**ROOTS at Home for Families**

PENTECOST

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**Introduction**

Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. Try to create that atmosphere of celebration as you join together for worship, you could even have some birthday party items, e.g. a cake or balloons. We are also celebrating the unity which the Spirit brings so include other churches and communities in your prayers this week. See [**Bible notes**](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2020/107-may-june-2020-a/pentecost/familiesathome#bible) for more information on the passages for today.

*Use this prayer as you begin your time of worship.*

Holy Spirit, you are welcome.
Come among us like a wind,
like a fire, like a dove.
Come gently or come boldly.
We are waiting for you.
**Amen.**

**Read**

*Share the Bible story using the idea below to help you explore it together.*

**Bible story**

Open the Bible at Acts 2.1-21: The Church welcomes the Holy Spirit.

**Picture the scene**



With the sound of a whirlwind it came, rushing into the house where the followers of Jesus were gathered. There was a commotion and flames as the Holy Spirit came, resting on each of the disciples like a tongue of fire.

As it whooshed into the room, the Spirit filled them all with foreign languages, and the disciples spoke in words they didn’t understand. Inspired, and with words gushing out of them, they went out into the streets.

It was the festival of Pentecost and Jerusalem was full of Jews from all over the world. When the disciples came out into the street, the crowds heard them speaking the message of Jesus in their own languages. They were amazed. ‘How can this be?’ they asked. ‘All the followers of Jesus are from Galilee, but we can hear their message loud and clear in words we understand.’

Not everyone was impressed, though. Some listeners sneered, ‘These people are drunk.’ Peter, still filled to overflowing with the Spirit’s power, stood up in front of all the people.

‘We are not drunk,’ he said. ‘It’s only nine in the morning. No, you are seeing and hearing what the prophet Joel spoke about in the Old Testament.’

Peter continued: ‘Joel said, “God will pour his Spirit on all people; children will prophesy and adults will see holy visions. The Spirit is for everyone, men, women and children; there will be signs in heaven and on earth, and these will be the last days. Everyone who calls on the Lord’s name shall be saved.”’

Like a fiery whirlwind it came, and the Spirit breathed new life into the followers of Jesus.

*Spend time reflecting on the Bible passage, using the questions below as appropriate.*

**Talk together with children**

* How would you tell this story to somebody else, in your own words?
* Have you ever been in a situation where things seemed a little confusing?
* What might be different in the world if people were more unified?

**Talk together with young people**

* Where would you be if you imagine yourself in this story?
* How do you think you would have responded to what was happening?
* How do you think the power of the Holy Spirit drew people together here?

**Activities, songs and prayers**

*Choose from the activities below and do any or all of them in any order you wish. Some are designed for younger children and some for young people. However we hope using a mix will work for any ages in your household.*

**Play:** Pentecost story basket



Create a Pentecost story basket for the children to play with. Include play people, battery-operated tealights, red, yellow and orange ribbons or streamers, play windmills and bubbles.

**Create:**Holy Spirit headbands

Create a story reminder

**You will need:** strips of card, stapler, red, yellow and orange tissue paper, scissors, glue.

* The Holy Spirit appeared as flames on the believers’ heads.
* Join strips of card together to make a band to fit around each child’s head and help them staple it together.
* Ask the children to cut flame shapes out of the coloured tissue paper and glue them to the headband

**Think/reflect**

*Spend some quiet time reflecting on the passage, as well as what you have been doing in the activities you chose.*

Language challenge

Discover how many different languages you can say ‘hello’ or ‘welcome’ in.

**Pray**

*Finish your time of worship by praying*

Holy Spirit:
wild wind, tongues of fire,
words of inspiration,
fill us with your confidence and energy,
and make us a blessing to the world.
**Amen.**