

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Pentecost Sunday**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: John 20:19-23 and Acts 2:1-21**

Today, we celebrate Pentecost that comes 50 days after Easter. It is the day in which we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the followers of Jesus. Some call it the birthday of the church because it is the day that we are reminded again and again that the Holy Spirit moves in us and among us to help us do God's work in the world.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel and Reading**

As we celebrate the Holy Spirit's descent upon the disciples and the gift of speaking in different tongues and being able to understand one another, we celebrate the diversity that God has given us. We celebrate all of the various ways in which God has gifted us with different skills, language, visions, and dreams. We are all made in God's image AND we all bring varied gifts to the community.

**Theme: Gifts from the Spirit**

**Before:** Today, we are focusing the story on the Acts reading since it is the main focus of Pentecost. You will need one foot dowels or sticks, markers, crepe paper streamers in red, orange, and white, as well as any other craft items you would want to have available for them.

**Beginning:** Gather the children and tell them that this is a special day in the church. It is often known as the Church's birthday because this is the day that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us and to show us how we can love and serve you each day. Amen.

**The Story: Acts 2:1-21**

Fifty days after Easter, when Jesus had been raised from the dead, Jesus' followers were all gathered in one place. Suddenly, a sound surrounded them that was like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house that they were in. As the wind swept around them like wildfire, each person began to speak a different language as a gift from the Holy Spirit.

The crowd that was gathered around them heard them speaking different languages and they were confused because they knew that they were all from the same place. They wondered how it had happened and what it meant. Peter, one of Jesus' followers reminded them that one of the prophets, Joel, had told them this would happen. God told them that God would pour out the Holy Spirit upon us and that all would speak of God and spread the message of God.

Do you realize that means us too? We are called upon to spread the message of God because the Holy Spirit is in us, just like it was in the disciples! The Holy Spirit has given us each different things that we can share to spread the message of God! I wonder what are some of the things you love to do? What are the gifts that God has given you? (allow the children time to answer)

**Activity: Holy Spirit Streamers**

As a reminder of the Holy Spirit moving through the room of Jesus' disciples like the fierce wind and wildfire, we are going to make Holy Spirit streamers!

Invite the children to decorate their dowels or sticks with markers and then help them tie on the red, orange, and white streamers. If they want to, they could also color on the streamers or add other craft items to their streamers.

When they are done, you can retell the story with them waving the streamers about if you have time.

**Getting Closure:** Invite the children to put away their supplies and clean up with your help. Gather them in a circle and ask them if they have any people or things they wish to pray for this week. Write down their requests and work it into the closing prayer.

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, we thank you for our time together and want to pray especially for: \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for bringing the Holy Spirit into our lives so we could feel you moving in our lives and so we could know you better. Thank you for the gift you have given each of us in your Holy Spirit. Amen.

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