

Pentecost: The Day the Spirit Came



 **Parents & guardians, start here.**
Read these numbered instructions
to yourself throughout the process.

1

Thank you for guiding your child through this process. Please be sure you have **read the Parent Introduction Page** so you will understand your role.

2

Before you begin, read the introduction on the right to yourself. It will help you understand what you will be exploring with your child in the following pages.

3

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

4

Getting started. Discuss together: What makes a special event “special” for you? What everyday events do you make special? How?

This retelling of the event of Pentecost comes from the first two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. Pentecost is often called “the birthday of the Church” because receiving the Spirit enabled the apostles to preach and build community. God wants us to continue being a Church family. The Church helps us grow ever closer to God and to each other through the sacraments.

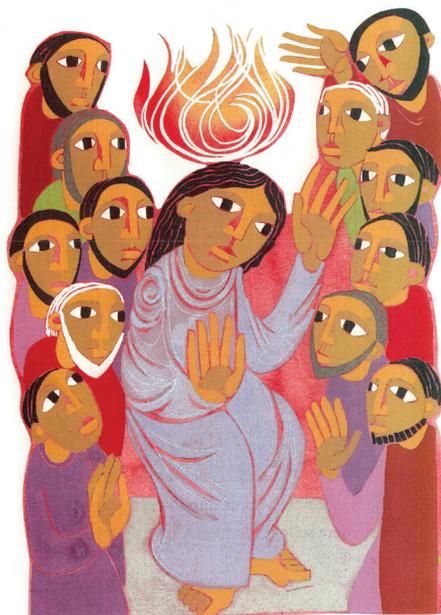
Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.



A long, long time ago, the apostles, Jesus' mother Mary, and some other women were together celebrating the Jewish feast of Pentecost. They went to the same room where they had celebrated the Passover with Jesus. It was hard for the apostles to believe that seven weeks had passed since their last supper with Jesus.

They spent a lot of time together after Jesus ascended into heaven. They prayed and they talked. They liked to share stories about Jesus. They liked to say, "Remember when....?" They also worried about what would become of them now that Jesus was gone.

The apostles wanted to do what Jesus had told them. They wanted to share the Good News with others. But they just did not know how they could do this. Jesus' friends had so many questions. They had all seen Jesus after he had risen. They had all been with Jesus when he left the earth and returned to heaven. They just did not know what to do next.



Jerusalem was crowded. People from all over the world were there to celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Jesus' friends were glad to be together in the Upper Room. They were glad that they had a place to come to pray. They prayed for each other. They prayed for their families. They prayed that they would be able to do everything Jesus had asked them to do.

Suddenly, they heard a great noise. It sounded like a roaring wind. The noise filled the whole house. The apostles looked around to see what was making the sound. In front of them, they saw what looked like tongues of fire. They should have been afraid, but they were not.

The tongues of fire came to rest on each of their heads. The fire did not feel hot. It did not burn their hair. Yet inside their hearts they began to feel the power of the wind. Inside their hearts, they began to feel the warmth of the fire.

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit. When they opened their mouths to talk, they began to speak in different languages. This really surprised them. They had never been outside of Palestine. Yet here they were, talking in whole sentences to each other in strange languages. They were so excited they began to shout. They ran out of the room and down the stairs. They ran outside into the street.

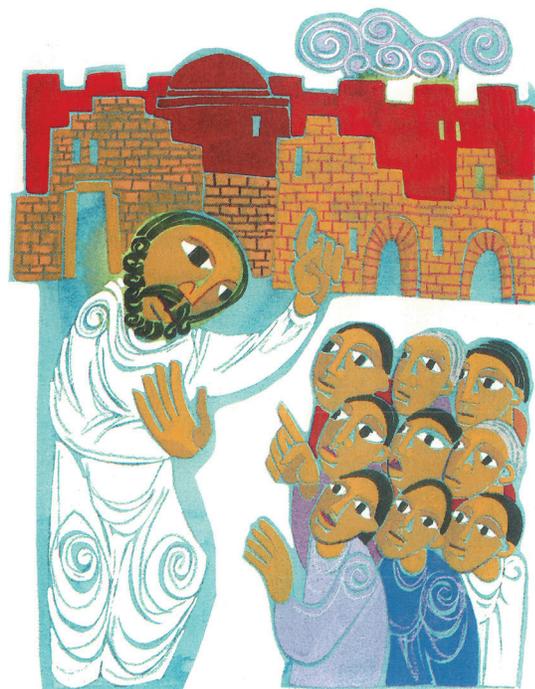
They were so loud that a crowd began to gather. The people in the streets stopped and stared at them. A man said to his friend, "That man over there looks like a fisherman, but he is talking in Latin." The other man said, "They all look like they come from Galilee, but this one here is talking in Egyptian." It was true. People from Asia, people from Africa, people from all over the world heard the apostles speaking in their own languages.

