

TERM 5 / YEAR 3 / Ideas for Pentecost

Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit just as Christ had promised before he ascended to heaven. It occurs 50 days after Easter (10 days after Ascension). It is sometimes known in the UK as Whitsun or Whit Sunday. This was traditionally a day when new believers were baptised or confirmed, wearing white to signify purity. It is often considered as the birthday of the Christian Church and as such many churches often have a 'birthday party' to celebrate. Colours used are red, orange and gold to symbolise the flames of the Holy Spirit but also to represent the joyfulness of the occasion. The word 'spirit' comes from the Latin word 'spiritus' meaning 'breath' and the Holy Spirit is often referred to as the 'Breath of God'. It is symbolised by a white dove.

Pinterest <https://www.pinterest.com/> has a variety of visual images of how churches and schools decorate/ celebrate Pentecost.

See also http://www.going4growth.org.uk/growth_through_the_year/pentecost/ for additional resources.

SEAL link – New Beginnings

Values link- Faith, hope and love

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Praise be to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit</p> <p>(This could also be translated and shared to show how the disciples spoke in different languages)</p> <p>eg: French: <i>Louange à Dieu, Père, Fils et Saint-Esprit</i></p>	<p>The Explosive Power of the Holy Spirit Acts 2 v 1-9</p> <p>In Acts, there is an account about how there was a large gathering of people in Jerusalem who were there to celebrate the Jewish festival of Shavuot. Suddenly, the disciples heard a strong wind blowing and saw small flames of fire resting on their heads. They were filled with God's Holy Spirit and a new energy to proclaim God's word. They began to talk in languages that were not known to them. This was so that they could spread the good news of Jesus to the many nationalities that were gathered.</p> <p>The Popcorn analogy below is one that could be used to explain quite a difficult concept to pupils. You will need popcorn kernels and a popcorn maker. If this isn't possible one bag of kernels and one bag of popped corn could still illustrate the point (but won't be quite so dramatic!)</p> <p>This idea is adapted from a talk by Father Simon Rundell , Diocese of Exeter. For the professional development of the worship leader, his original sermon can be viewed here: https://frsimon.wordpress.com/2013/05/19/sermon-video-the-explosive-power-of-the-holy-spirit-pentecost-2013/</p>	<p>Even though Jesus has ascended, God is still with us through the Holy Spirit..</p> <p>He inspires us, gives us gifts (talents), and works through us.</p> <p>Ask the children to reflect upon what their special gifts are, the gifts that they can share with others.</p> <p>Friendship? Kindness? A skill they could teach someone else?</p> <p>Encourage them to celebrate these gifts and to feel energised and happy to share them.</p> <p>Share images of stained glass windows depicting Pentecost - ask pupils to think about what it must have been like to be there. What is similar about the images? What important features have the artists chosen to depict?</p>	<p><i>Filled with the Spirit's power, Let us go in the light and peace of Christ</i></p> <p>Give each child a special 'birthday card' as they leave. An image of Pentecost could be on the front. On the back of each one is written the fruit of the spirit as described in Galatians 5 22-23.</p> <p>Which of these will the children share today?</p>

	<p>Sometimes the best way to think about something so complex and multi-layered as the action of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost is to use a simple analogy – see example below.</p> <p><i>Here in my hand I have a few small corn kernals: they are closed, tight, hard. You can fit them in a small space.</i></p> <p><i>They remind me of the first disciples: although they had witnessed the resurrection, encountered the risen Christ and seen first- hand the power of God, they remained small, frightened, unsure and (literally) dis-spirited.</i></p> <p><i>We place them in a small place, a small upper room (put them in the popper) a room where they might re-enact a meal, a ritual which took place when He was there.</i></p> <p><i>To these small items, we add something powerful: the word of the Holy Spirit: a mighty wind (turn on the popper) and we begin to see a transformation: we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the action on the disciples.</i></p> <p><i>(The corn begins to pop) An explosion of energy! A rapid expansion! Just as the popcorn is filled with heat and air, the Holy Spirit came with wind and fire. The disciples are no longer frightened, hard, withdrawn, but open, joyful, energised and ready to spread the good news! Some are spread far and wide into the world (the popcorn might pop out and make a mess on the floor!).</i></p> <p><i>The disciples had received God's gift of the Holy Spirit to go out and to spread the good news, renewed and refreshed. Tell the pupils that we can learn from this story how seeing and experiencing people's faith can give us the 'energy' to go and share our gifts with other people.</i></p>	<p>Collect for Pentecost Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, Ignite in us your holy fire; Strengthen your children with the gift of faith, Revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p> <p>Possible Praise: <i>Be Still (for the presence of the Lord)</i> <i>Spirit of the Living God</i> <i>Colours of Day</i></p>	
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