

PENTECOST – A RED LETTER DAY

BIG IDEA

God sent the Holy Spirit to give us power to live God's way.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a balloon for each person

Get a Superhero costume for a parent
(a sheet makes a great cape)

Get 1 thumbtack, 4 pins, 4 straws, and
the pinwheel page from the appendix

Get a plastic plate, plastic cup, bendy
straw, blue tac, and tape or hot glue
gun (to make water powered boat –
optional)

**Put everything into the Faith
Box before you start except the
superhero costume**

INTRO

Remember how before Jesus went to heaven, he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit that God would send? Jesus said it would be even better than him being here on earth, because the Holy Spirit would be with them everywhere all the time.

So it was a really exciting day when they were gathered together and the Holy Spirit came. They immediately knew that God was with them in a whole new way! Today God still gives each one of us the Holy Spirit – children too – to empower us to follow Jesus and love others.



GAME

PARENT SWOOPS INTO FAMILY TIME TODAY wearing a super hero costume and declaring they are 'super-dad' or 'super-mum'.

QUESTION

What do you think my super power is?

(Make up a super power that suits you... e.g. Tickle Man – the best tickler in the world! or Super Flipper – the best pancake flipper!)

QUESTIONS

Who is your favourite superhero? (Is it Superman; Spiderman; Batgirl; the Incredibles or some other?)

What are their special powers? (Flying, strength, etc.)

What super power would you pick if you could choose one?

The superheroes only use their powers for good, and they usually have to save the world. How would you use your super power?

Actually super powers are great in the movies but compared to God's power they are nothing much. God's power created the whole universe and you and me too!

God wants to give each of his children special powers and gifts to be more like Jesus. That is why he sent the Holy Spirit!

READ

HAND OUT A BALLOON TO EVERYONE and have them blow it up and hold it untied.

Each time you hear the word "wind", let a bit of air out of the balloon.

The Jews have a feast called Pentecost which they celebrate 50 days after Passover. While the disciples were meeting together for this Pentecost celebration, some strange things happened. As we read, see if you can discover what special powers they were given...

“ The disciples were meeting together when suddenly they heard a sound from heaven. It was like the roar of a strong wind. Then something that looked like small flames or tongues of fire sat on each of their heads. That's when the Holy Spirit filled them with God's power. After that, they all began to speak in languages that people from other countries could understand. They couldn't believe it. Peter stood up and told the people about Jesus – about how he fulfilled God's promises and then how God had 'untied the death ropes' and raised him up from the dead. He told them to change their lives and turn to God, and to be baptized and have their sins forgiven. About three thousand people believed in the Lord Jesus that day and were baptized. ”

*Acts 2:1-13; Adapted from **Classic Bible Story Book**, Kenneth N. Taylor, page 239, Tyndale House © 2009*

EXPLORE

QUESTION

What super powers did Jesus have?

What were the special powers that the disciples were given by the Holy Spirit?

How were the disciples different than before?

ACTIVITY – 2 OPTIONS

For younger children >>

Cut out one pinwheel per child from the appendix and follow the instructions.



For older children >>

Make a water powered boat. Cut a small hole low down in the side of a plastic cup just big enough to poke a bendy straw in. Put some blue tac around the hole so no water can get through it.

Use a hot glue gun or duct tape to attach the plastic cup on to a small plastic plate.

Float the boat in water. Pour water in the cup so it goes out through the straw into the water under the surface. Watch your boat move by the power of the water!

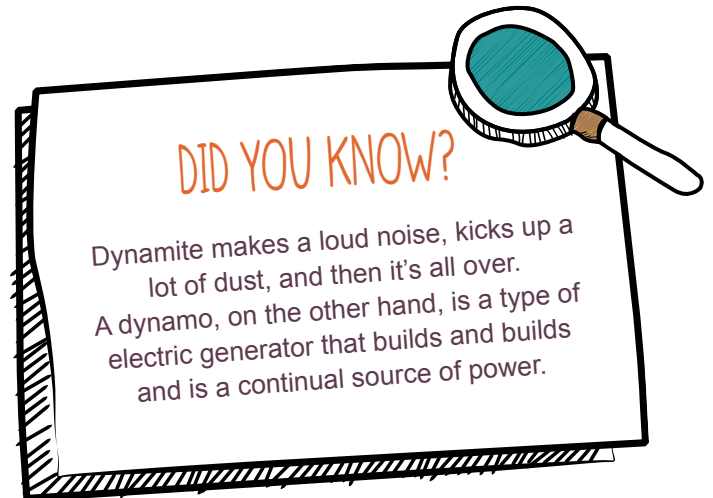
When God gives us power, we have to use it. It won't just happen. It's like the pinwheel/boat.

What happens if you just hold the pinwheel?

Or don't pour water into the cup on the boat? (Nothing.)

But what happens when you blow the pinwheel or put water in the boat? (They move.)

That is the way it is with us too... when we have the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we will be able to really love others and do what God wants us to.



PRAY

Thank you Jesus that you sent your Holy Spirit to each one of us. Please empower us to be good followers of you. Amen.



LIVE

This wonderful day of Pentecost now celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church. So we think about it as the Church's birthday. Just for fun this week, pick a night to celebrate, put a candle on a cake and sing 'Happy Birthday' to the Church!

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 Play 'Bible Mad Gab'

Try working out what Bible statements these words say. It helps to read them out loud to each other.

Gray Sand Peas Stew Ewe; Galatians 1:3
Gohen's In Gnome Oar; John 8:11
Use Yell Knots Deal; Exodus 20:15
Yule Fine Dressed Foyers Holes;
Jeremiah 6:16
Cheese Us Swept; John 11:35
Thatch Hilled Wren Huff Cod; Matthew 5:9
Elm Mitt Tough Self Asian; 1 Thess 5:8

Answers: Grace and peace to you; Go and sin no more; You shall not steal; You will find rest for your souls; Jesus wept; The children of God; Helmet of Salvation

2 Take time this week to fly a kite. Talk about how the wind lifts the kite and makes it fly. That is what the Holy Spirit does for us – lifts us to be the people we were created to be and do the things God wants us to do.

"When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, it wasn't like dynamite, it was like a dynamo and the power never stops flowing."
- Ken Hutcherson



4 PIN WHEELS

Cut out 4 pinwheels. For each one, cut along 4 dotted lines almost to centre. Push thumbtack through 4 dots in corners & 1 in centre. Fold 4 corners with holes to centre, and put a straight pin through all the holes to centre, and into a straw. For better spinning, thread a small bead on pin before putting through straw. Enjoy!

