

Adventures with GOD!

PENTECOST (B.2.SPRING.3)

Biblical Reference	Acts 2:1-13
Key Verse	Acts 2:4
Key Concept	God has given me the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the function of the Holy Spirit in their lives. 2. Draw a picture of the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost. 3. Give thanks to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Life Application

It is important for the children in your group to know that they are a part of something special. The Holy Spirit is a gift that God has given to believers and its presence in our lives identifies us as members of God's family (the church). Being a part of God's family is a privilege. One of the privileges of being a part of God's family is that we have the help, guidance, and strength that the Holy Spirit gives us to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

Possible activities and class plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible reading	Bible	5 minutes
Review	Calendar, map of Israel	5 minutes
Introduction	Gift box	5 minutes
Bible exploration	Box, Bible, illustrations/figures	10 minutes
Craft	Symbols, crayons, scissors, glue, yarn, string, clothes hangers or a stick.	15 minutes
Bible Verse	Poster board, illustrations	5 minutes
My GROW adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

Adventures with GOD!

INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do so first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out-stretched, palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the biblical reference for the day (Acts 2:1-13) two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you through the story?

Review: Take out the calendar and mark off the current day, symbolizing another week that's gone by. Remind them that the disciples waited weeks for the Holy Spirit to come. Review what they must have been thinking and feeling. Have them act out the emotions. Or have blank circles and have them draw faces which show what emotions the disciples might have been experiencing.

Introduction: Have a gift box that is nicely wrapped. Write a little card and put it on the gift that says, "for God's children." Before you've wrapped the box, put a few things inside that can symbolize the Holy Spirit (a dove, an illustration of flames, etc). As you open the gift ask them what they imagine is inside. Then take out the symbols and ask them what they see. Ask wondering questions, "I wonder what type of gift this is. I wonder why God would give us this."

The Bible talks about the special gift that was given to followers of Jesus on a special day that we call Pentecost. Let's learn more about this gift.

Adventures with GOD!

Bible exploration: Sit in a circle on the floor and put the present in front of you. If it's possible have some figures (wood or paper/card board or felt) ready to use to tell the story. You will find the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13. Read it together and use the illustration/figures as you tell the story. Give them to the children and allow them to act out the story as you tell it. Have a map out to again point out where all of this was taking place, in Jerusalem. Make sure to tell the story with excitement and emotion as this was one special day. Have the children help you make the sound of wind and imagine what it would have been like to be with the disciples on that day. Help them to use their imagination as you read the Scriptures.

Remind them that while this special gift was given to those who were followers of Jesus, that other people were amazed and in awe when they heard and saw what was happening. God used this very special gift to touch other people's lives. Imagine hearing people worshipping God in many different languages. This might be a good time to teach them to say, "Glory to God," in a few different languages. Invite people from your congregation who speak different languages to come and teach the children a few phrases. This is our opportunity to show children the diversity in the body of Christ and the depth of this special gift: the Holy Spirit.

Craft: You will find an example of a mobile that you can make with the children which they could take to their homes. An idea to make it even extra special is to give the materials to the children in a gift bag that they can open. They can then color and put together the mobile with the materials that are found in the gift bag.

Or have them draw a picture of what they imagine the day of Pentecost looked like. Another option is provide which uses the Bible verse for the lesson (Acts 2:4)

Bible verse: On a big piece of poster board, write the verse and then read it slowly. Then ask, "Who was filled with the Holy Spirit? Who is "everyone"? So, if you love Jesus and choose to be a follower of Jesus, you are a part of God's special family and this gift of the Holy Spirit is for you too!

Make up a melody and sing the verse together or find a way to help them remember the verse. Then ask, why is this gift so special? Why do we need the Holy Spirit?

