

RESOURCES FOR PENTECOST
FOR CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH
PROVIDED BY
THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE OF THE PRESBYTERY

This lesson can be used as a Sunday School Lesson or in a week-day program for children. It could also be used by parents/grandparents in the home to reinforce a study of Pentecost.

These materials may be photocopied or adapted to meet the needs of the children and families in your church. If you have any questions please contact Rachel Christopher by email at rachelc25w@embarqmail.com or telephone (850) 482-8118.

PENTECOST – THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

Scripture: Acts 2: 1 - 12

1. Main Idea:

The believers are gathered together, waiting for the fulfillment of Jesus' promise.

On the day of Pentecost the church is born by the gift of the power of the Holy Spirit to those who are waiting.

2. Points to know/share:

- At the disciples last encounter with Jesus he promises that they will receive "power from on high".
- The disciples waited – praying for guidance to know what Jesus wanted them to do
- The disciples knew Jesus wanted them to continue his ministry and to be his witnesses. They have a story to tell, but they wait for God's guidance before they open the next chapter of their ministry in Jesus' name.
- This guidance and power came on the day of Pentecost.
- Pentecost was the Greek name for the Hebrew Feast of Weeks, a sacrifice day set on the 50th day after Passover. It celebrated the wheat harvest and was one of the 3 festivals that were required of all Israelites (Exodus 23: 14 - 17).
- Since it was a festival day people came from "near and far" to Jerusalem and being from different places they spoke many different languages.

3. Bible Study – We hear God's Word (Acts 2: 1 – 12)

A. Introduction

1. Today's session is about Pentecost. This is the day that the Holy Spirit came upon those who were gathered together, waiting for this special gift promised by Jesus.

B. Read today's scripture – Acts 2: 1 - 12

This is a passage full of surprises:

1. The Holy Spirit came to the people in wind and fire. While the people waited together, a great wind blew among them and flames of fire flickered above their heads. The people had never seen anything like this before.

2. The Early Christians who were there began to speak in languages that were not their own, but they were understood by other people there. It was as if the Holy Spirit wanted to make sure that everyone understood the story of Jesus Christ.
3. The Holy Spirit came to give these disciples the strength and power to spread the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world.
4. This same Holy Spirit is with us today to give us strength and power to do God's will.

C. Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever been in a strong wind storm? How did you feel?
2. How do you think the people felt when they heard this mighty wind? Do you think they were frightened?
3. Have you ever been around someone who was speaking a language that is different from your own? Were you able to understand them? How would you feel if "all of a sudden" you were able to understand what this person was saying?
3. Why was it important that these believers have the assurance of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives? Is it important for us to have this same assurance today?

4. Activities – Choose the ones you want to do

A. Wind Twirlers

1. Provide each person with a paper copy of the spiral shape (one for left-handed and one for right-handed people).
2. Decorate the wind twirlers with magic markers, crayons, stickers, glitter . . .
3. Cut out the pattern.
4. Punch a hole in the middle of the twirler and lace a piece of yarn through the hole.
5. Hang the twirler and watch its movements as it is affected by the wind. (Use a fan if you are hanging the twirler inside.) The Holy Spirit is with us, just like the wind, even if we can't see it.

