

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Pentecost – Acts 2:1-12

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

As Christians today, we celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Pentecost originated as a Jewish festival. Pentecost was one of three pilgrimage feasts when Jews gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was a time of uncertainty for Jesus' followers. It is likely they were anxious and scared. During this time of waiting in Jerusalem, the disciples and other followers of Jesus were celebrating Pentecost. While they were celebrating, the Holy Spirit arrived, sounding like the wind and appearing like fire.

This was a great mystery. Everyone was able to understand and speak in other languages and knew God was working in their lives in mysterious ways. The excitement surrounding the arrival of the Holy Spirit attracted a crowd. Not everyone in the crowd was convinced immediately of the Spirit's presence. Many people were shocked, surprised, and confused. Like many of us, they wondered what all this might mean.

The Holy Spirit did not come just to the disciples, but to each person gathered there. The Spirit empowered God's people and gave them the courage to continue to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind or see flames of fire descending on one another, but God's Spirit continues to empower us and give us the courage to do God's work. The concept of the Holy Spirit is sometimes a difficult one for children and adults to understand. It is okay to admit to your children that you don't have all the answers. Mystery is part of faith.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, take time to stop, pay attention, and notice God's Spirit working in your daily life. Set an alarm to remind you. When it goes off, spend a few minutes praying, reading the Pentecost scripture lesson, or sitting silently to feel God's Spirit. Like the people who gathered for Pentecost, wonder, "What does this mean?"

Come Together

Welcome to Wonder

Supplies: *Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23, 16 & 17; Leader Guide—pp. 4, 85; Activity Sheets (Session 12); Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD; CD player; stickers or markers; items for Wonder Table (small table, red cloth, and items such as a candle, dove); Wonder Box; tea light or candle; crayons; colored pencils*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Attendance Chart (Class Pack—pp. 16 & 17). Set up a Wonder Table (see Leader—p. 4). Place the tea light or candle inside the Wonder Box. Set the Wonder Box on the Wonder Table.*

- Play “Celebrate Wonder” (CD) as the children arrive. Lyrics are on page 85 of the Leader Guide.
- Greet each child. Show the children where to mark the Attendance Chart using a sticker or a marker.
- Distribute this week’s Activity Sheet (Session 12). Let the children color the picture and then participate in the Bible retelling together.

Tip: *Display the Wonder Wall poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 23), or use the instructions on the back of the poster to create your own.*

Sing and Celebrate

Supplies: *Leader Guide—p. 88, Celebrate Wonder Annual Music CD or Celebrate Wonder DVD, CD player, DVD player, TV*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “Song Sheet—Unit 3” for each child.*

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and hand out the Song Sheets.
- Play “A Strong Wind” (CD or DVD). Invite the children to sing and celebrate.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *CEB Bible; Class Pack—pp. 8 & 25, 19; Celebrate Wonder DVD; TV; DVD player*

Prepare Ahead: *Obtain the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (pp. 8 & 25) and the Wonder Story Mat Figures (p. 19). You will use Acts 2:4 today.*

- Lay the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat on the floor.

- Read from the Bible today's story in Acts 2:1-12.
- Let a child move or place Acts 2:4 on the Wonder Story Mat.
- Watch the Session 12 video on the DVD.

Wonder with Me

Supplies: *Class Pack—insert, pp. 11 & 22; Wonder Box (containing a tea light)*

Prepare Ahead: *Display the Unit 3 Faith Word poster (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 22), and locate the Wonder Cube (Class Pack—insert).*

- Let a child roll the Wonder Cube. Direct the children to answer the question(s) about the Bible story. You can interact with the Wonder Cube as time allows.
- Then pick up the Wonder Box and place it in front of the children.

SAY: Today's faith word is *Love*: a closeness and connection that we feel with God and others.

- Wonder together:
 - Where do you find love in today's story?
 - What do you think the fire over the disciples' heads looked like? felt like?
 - What did the wind feel like?
 - How does the Holy Spirit give us love?
- Open the Wonder Box and reveal the tea light.

WONDER: What do you think this light represents?

SAY: God sent the Holy Spirit like flames and wind to bring all people together through love.

Experience Wonder

Wind Chimes (Craft)

Supplies: *plastic cups (one for each child), permanent markers, yarn, scissors, beads, bells, paper punch*

- Distribute supplies, and let each child decorate a cup with permanent markers.
- Direct the children to thread beads and bells onto pieces of yarn.
- Have the children punch holes in their cups around the mouth and one hole through the bottom center.

- Invite the children to tie the pieces of yarn with beads and bells through the holes around their cup.
- Have the children thread a piece of yarn through the hole in the bottom of their cup and knot it inside the cup to make a hanger.

WONDER: Where will you put your wind chime? What does the wind sound like?

Many Languages (Logical)

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 78, pens or pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Many Languages” (Leader Guide) for each child.

- Hand out copies of “Many Languages.”
- Invite the children to match each language to the word for *worship* in that language.
- Let volunteers share their answers. (Answers: English—worship, Spanish—rendir culto, Latin—cultum, French—culte, Greek—latreía, German—anbetung, Dutch—aanbidden, Swahili—ibada, Armenian—yerkrpagel)

WONDER: What language or languages do you speak? Do you know someone who speaks another language?

My Words (Creative Writing)

Supplies: paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers

- Invite each child to come up with her or his very own word, write a definition for the word, and draw a picture of the word.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their word with the group.

WONDER: How did you come up with your word? Was it hard or easy to make up your own word?

Peaceful Place

Supplies: suggested books: “One Family” by George Shannon and “Images of God for Young Children” by Marie-Hélène Delval; quiet items: dolls with different skin tones, flashlights or glow sticks, dollhouse

- Locate the suggested books and quiet items, and place them in the Peaceful Place.
- Allow children who want or need a quieter activity to visit the Peaceful Place.

Tip: You may choose to include other quiet toys, books, or activities.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice—Exploring Love Through Service

Supplies: *Leader Guide—p. 89, “Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book” (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (Leader Guide) for children who have not received it yet.

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

WONDER: What is the Holy Spirit?

SAY: 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.

- Invite the children to participate as you guide them through the 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.

SAY: 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.

- Send “Celebration Chart” home with children who did not receive it yet.
- Encourage the children and their families to use the “Celebration Chart” and to read together the quarterly *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book* (if purchased).

CELEBRATE WONDER™ Many Languages

Match each language to the word for *worship* in that language.

English

anbetung

yerkrpagel

Spanish

rendir culto

Latin

ibada

French

culte

Greek

German

aanbidden

worship

Dutch

Swahili

latreía

Armenian

cultum

