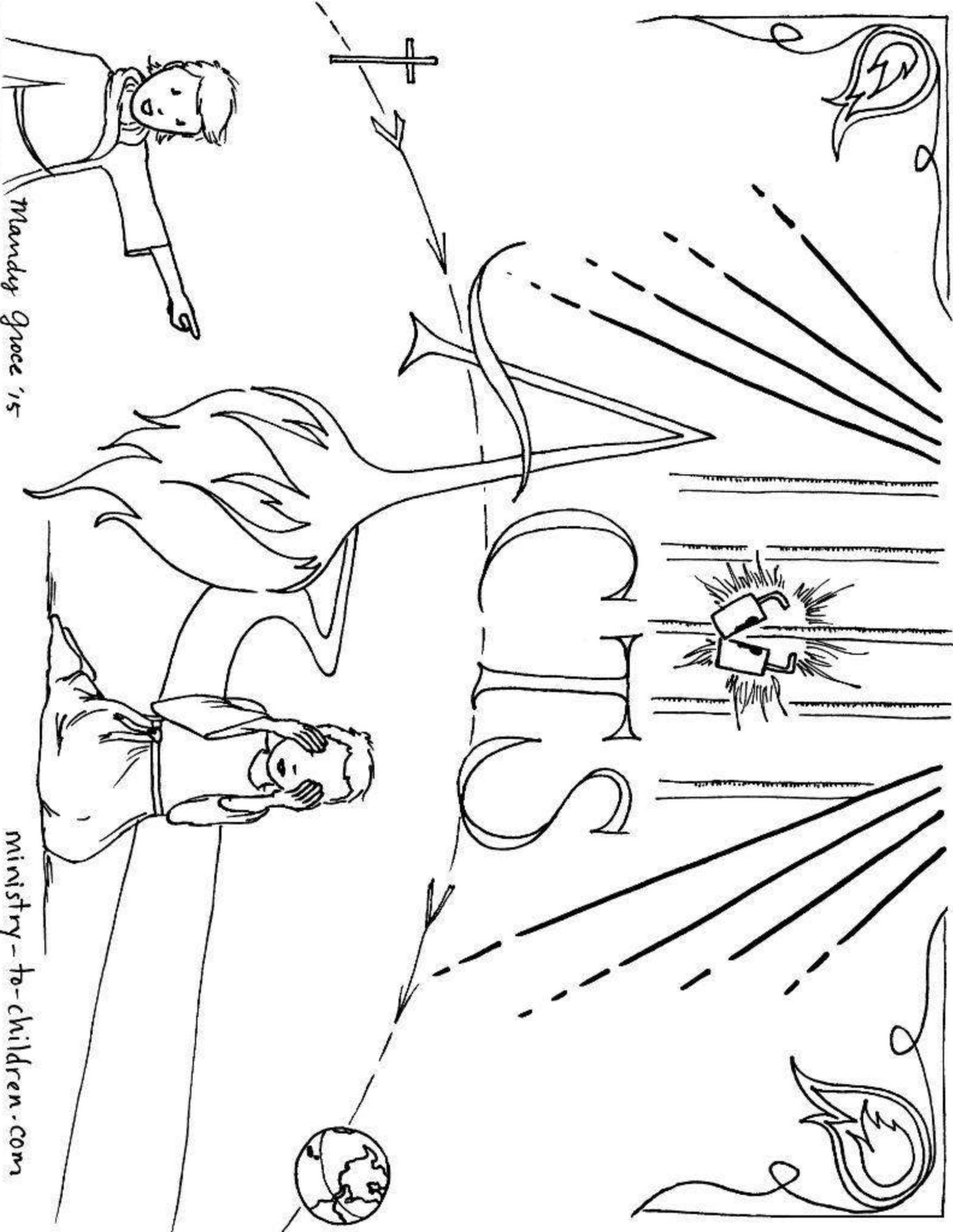


Tips:

- I recommend using a square which is 6 inches or smaller in diameter. You want the length from one corner to the center of the square to be shorter than the pencil.
- The thicker the paper you choose to use, the more sturdy the pinwheel will be. Thick paper will better withstand to the wind and blowing by a child.
- Do not push the thumb tack all the way through the pencil eraser causing the pinwheel to attach tightly to the pencil. If pushed in too tightly the pinwheel will not turn.
- Here is another website we found with [helpful illustrations](#) of folding the pinwheel.