Mural: Put up another picture on the mural that relates to Pentecost.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories

Adventures with GOD!

of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W: Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

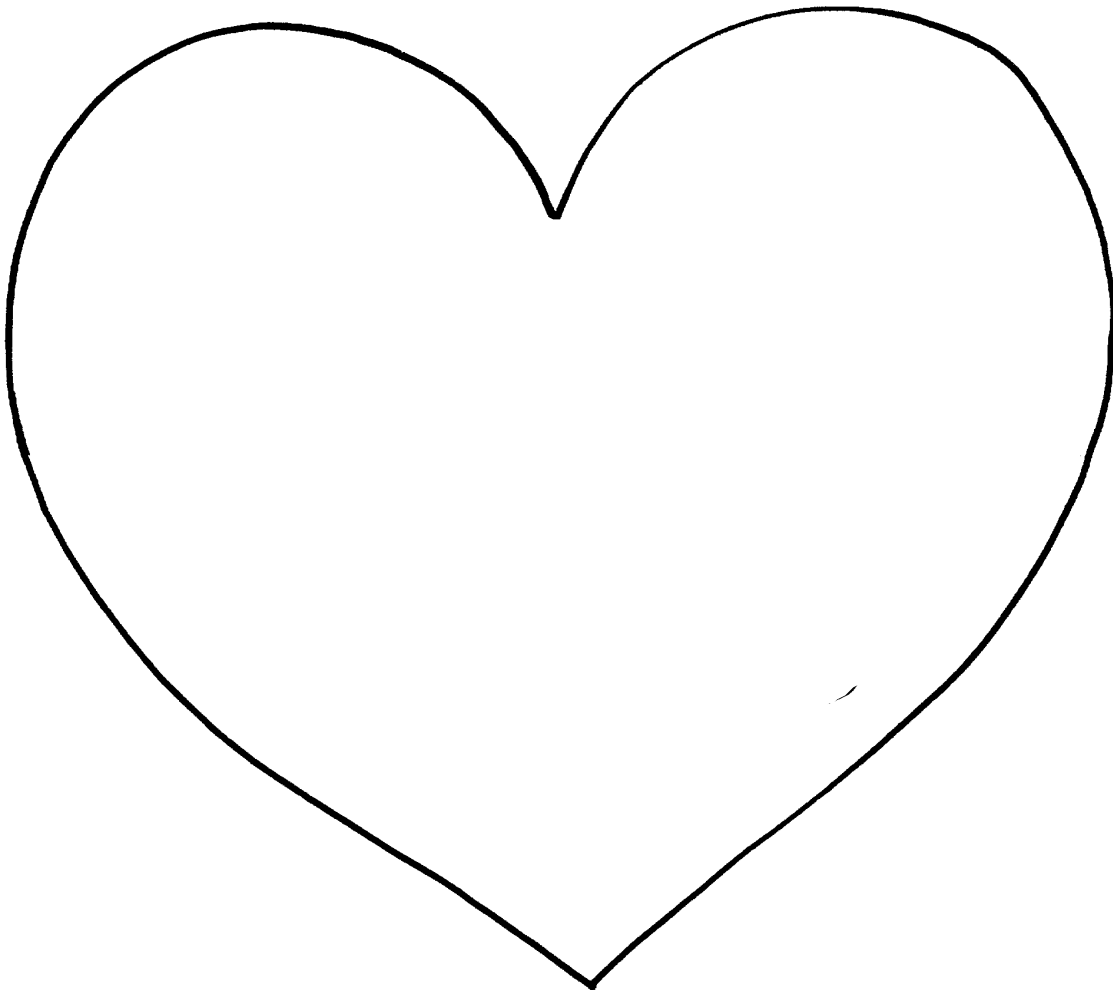
Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen.

Adventures with GOD!

CRAFT

Materials: A copy of a heart for each child
Crayons
The Bible verse written on a small piece of paper
Glue

Instructions:: 1. Give each child a picture of a heart, or a heart that has been cut out.
2. Each child can decorate the heart with something that signifies to them the Holy Spirit
2. Glue the Bible verse on the heart.