Peter stood up in front of everyone. He began to talk about Jesus. He told them how Jesus had died and risen from the dead. He reminded them that the Messiah would be a relative of King David. He told them Jesus was this promised Messiah.

Many, many people listened to Peter. They wanted to know more about Jesus. Peter told them they would have to be sorry for their sins. He told them they would have to be baptized. When they were baptized, they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many of those people became believers.

Now Jesus had many more followers. The Holy Spirit showed the apostles what they must do. The Holy Spirit filled them with the power to share the Good News. People who had never met Jesus came to believe in Jesus' message. Pentecost became the birthday of the Church.

God called out to the people gathered. The people listened and answered. The great and Holy Spirit was not only with them but also in them. And when they let the Spirit move them, great things began to happen.



1

Now discuss the story with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. How did Jesus' friends feel after Jesus ascended into heaven? How did that change after the Holy Spirit came?
3. Pretend you were in the crowd listening to the disciples and Peter at Pentecost. What would you have thought? What would you have done?

2

Get your child started on the activity on the next page, making sure they understand the instructions. Then continue to read below. The answers to the first part are: 1. room, 2. fire, 3. afraid, 4. Mary, 5. city 6. nations, 7. words, 8. Church. The answers to Peter's Speech: are 1. baptized, 2. gift, 3. your, 4. made, 5. off, 6. calls.

3

Just for you: The Spirit of God is with us. Great things happen when we are open to the Spirit.

Peter promised those who listened to him at the first Pentecost that great things would happen. This promise is with us today! Peter used Old Testament stories and the stories of Jesus' life to convince those around him that the Messiah had come. We are saved by our Messiah, and we are called to do great things. Our present lives continue to teach us this, whatever our age.

Speaking in Tongues

Unscramble the words to help retell the story of Pentecost.

The disciples were together in the Upper _____ . (MORO)

The Holy Spirit came to them in tongues of _____ . (RIFE)

After the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were no longer _____ . (FIARDA)

Jesus' mother was with them. Her name was _____ . (RAMY)

The disciples were in Jerusalem, the Holy _____ . (TYIC)

There were people in Jerusalem from many different _____ . (TANNIOS)

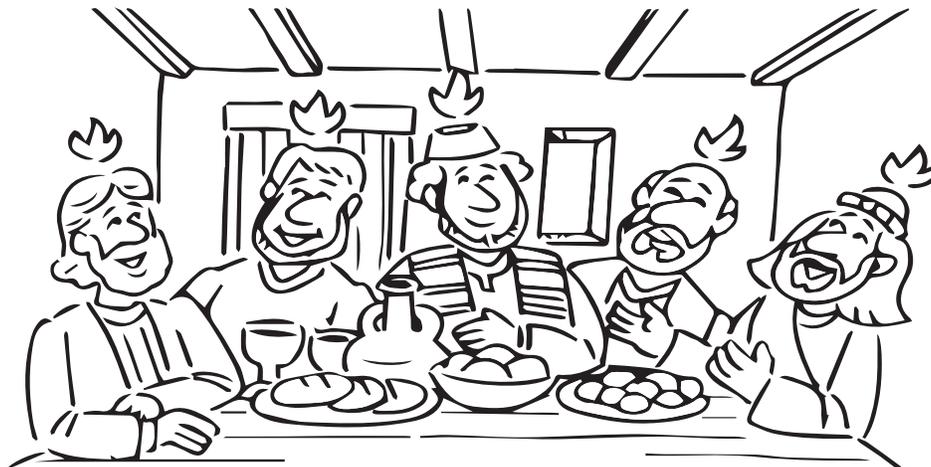
Peter spoke to the people and they could understand his _____ . (RODWS)

Pentecost is the birthday of the _____ . (HRCUHC)

Peter's Speech

Unscramble the words to find out what Peter said to the people in Jerusalem.

“You must reform and be PABIZTED _____ ... and you will receive the TIGF _____ of the Holy Spirit. It was to you and ROYU _____ children that the promise was DEMA _____ , and to all those still far FOF _____ whom the Lord our God LACSL _____ .”