Mandy Grace '15

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“Pentecost: The Spirit Comes”

Children’s Sermon from 2:1-21



Pentecost...Tongues, Wind, Fire...and Happy Birthday to the church!!!

Main Objective: The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is an exciting and important story to share with all ages. Through this message, children should understand how the disciples received the Holy Spirit and were able to begin sharing the good news of Jesus with everyone. Our job is also to share Gospel joy with others!

Law/Gospel Theme: The story of Pentecost propels the church year into a new season. Easter is the culmination of the Gospel story, the fulfillment of all that the prophets spoke about the Messiah. With Pentecost, the third person of the Trinity is given to carry the church into its next phase. The Holy Spirit enables God’s people to spread the Gospel and to establish the church.

Optional Materials: Candles, lighter, blow dryer or air blower, noise makers, gift bag or wrapped box, balloons.

Bonus Ideas: More free resources to help you plan your children’s sermon.

- Watch our [example video teaching](#) for this message on Pentecost.
- Compare all our [Sunday School lessons and activities](#) about Pentecost
- Watch a different [children’s sermon](#) on this passage from DSkidsermons.com
- Compare [A New Wind Blowing](#) and [Pentecostal Power](#) from Sermons 4 Kids

Note: All elements are open to adjustment. Cater to the needs and ages of your group Greet and welcome children, carrying a large box or gift bag with a label.

Children's Sermon on Pentecost

Hello! So, you might notice that I have an interesting package here...is it someone's birthday? Well, in a way it is, and we'll talk about whose birthday it is. What are some things you enjoy doing for birthdays? (*Take responses: have cake! Sing! Play games...*)

Well, today we are going to hear about the church's birthday!

Do you remember how last week we talked about how Jesus promised to send the disciples a special present that would help them share about the news of the Gospel. Well, the disciples were waiting for this present, and they were hanging out in a room in Jerusalem. There were actually a lot of people in town at the time, because they were having a special celebration called the Feast of Weeks, or the Feast of Tabernacles.

This was an important time that all Jewish people had to honor, and they would come to Jerusalem to celebrate it. So there were people from all over the place there, and the disciples were patiently waiting. Then, all of a sudden, there was a big sound like a rushing wind!

(If using, bring the blow dryer out and create a "wind" of a sort for your audience)

And then, there were little bits of fire that appeared! *(If using the lighter, flick the lighter, and/or show the candles to everyone. You might be able to have kids hold a candle above their heads, if they are responsible enough).*

This was a special fire that did not burn up or catch their hair and clothes into flames, but showed that God's spirit was present. A lot of times in the Bible, God appears as fire (think Elijah, burning bush with Moses, etc.).

Here was the Holy Spirit! Now, the Holy Spirit is sort of a special go-between...it is the spirit that makes all things possible. Sometimes we don't know what to say or

how to pray...the Holy Spirit comes in to help. Well, the Holy Spirit came to these disciples and appeared as flames above their heads!

And then another amazing thing happened. The disciples started speaking in other languages. There were people in Jerusalem that spoke a lot of languages, but the disciples didn't have their dictionaries and translators with them...yet they were able to just talk automatically in other languages!

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. A lot of people came to believe, and after that, the disciples began meeting together regularly. They shared everything with other believers, and continued meeting and sharing and caring for one another.

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?

Prayer: Offer thanks for Jesus, and ask for joy in sharing the Gospel news with everyone: (Have kids repeat each line, if desired)

Dear God,
Thank you for your Word the Bible
Thank you for your church!
I'm glad I am part of your family
Help me to share your love
And tell others about Jesus
I love you, God! Thanks for loving me
In Jesus' name, amen

Acts 2:1-21 NIV

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome ¹¹(both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?” Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

We hope you enjoy this free resource.

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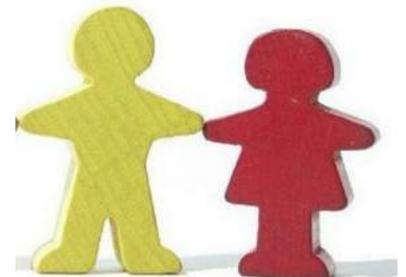
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May God bless you and continue to bless your ministry!