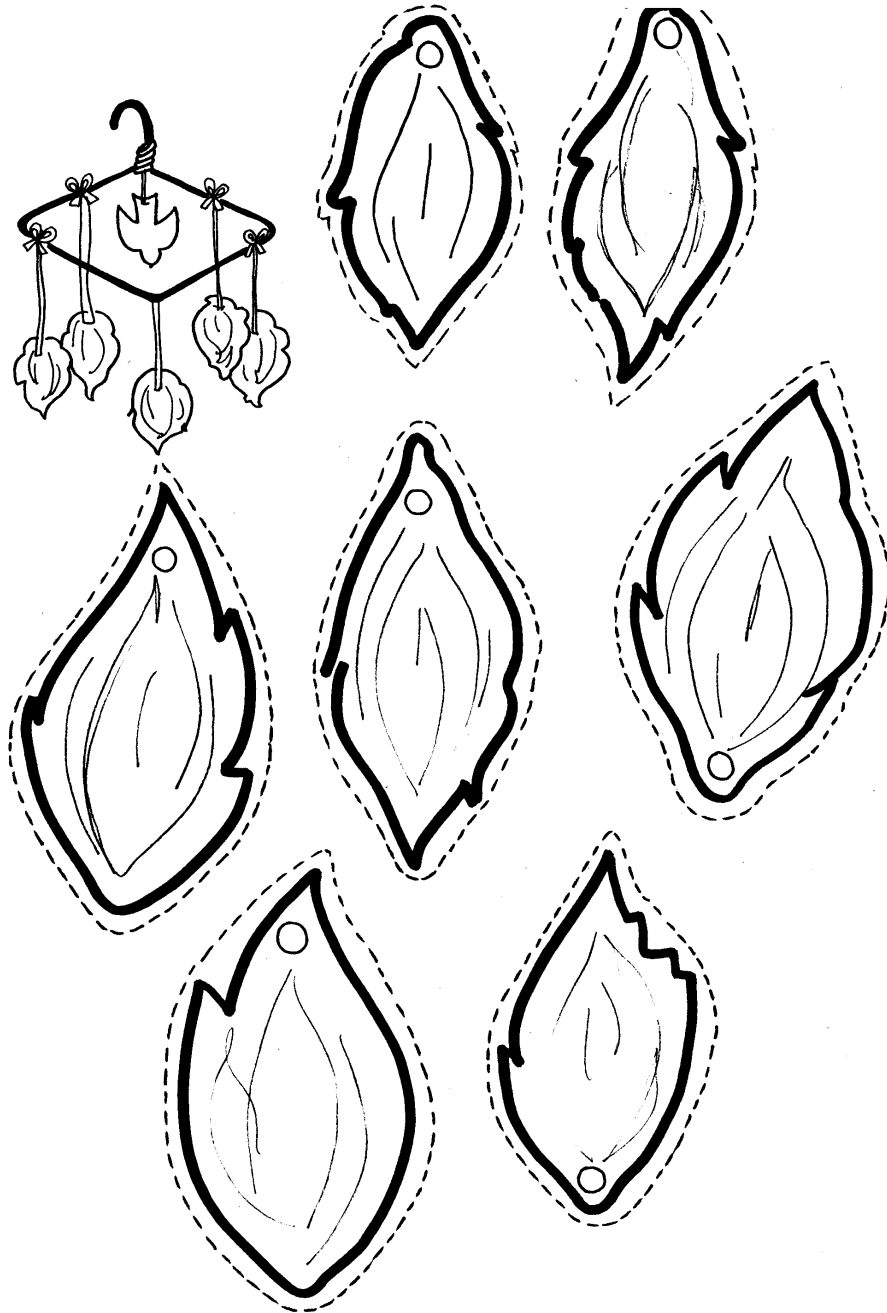


Adventures with GOD!