The Spirit Weaves With Our Lives

1

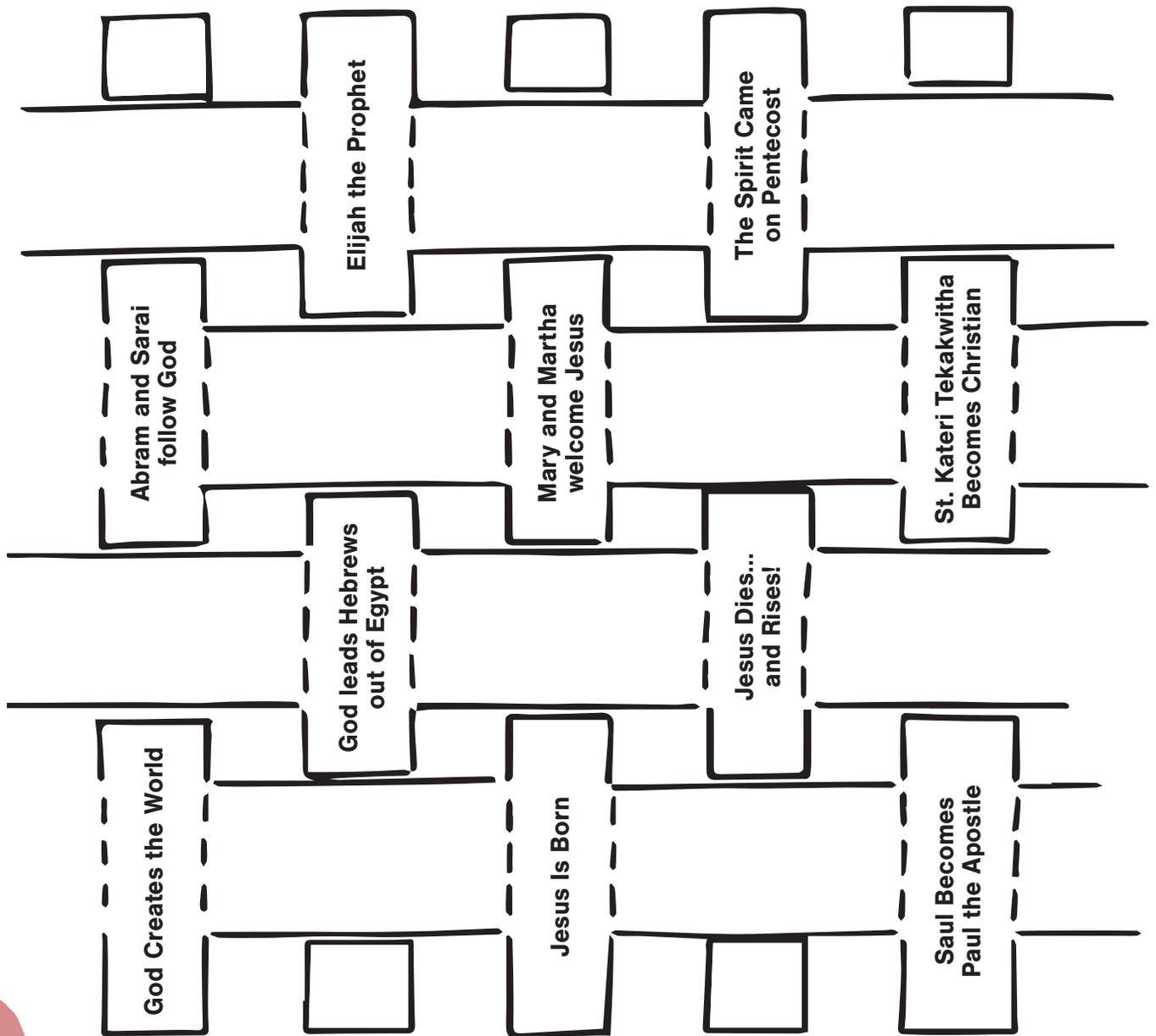
Help your child get started on their activity on the next page, and then continue to step 2.

2

Our stories, woven in with the stories of our faith family, form the fabric of salvation. In the blank spaces on the horizontal strips below, write down faith events that occurred through the years in your own family, including past generations. You could include sacraments received, when you joined a parish, or other ways your family has lived out its faith. Leave the last strip empty for events related to your child.

3

Talk to your child about how you each did your activity. Work with your child to write in faith events from their own life, such as their baptism, on the last strip.



