

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Pentecost
Lesson Plans for Older Children
Revised Common Lectionary Acts Readings – Track One

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Background

Today we celebrate a significant day in the life of the Church—Pentecost. The story of Pentecost tells us about when the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples while they are gathered in Jerusalem. The festival of Pentecost, held fifty days after the Passover, brought many Jews from all over the world to a celebration in Jerusalem. While gathered during this celebration, the disciples are filled with the Holy Spirit and begin speaking many languages. Peter tells the crowd about the good news of Jesus, and many of them decide to become followers because of Peter’s testimony. To this end, many see Pentecost as the “birthday of the Church.”

A Notation for This Week’s Scripture

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost fulfills a promise that Jesus makes to his disciples before his ascension. In Luke 24:49, Jesus tells his disciples that he will send “what [his] father promised.” Then, on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes to the disciples and they are equipped to share the good news of Jesus with those who are in the city with them. The fulfillment of Jesus’ promise gives them the ability to tell others about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Theme: We Share the Good News with Others

Before Class: Read the story in Acts 2:1-21 prior to the start of class. Take special note of what words, phrases, or images stand out to you as you read. Do a simple Google image search of “Pentecost” to see different artistic interpretations of the story. This will help you provide inspiration to your students as you walk them through the story. You will need a Bible, large banners of paper or poster board, and crayons or markers to tell the story. If you are making the craft activity option below, you may wish to make a sample kite prior to the start of class.

Beginning: Welcome the children and ask if they know any different languages. If they do, invite them to share a sentence or phrase in these different languages. Is it easy or hard to learn a new language?

Opening Prayer: Mighty God, you are always with us. Be present with us today as we learn more about how you help us share the good news with others. Amen.

The Story: Acts 2:1-21 Invite the class to gather around one banner of paper (or poster board). Read verses 1-13 from a Bible. After you read the section, invite students to draw or color a mural that depicts what they think the scene of Pentecost looked like. After the class has finished drawing, invite them to gather around a second banner of paper (or poster board). Read verses 14-21. After you read this section, invite students to draw or color a mural that depicts what they think Peter’s address looked like. After both murals are finished, hang them in an area where your church community can see them.

Reflection Questions:

- I wonder how the disciples felt when they were gathered in the house at the beginning of the story. How would you feel?
- I wonder how the disciples felt when the wind started rushing and the Holy Spirit came. How would you feel?
- I wonder how the people in Jerusalem felt when the disciples started talking to them in different languages. How would you feel?
- How do you think the people reacted after Peter's address? How would you react?
- Is it easy or hard to tell others about Jesus? Why?

Activity

Option 1: Use smartphones, tablets, or other devices to help students look up how to say "Jesus loves you!" in different languages. Learn a few of them as a class, and share them with other people.

Option 2: Make paper bag kites as a reminder of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Decorate your kite with red, yellow, and orange colors, as well as scenes from the story. You can find instructions for how to make a paper bag kite at this link: <http://www.sophie-world.com/crafts/paper-bag-kites>

Option 3: Split students into small groups and invite them to create a skit that re-tells the story of Pentecost. Arrange to have your group share their skits with your church during worship or at another time.

Getting Closure: What helped the disciples share the good news of Jesus with the people of Jerusalem during Pentecost? How can you share the good news of Jesus with other people?

Closing Prayer: Holy God, you sent the Holy Spirit to help the disciples tell others about Jesus. Give us the strength and courage to share the good news of Jesus with other people, too. Amen.

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