

Pentecost at Home



Welcome Families!

We have prepared a series of activities and a story for your family to use in celebrating Pentecost. The activities have been based off Messy Church principals, which encourage people of all ages to get creative together. It is our hope that these activities will be fun for your family.

In our current circumstances we understand you may not have or have access to the items listed below. We welcome you to adapt the ideas given to best suit the time, space and resources you have available at home.

At Home Outline

Activities

- Baking Soda Prayers
- Flame Headdress
- Rolled Beeswax Candles
- Bubbles

Story

- Story
- Conversation Starters
- Prayer

Activities

Below are some suggested activities for this event. Depending on space, budget and time, you may choose to use all or some of these ideas. The main aim of these activities is to engage all the family in conversation and action together.

Baking Soda Prayers

You Will Need:

A baking tray with sides at least 2cm deep, baking soda, pipettes (droppers) or teaspoons, white vinegar, food colouring, water, cups for mixing the solutions in, newspaper/drop sheet for spills

What You Do:

- Encourage children to evenly fill a baking tray with baking soda. In one cup mix water and food colouring; in another, mix white vinegar with food colouring.
- Invite kids to fill a pipette with the water mix. Explain that when we try to do things on our own, without the Holy Spirit's presence we don't always make much of a difference. Allow them to drop the water mix onto the baking soda and comment about how it's made a little mark, but nothing very extraordinary has happened.
- Invite kids to fill a pipette with the vinegar mixture, and explain that when we ask for God's help, and invite the Holy Spirit to work through us, amazing things can happen. Ask kids to drop the vinegar mix onto the baking soda and explain that the Holy Spirit has power that we don't have.
- "When we mix the food colouring with water it's like us trying to do work without the Holy Spirit, but when we mix the food colouring with vinegar it has extra fizz, in a similar way, the Holy Spirit working through us has extra power."

Let's Chat:

Discuss how the Holy Spirit gives fills our prayers with God's power as your family takes the opportunity to pray and drop some vinegar mix onto the baking soda as a symbol of the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

Flame Headdress

You Will Need:

Sturdy card long enough to make headbands, sticky tape, scissors, coloured card in reds, oranges, and yellows, shiny paper or coloured cellophane, glue

What You Do:

- While the headband is still flat use your craft materials to make flames and attach them to your headband.
- When you have decorated your headband to your liking, tape the ends together and wear it!

Let's Chat:

The Holy Spirit can be a confusing concept for both older and newer believers. Talk with your family about who they understand the Holy Spirit to be. Perhaps you can write down any questions your family have so that you can find answers to those questions together after your at home service is concluded.

Rolled Beeswax Candles

You Will Need:

Beeswax sheets, 300mm wicks, rulers, pencils, scissors

What You Do:

Follow the instructions for making rolled beeswax candles, found here:
<https://www.candlecreations.co.nz/knowledge/candle-making-tutorials/make-rolled-beeswax-candle/>

Let's Chat:

Talk about any experiences they may have had with the Holy Spirit while you craft. Often, we do not have a visible sign of the Holy Spirit like the disciples did when the flames appeared; it might be good to remind your family that it is okay for their experience to be different to what occurred at Pentecost.

Bubbles

You Will Need:

Large bucket, 2 sticks with a loop of string between them, bubble mix (dishwashing liquid and water usually does the trick), drop cloth to catch drips of bubble mixture OR extra-large bubble wand from somewhere like Kmart.

What You Do:

Let everyone have a go at making large bubbles. The string loop method sometimes requires a bit of patience and practice, so you may want some little bubble bottles on hand to keep the little ones interested.

Let's Chat:

"Just as we can't see air, we also can't see the Holy Spirit. But just as we can see the effect of the air as the bubbles float and get blown around, we can see the effects of the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost the disciples felt the Holy Spirit in them, they spoke in languages they hadn't known before that moment. Those were the effects of the Holy Spirit."

Encourage your family to talk about ways they have seen the Holy Spirit work, both big and little ways.

Story

Fun storytelling methods

- Wrap a large box like a present that you can pull props out of such as a fan or a picture of a gust of wind, a picture of flames, or a flame headdress from the activity time, speech bubbles or a foreign dictionary
- Set up large sheets of paper and paint a scene from the story as it is told
- Sound effects: punctuate your narration with sounds of wind, a crackling fire, triumphant or jubilant sounds.

Story Script

When Jesus left his disciples and went to heaven, he told them "Stay here in Jerusalem. I'm sending you a special present; it is called the Holy Spirit".

So, the disciples and their friends waited in Jerusalem, they were a little bit afraid because Jesus had gone, and they were worried the Jewish leaders might still try to hurt them. But the disciples were also a little bit excited about their special present, they wondered what the Holy Spirit was, and what it would do.

On a special holiday, called Pentecost, the special present arrived. It arrived from heaven with a loud whoosh, like a big strong wind. The sound filled the house where the disciples were staying, and little flames appeared above each of the disciples' heads, but they didn't get hot or burnt by the flames.

The disciples could feel God's gift, the Holy Spirit inside them, all warm and fuzzy, and powerful. And then something amazing happened. They all started speaking different languages! Languages they were not able to speak the day before. So, they went outside and started talking to people, everyone was amazed and confused.

Peter started talking to the crowd outside and said "A long time ago a prophet said that God would pour out His Spirit on all people, this is what you can see today. God sent us His Son Jesus, and he lived among us and performed miracles, because God loves us so much. Jesus was executed, and died for our sake, but he was resurrected and will come back again. He wants to know you, and forgive you for the wrong things you've done. He loves you and wants you to love him back."

The crowd were touched by Peter's words, and lots and lots of them decided to love Jesus. Because Peter and the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, about three-thousand people decided to be baptised that day.

Alternative Stories

"God Sends Help", from the Jesus Storybook Bible.

"Holy Spirit" Bible Project Youtube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9i1Gjc>

Conversation Starters

Here are some wondering questions about the story above to help start discussion:

- I wonder which part of the story you like best?
- I wonder which part of the story is the most important?
- I wonder if there is a part of the story we could leave out and still have all of the story?
- I wonder where you are in the story or which part of this story is about you?

Prayer

Your family may choose to prayer aloud, silently, through art, or even letter writing. However you choose to talk with God, take some time to pray for the following:

- Thank God for sending His Holy Spirit to us
- Ask God to help you recognise the Holy Spirit
- Pray for opportunities to call on the Holy Spirit so that other people can have a relationship with God.