The Spirit is With Us

Think about a time when you knew God was with you. Answer the questions below.

How old were you?

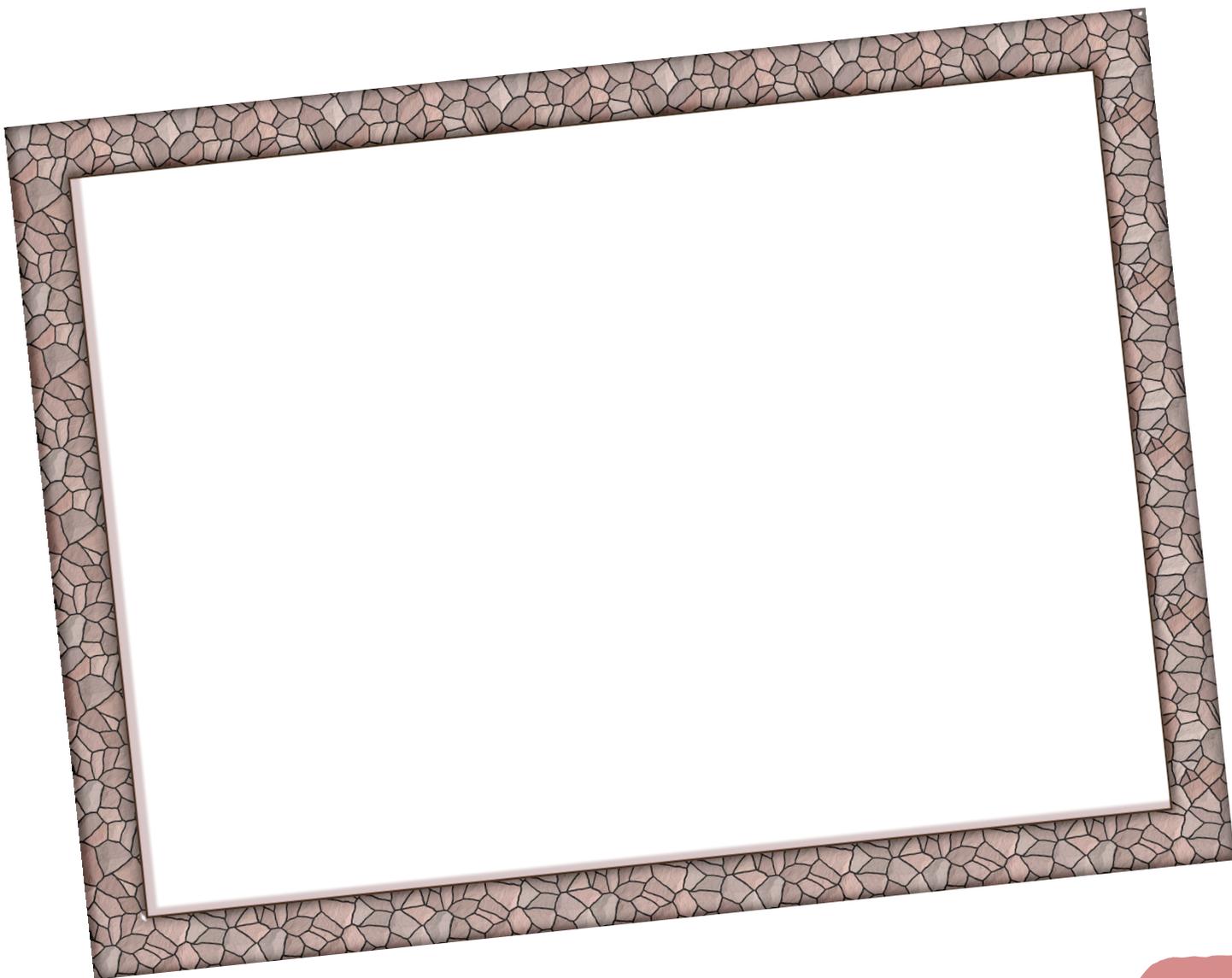
Who was with you?

Where were you?

How did you feel?

What would you like to name your story?

In the frame below, draw a picture for your story.



Special Events

1

Look at family pictures of weddings, Baptisms, First Communion or Confirmations. Notice how special we make these moments with fancy clothes, flowers, rings and so on. Make note also about who we invite to be with us at such cherished events.



Closing Ritual

2

Thank God by naming all the people related to the events on the weaving page. Finish with the closing prayer.

Through Jesus, with Jesus, and in Jesus,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, forever and ever.
Amen.

