



Pentecost: Resources for Families

Background

This week in Children's Worship, we celebrate Pentecost—the day the when the apostles received the gift of Holy Spirit, and the birthday of the Church. Pentecost is a wonderful time to reflect with your child on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and how those gifts are present in the life of your child and family. Below are some activities, devotional resources, and book recommendations to help your family observe Pentecost.

Activities

Celebrate Pentecost with your child by doing one of the activities listed below.

- Pentecost Kite, Windsock, or Wind Chime (adapted from Faithful Families by Traci Smith). Kites, windsocks, and chimes are all moved by the wind. On a breezy day on or around Pentecost, take your children outside with the kite, windsock, or chime. As the wind moves the object, talk with about the connection between the Holy Spirit and the wind. We can't see the wind, but we can see how it moves the kite/sock/chime. The same is true for the Holy Spirit—we can't see the Spirit, but we can see evidence of the spirit in our lives, and the lives of others. (Take a moment to identify one way you have seen the Spirit at work in the lives of your family members.)
- Pentecost Mobile (adapted from To Dance with God by Gertrud Mueller Nelson): using cardboard or cardstock paper, cut out a dove shape and seven flame shapes. Have your child color the flames in red, yellow, and orange. Write one gift of the Holy Spirit on each of the seven flames (see Romans 12: 6-8). Or, cut out eight fruit shapes and write a fruit of the Holy Spirit on each fruit (see Galatians 5:22-23). Use an old coat hanger or a set of wooden chopsticks to make a mobile frame, and hang each of the shapes from the frame using different lengths of string. Place the mobile in a prominent place, such as over the dinner table.

Devotional Resources

Read about the story of Pentecost in the Bible. With older children, read the story directly from the book of Acts (Acts 2). Younger children will enjoy “God Sends Help” from the Jesus Storybook Bible. After you read the passage, ask some “I wonder” questions with your child. Here are some examples:

- I wonder how it felt to be in the room when the Holy Spirit came?
- I wonder how people felt when they heard the disciples speaking in their languages? I wonder how it felt to be a disciple and to speak in a new language?
- I wonder if you have ever felt the Holy Spirit?

Other Good Books for Pentecost

- Maybe God Is Like That Too, Jennifer Grant
- Seven Gifts, Barbara Brown Roessler
- Jesus and the Very Big Surprise, Randall Goodgame