



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost (Acts 2:1-12)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Love

As Christians, we celebrate Pentecost as the “birthday of the church” – the day God sent the Spirit to the followers of Jesus. Originally, Pentecost was one of three Jewish festivals when the Jewish people would gather in Jerusalem.

Before Jesus died, he promised his followers he would not leave them alone. Jesus told his friends to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Spirit. His friends did not know what to expect as they waited. It was a time of uncertainty. They were probably anxious and scared. During this time of waiting in Jerusalem, Jesus’ friends and followers were celebrating Pentecost together. They were gathered together in a home celebrating, when a sound from heaven like the howling wind filled the house. They saw flames like fire above each person’s head, and they began to speak in other languages. The Spirit had arrived.

Our Faith Word this month is love. The definition for love is a closeness and connection that we feel with God and others. Love was present with Jesus’ friends and followers that Pentecost Day. God is present with us every day, but Pentecost is the day we remember that God showed us love through the Spirit. Through the Spirit, we can feel close to God’s love always. Through God’s love, we feel closeness and connection to others.

The concept of the Holy Spirit is hard for children, as well as adults, to understand. It is okay to admit that stories in the Bible are sometimes hard to understand. The mystery of the stories will inspire awe, as well as curiosity, among children. Their natural imaginations will inspire them to wonder and discover other mysteries in the Bible. Tell the children you are also in awe and wonder about some of the stories. Let them know you will explore together the mysteries the Bible holds.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Pentecost, from Acts 2:1-12 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

² 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. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^{as} as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When 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?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,^{as} ¹⁰ Phrygia 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?"

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/RVEjoQXlvPA>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Love – means a closeness and connection we feel with God and others. Jesus loved his friends very much and promised them they would not be left alone, he would always be with them. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to them to reassure them of Jesus promise – they were not alone.

WONDER Together:

1. What is your favorite part of the story?
2. How would you feel if you felt a strong wind inside a house or saw flames on top of your friend's head?
3. Could feeling a breeze or hearing wind chimes remind us of Pentecost?
4. How can you help others know they are not alone and understand the Holy Spirit is with them too?

Spiritual Practice

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 26 & 27). On page 27 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God's love. The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. Hold your hand to your mouth and blow on it. Feel the warmth and the air on your skin. Anytime you need to remember God is with you, you can do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **"You are a blessing to God and others."**

Prayer: **Dear God, help grow the church by loving others. Amen.**

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

CELEBRATE WONDERS Bible Storybook

Book of ACTS

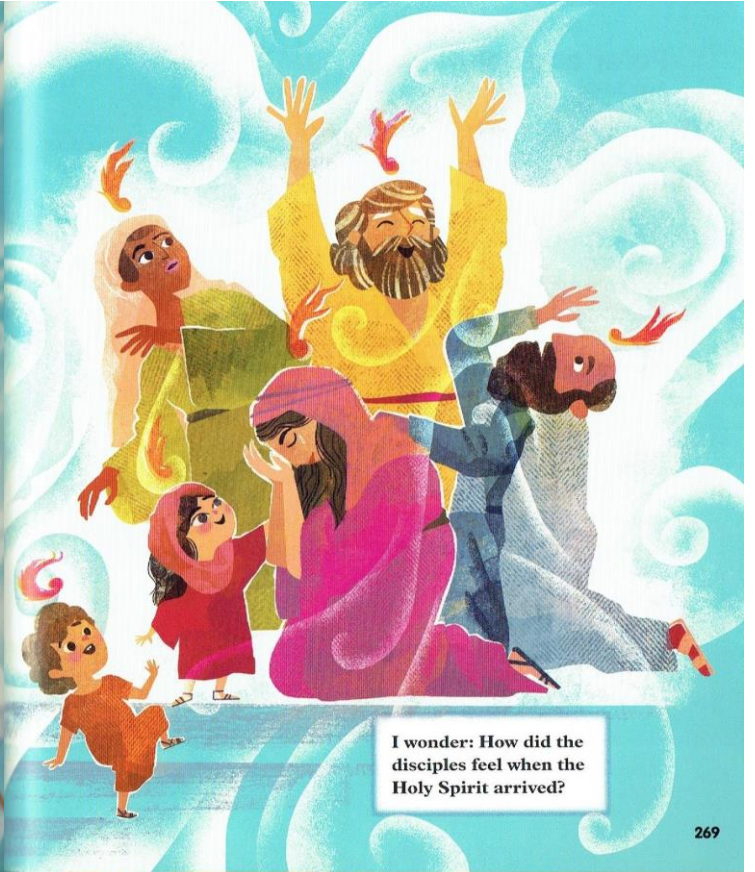
Pentecost

Acts 2:1-41

The disciples were waiting in a house. Suddenly, a sound like wind filled the entire house. The disciples looked around and saw little flames of fire on each of them. It was the Holy Spirit—God’s Spirit that would be with them always. The disciples began to speak other languages. They were all surprised. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?”