B. Page to color

Color the picture of the disciples

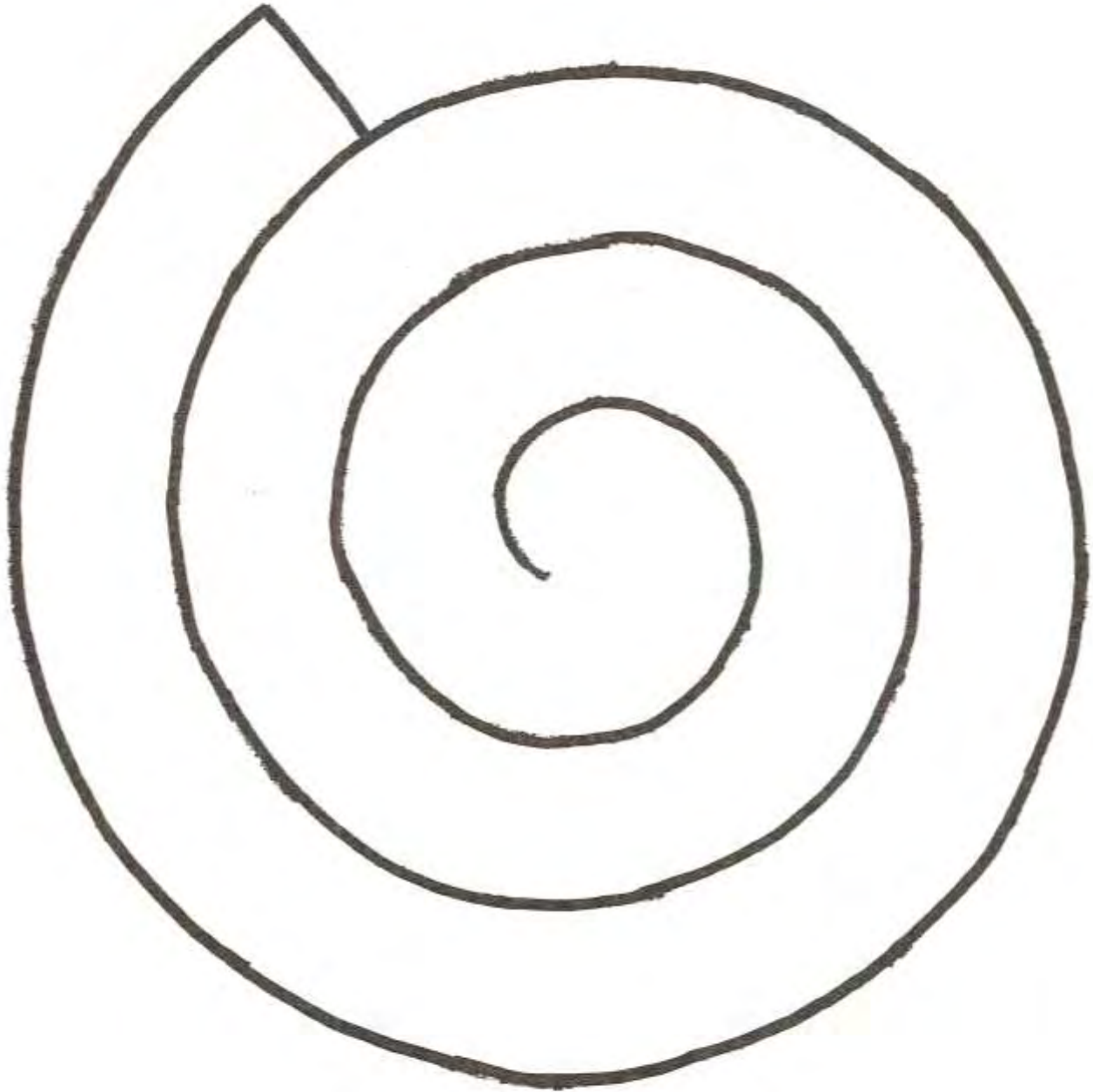
Tear little pieces of red and orange construction paper as flames of fire and paste them over the heads of the disciples

