



Pentecost

(based on Acts 2:1-4, 38-39)

Jesus' friends were in Jerusalem. Jesus had told them to go there and wait for the Holy Spirit. Every day they would meet together to pray. They wondered how long they had to wait. When would the Spirit come?

On the day of Pentecost, all of Jesus' disciples were gathered together as usual. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind. It filled the whole building with its sound. The disciples looked at each other with wide eyes. What was going on?

Then it happened. Small flames started swirling around the disciples and touched each person in the room. It was the Holy Spirit! Everyone began talking in different languages as the Spirit helped them to speak.

There were many people staying in Jerusalem. People from faraway countries were visiting the city to celebrate Pentecost. When they heard the noise of the wind, a huge crowd gathered. Each person heard Jesus' followers speaking in their own language. They listened to the good news about the great things God had done.

Then Peter stood up and began to speak.

"Turn back to God," Peter cried. "Be baptized in the name of Jesus. God's love will come to you, and you will receive the Holy Spirit too. This promise is for you and your children. God's love is for all people everywhere."

The Holy Spirit blew through the crowd that day, and many people became followers of Jesus. The visitors went back to their homes in far-off lands. They were filled with the Holy Spirit who helped them live the way that Jesus lived. They couldn't stop talking about the great things that God had done. And so the message of Jesus began to spread everywhere.



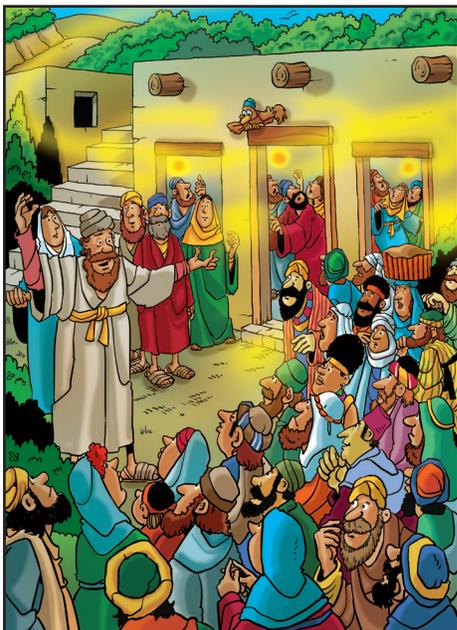
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- We don't see the wind, but we see its effects. Shape play dough into long ropes by rubbing it together in your palms. Place the ropes on a table or other flat surface. Arrange the ropes in a spiral, allowing approximately 1½" between the loops. Use a drinking straw to blow a ping-pong ball into the middle of the spiral.
- Find the flames in the seal of the Presbyterian church. Go to bit.ly/PCUSASealSymbols to learn about the seal.



Responding to God's Grace

- The color for Pentecost is red. Wear something red each day. If anyone comments on your red clothing, tell them about Pentecost.
- Fly kites in the park. Enjoy the wind!
- Talk together about a time when you felt called by the Holy Spirit to serve in some way, and how you responded.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Do an internet search for "how to make bathtub paint." Make red, orange, and yellow paint so you can make Pentecost flames in the tub or sink.
- Buy a package of relighting candles. Make and decorate cupcakes with your children. Try blowing out the candles. As they relight, talk about the enduring gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer:

*God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Keep our hearts and minds open to the
Spirit's leading. Amen.*

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.