People outside the house heard the noises. “What is happening?” the people wondered. Peter told the people: “God has sent the Holy Spirit to us. That is what you have heard.”

The people listened to Peter. He told them about Jesus. Peter helped the people to believe in Jesus and told them to be baptized. “The Holy Spirit will be given to you!” Peter told the people. The people believed and were baptized.

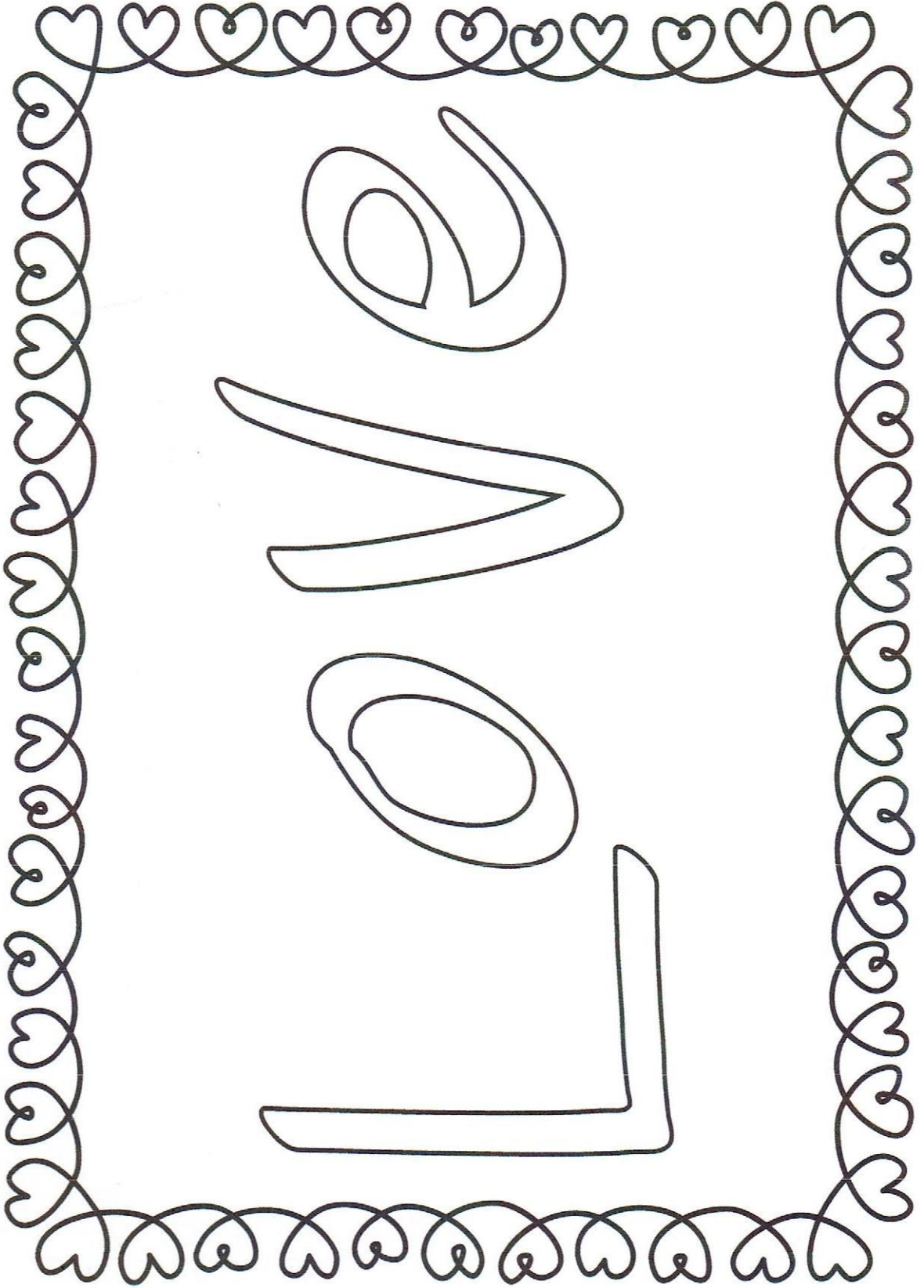


I wonder: How did the disciples feel when the Holy Spirit arrived?