C. Hidden Words

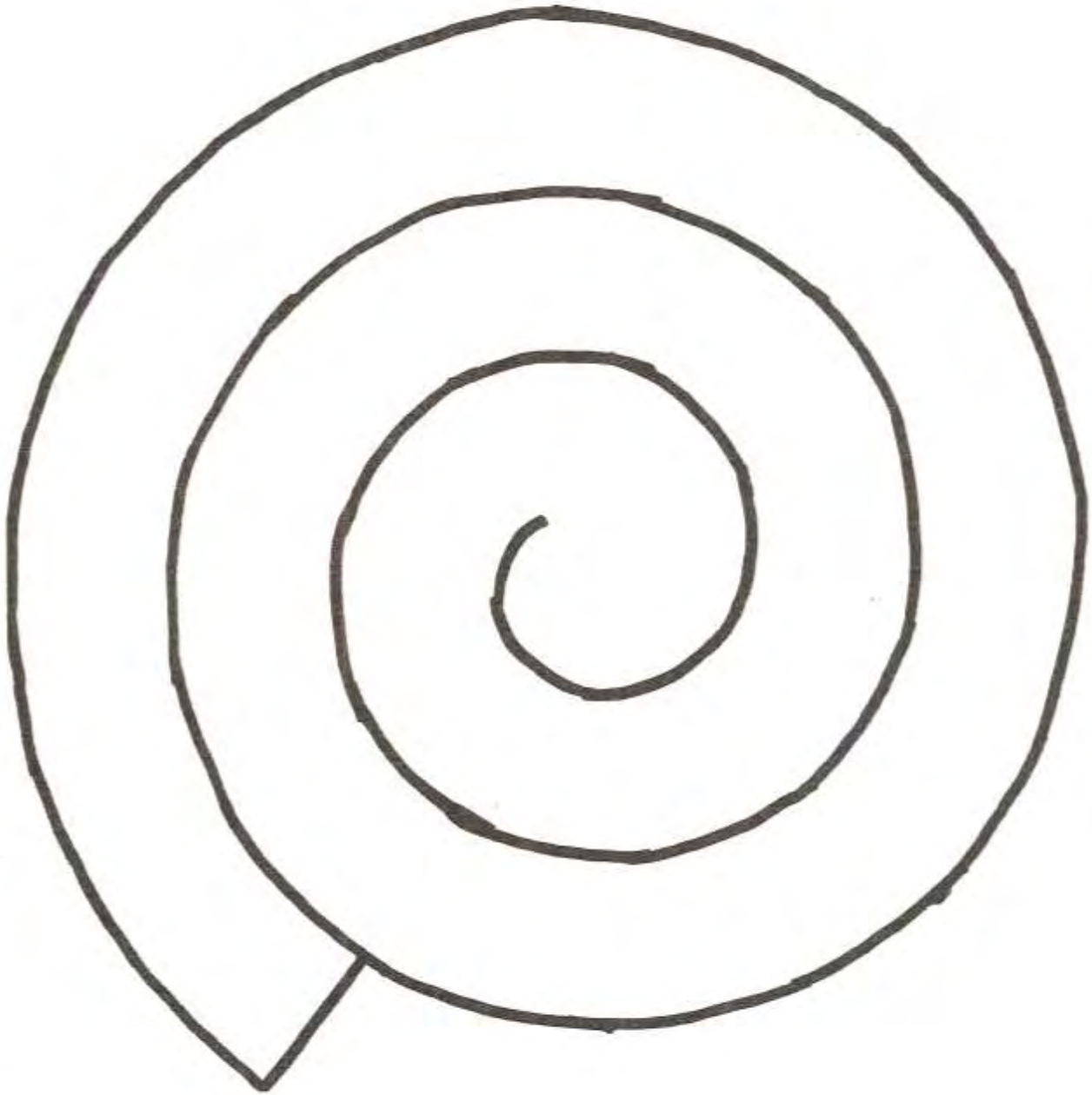
Find and circle the 20 words listed on the bottom of the page. (The words are vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.)

5. Closing Prayer

Spiral for Right-Handed People



Spiral for Left-Handed People



The Day of Pentecost

“Then they saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to Speak.”
(Acts 2: 3 – 4)



The Day of Pentecost

Find and circle the Hidden Words listed below from the Bible Story of Pentecost

L A N G U A G E V J J F A D F
T T Z S B B B E O R I B A F I
L F H D E B A E O R E Y E S E
R M V R U D L P E F O P E A O
N C Q A E E U G T F Y U E T Z
E R Q M Q E D T P I G H I N E
V R E A J O T E I N Z R D K T
A E S Z A N N H O T I E B Q R
E T U E D T V T O P L G D S I
H E O D E S Z I S U O U I W Y
F P H C U R D Y V D S Q M Y M
F I O S I N L V O B T A Z U S
Z S E E U O R M O C K I N G I
T J U O H L K M F I L L E D L
R P S B O M I G H T Y W I N D

AMAZED
BAPTIZED
DAY OF PENTECOST
FILLED
FIRE
GOD
HEAVEN

HOLY SPIRIT
HOUSE
JESUS
JOEL
LANGUAGE
MIGHTY WIND
MOCKING

MULTITUDE
PETER
REPENT
SOUND
THREE THOUSAND
TONGUES