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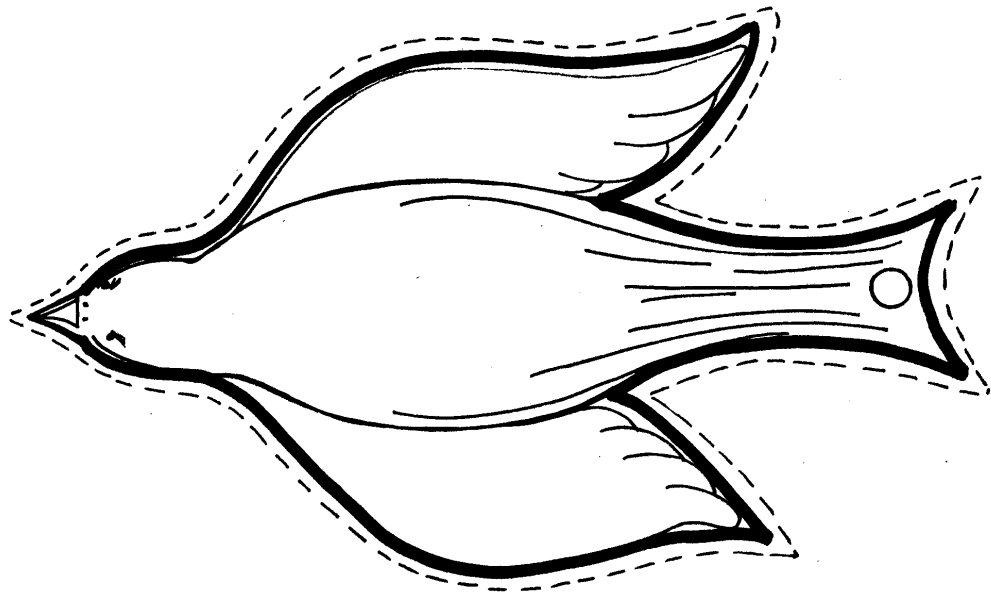
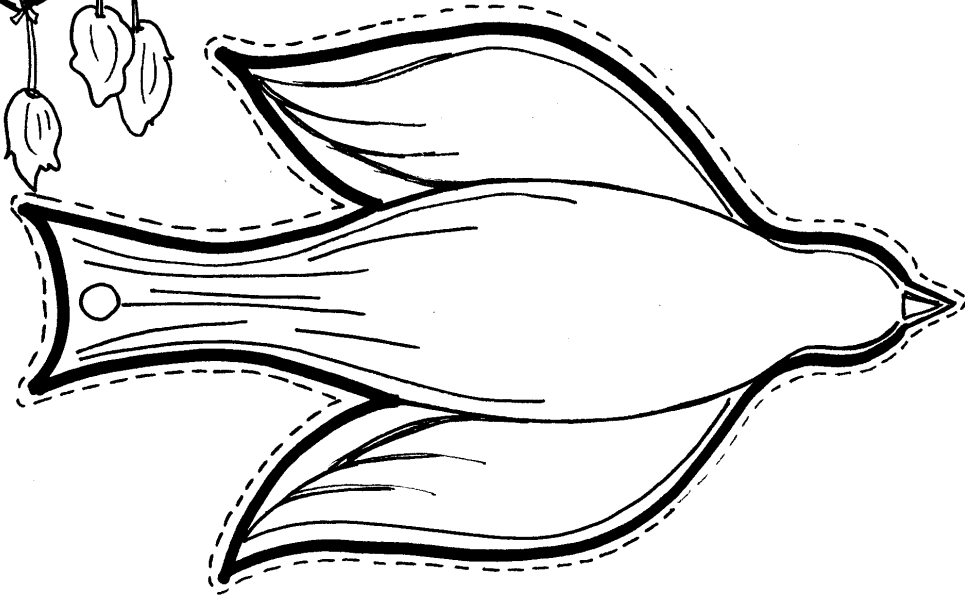
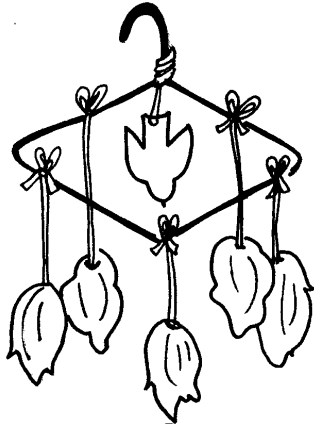
MOBILE

Make copies of the figures needed for the mobile, making sure there is enough for each child. Also, if you can pre-cut them and put them in a gift bag, it's just another way to emphasize the gift that God gives us in the Holy Spirit.



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MORE FIGURES FOR MOBILE



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ILLUSTRATIONS