Color Sheet for all

CELEBRATE
WONDER[®]

Unit 3 Faith Word



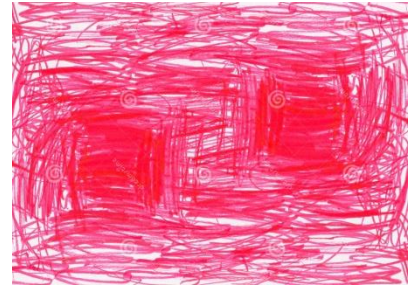
Preschool Activity

Craft or Birthday Party

Supplies: blank paper and a red crayon

Say: Red is the color of Pentecost because red reminds us of flames. Take this red crayon and color on your sheet however you wish. You can draw shapes or scribble a beautiful design. When you see your red picture, you can be reminded that Jesus came to his friends on Pentecost through the Spirit, so they would know they were not alone. We know that Jesus is always close to us too.

Wonder Together: When do you feel close to Jesus?



Extra Activity Suggestion: Hold a Birthday Party for the church. Celebrate by baking a cake or cupcakes with your child and singing Happy Birthday!



© Shower of Roses

Early Elementary Activity

Spiritual Practice

Supplies: none

Say: What is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God's love. This is a wonderful mystery.

Guide the child(ren) through this spiritual practice.....

SAY: Hold your hand up and blow on it. Feel the warmth of the air on your skin. Blow gently on your hand several more times. Anytime you need to remember God is with you, you can do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

PRAY: Holy Spirit, we feel your presence all around. Help us know you are always with us. Amen.

Older Elementary Activity

Spiritual Practice

Supplies: none

Say: What is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God's love. This is a wonderful mystery.

Guide the child(ren) through this spiritual practice.....

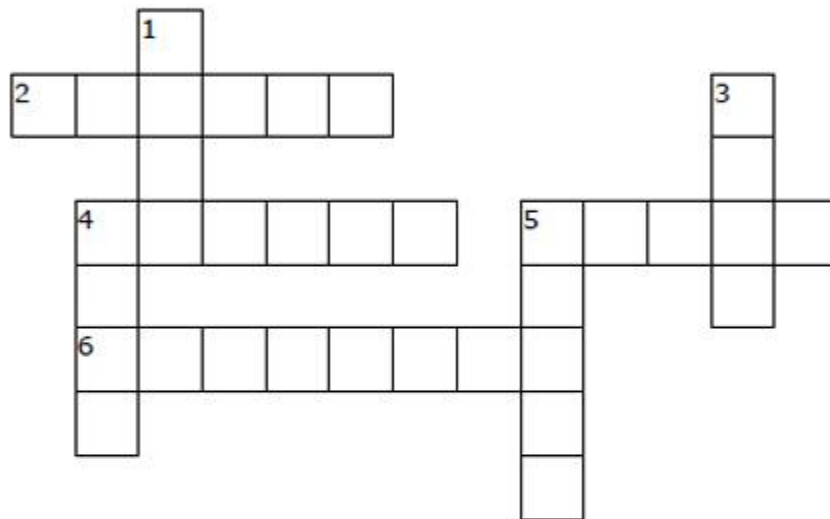
SAY: Hold your hand up and blow on it. Feel the warmth of the air on your skin. Blow gently on your hand several more times. Anytime you need to remember God is with you, you can do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

PRAY: Holy Spirit, we feel your presence all around. Help us know you are always with us. Amen.

The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21



ACROSS

2. A being that cannot be seen, like a ghost
4. The place where God lives
5. Something that can be heard
6. Means of communication used by the people of a particular country

DOWN

1. A destructive burning
3. Blowing air, especially that which would move the leaves on a tree
4. Something that is pure and good, such as God's Word
5. To say words, to use the voice

LANGUAGE	FIRE	HOLY	WIND
SPIRIT	HEAVEN	SOUND	SPEAK