

NEWSLETTER

May 24th, 2020

Week 9

Pentecost

Next Sunday is Pentecost, the birthday of the church! Although we cannot be together to celebrate this birthday, you can celebrate at home.

Pentecost falls 50 days after Easter, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to the gathered followers of Jesus. “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven... they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:2-4).

The symbols of Pentecost, based on the description from Acts, are wind and fire.

On the day of Pentecost 3000 people became Christians. It was like the church’s birthday! The Holy Spirit came to the disciples with wind and fire and helped them to do things they’d never been able to do before like speak other languages and have the courage to speak in front of crowds of people!

Sometimes we feel like we can’t do things or we’d like to change but it’s really hard and we can’t do it ourselves. God sends the Holy Spirit to help us!

God can use us to do things we never thought we could do, if we trust him to help us.

Watch this video of the author of [The Day That God Made the Church](#) reading her book and some insider look at how the book was created.

Honoring Pentecost in your household helps focus on the gift and the work of the Holy Spirit, which fills us at all times and in all places (not just at church or churchy times). The Holy Spirit is the real presence of Jesus, as he told his disciples: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of Truth” (John 14:16-17).

Make Fire Sticks: Materials Needed

- Sticks (wooden dowels, bamboo, or sticks from outside)
- Several long pieces of ribbon. Mostly red with a bit of gold and orange to look like flames
- A short piece of ribbon
- Craft glue, or hot-glue

How To Do It At Home

1. Gather your household and read scripture. Try the passages from Acts 2 or John 14.
2. Make your fire sticks. Glue or fasten the long pieces of ribbon to one end of the stick. Then use the shorter piece of ribbon to wrap around the top of the stick – cover the glued ends so that it looks tidy.
3. Take your fire sticks outside. Watch the wind bring them to life. Remember that like wind, we cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we constantly experience its effects.
4. Enjoy! Leave your fire sticks out for the season after Pentecost, which lasts until Advent.



Bible Readings For This Activity

Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.