

When God Sent The Holy Spirit

What is Pentecost? This is an incredibly special time in the Bible when the disciples and other Christians received the Holy Spirit. Before I explain why and how this happened there's a few things you need to know first.

God didn't just pick any day for this to happen. Like everything God does, he has a specific time, purpose and reason for it and Pentecost was no exception.

Pentecost occurred 50 days after Easter Sunday or 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus had already gone back to Heaven so the disciples and new believers of Jesus were waiting to receive the Holy Spirit because that's what Jesus told them would happen. Plus, since Jesus wasn't with them anymore the Holy Spirit would help bring them closer to God.

Just before Jesus was taken up to heaven, he told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on them and they'd be his witnesses in the whole world (**Acts 1:8**). Even more, he told them much earlier that the Counsellor (or Holy Spirit) would be sent by the Father, that He would teach them all things and remind them of everything he said to them (**John 14:26**).

So, the Holy Spirit is super helpful to us! He becomes a part of us when we become a Christian and understand that Jesus died and rose for us. When we're ready to try to live a life pleasing to God the Holy Spirit becomes part of us so we have a part of God with us all the time.

The day of Pentecost was a bit different though. People had already become Christians, but the Holy Spirit wasn't a part of them yet. This would be the first time everyone who was a Christian would receive the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was a day to celebrate the end of the grain harvest. It was like Thanksgiving is for us in Canada when the farmers have collected their crops and all the hard work is done.

The people would offer two loaves of bread they had made from their crops and two lambs were waved before the Lord as a thank offering. This was their special way of thanking God for the weather and for helping them get a crop for that year.

The disciples and other Christians had come together to thank God and suddenly a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. I have a feeling the windows weren't open either!

Next, they saw tongues of fire that separated and came to rest of each of them. I'm not sure if they could see the tongues of fire or if it's how the people could explain what they felt happening. When the tongues of fire came, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages.

They may have used the words tongues of fire to explain the way they were speaking, and the fire was a way to describe the Holy Spirit. Either way, they all got pretty excited and things got a bit noisy.

It says that there were people of many different nationalities staying in Jerusalem from all over and many of them speaking different languages. These people ran over to see what all the noise was about and were surprised to hear their own languages spoken throughout this group. The Bible even lists up to 16 different places people were from and could hear their language spoken!

Things must have sounded crazy! Imagine all these people speaking many different languages at the same time and shouting out praises to God excited that something amazing from God had just happened to them.



It was no surprise that the crowd that had gathered to check out what was happening thought that there wasn't something special happening, after all they weren't there when the Holy Spirit came to them. So, some of the crowd started making fun of them and started to think that they had too much wine and it was making them act funny.

When Peter started to hear these rumours, he raised his voice and talked to the crowd. He explained that they weren't drinking wine because it was only nine in the morning (people usually drink orange juice or coffee that early in the morning). Plus, the people celebrating Pentecost didn't eat or drink till at least ten in the morning.

He explained that Joel, a messenger of God's word said that this very thing would happen a long time ago. God usually would tell a prophet when something important was going to happen way before it actually happened. Just like the Bible told us a Saviour (Jesus) was going to come and save us long before Jesus was even born.

Peter continued and explained how God brought Jesus to them and that they had crucified him. The crowd understood and felt responsible for doing this and they wanted to know what they could do now.

Peter explained that they should repent (say they're sorry and stop doing bad things) and be baptized so that others would know that they believed in God and were trying to change. Now, because of Jesus death and his resurrection people could be forgiven and receive the Holy Spirit from now on.

That means we receive the Holy Spirit when we accept Christ or become Christians. The word Christian actually means Christ in us. The special thing about having the Holy Spirit is that God never leaves us so we can talk to him or ask for help anytime.

The Holy Spirit actually helps us in many ways, he comforts, teaches, helps us grow in our relationship with God and gives us strength to get rid of the bad habits in our lives. He also gives us power and helps us know when we've done something wrong. Of course, we need to want to grow, learn and change to be more like God for the Holy Spirit to really work with us.

So, Pentecost was super special for the disciples and special for us even now because that was the start of us receiving the Holy Spirit and being able to ask for forgiveness.



The Holy Spirit Has a Special Work

The Bible tells us about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

God the Father made us. God the Son came to die for us. God the Holy Spirit came to give us new hearts and make us like God once more.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit. But He came down to earth one day, long ago. It was after Jesus went to Heaven.

Jesus' disciples and friends stayed together, in a house in Jerusalem. Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem. "Wait there until the Father sends you the Comforter," He said.

So, they waited, day after day. They did not know how the Comforter would come. They prayed, and they sang hymns, and they waited.

And then, on a Sunday morning, about 9 o'clock they heard a noise – a loud noise, like a wind blowing very hard. But it wasn't the wind. The disciples looked at each other. And then they saw little tongues, like flames of fire. But it wasn't fire. The little tongues sat on the heads of Jesus' disciples and friends. And suddenly the Spirit of God was in them. The Holy Spirit filled their hearts.

Then they began to praise God more than ever. They began to talk about God, how He loves us all and sent His Son Jesus to die for us.

Other people in Jerusalem had heard the noise like the wind. They came to see what had happened. And they heard Jesus' disciples talk about Him. These people said, "Listen! These men are talking all kinds of languages! They talk languages of different people all over the world. They are telling everybody about the wonders of God!"

They asked each other, "What has happened?" then Peter stood up and said, "I will tell you what has happened. It is something that God promised long ago. You know how Jesus did great things, showing that He was the Son of God.

But God let wicked men nail Him to the cross, and He died. Jesus did not stay in the grave, though! HE IS ALIVE AGAIN. And He has gone to Heaven. He promised to send the Holy Spirit. And now He has sent Him. What you see and hear is the work of the Holy Spirit. He has come to help us to tell the wonderful story of salvation!"

This is the special work of the Holy Spirit. He helps us to want to tell others about Jesus. And when people hear how Jesus died to save them, the Holy Spirit helps them understand, and He gives them new hearts. So, He helps us to love and praise God as we should.





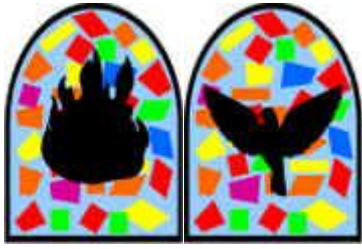
Shall we as a family say this prayer together if you feel comfortable to do it. If not, maybe you can say it in your own hearts quietly in your own time.

Isn't it wonderful that the Holy Spirit is willing to live in our hearts.

Prayer

Holy Spirit come live in our hearts we cannot be God's children unless we have you to give us new hearts. And then help us to tell the story of Jesus to others and please help them to believe and understand, too. Holy Spirit guide us so that we may know what You want us to do. Help us to hear You speaking in our hearts, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Stained Glass Craft



This is a simple cut and paste pretend stained-glass craft that is fun and easy for children of all ages to complete.

Children can use the template pieces provided or they can use their imagination and design their own. There are a number of different templates to pick from.

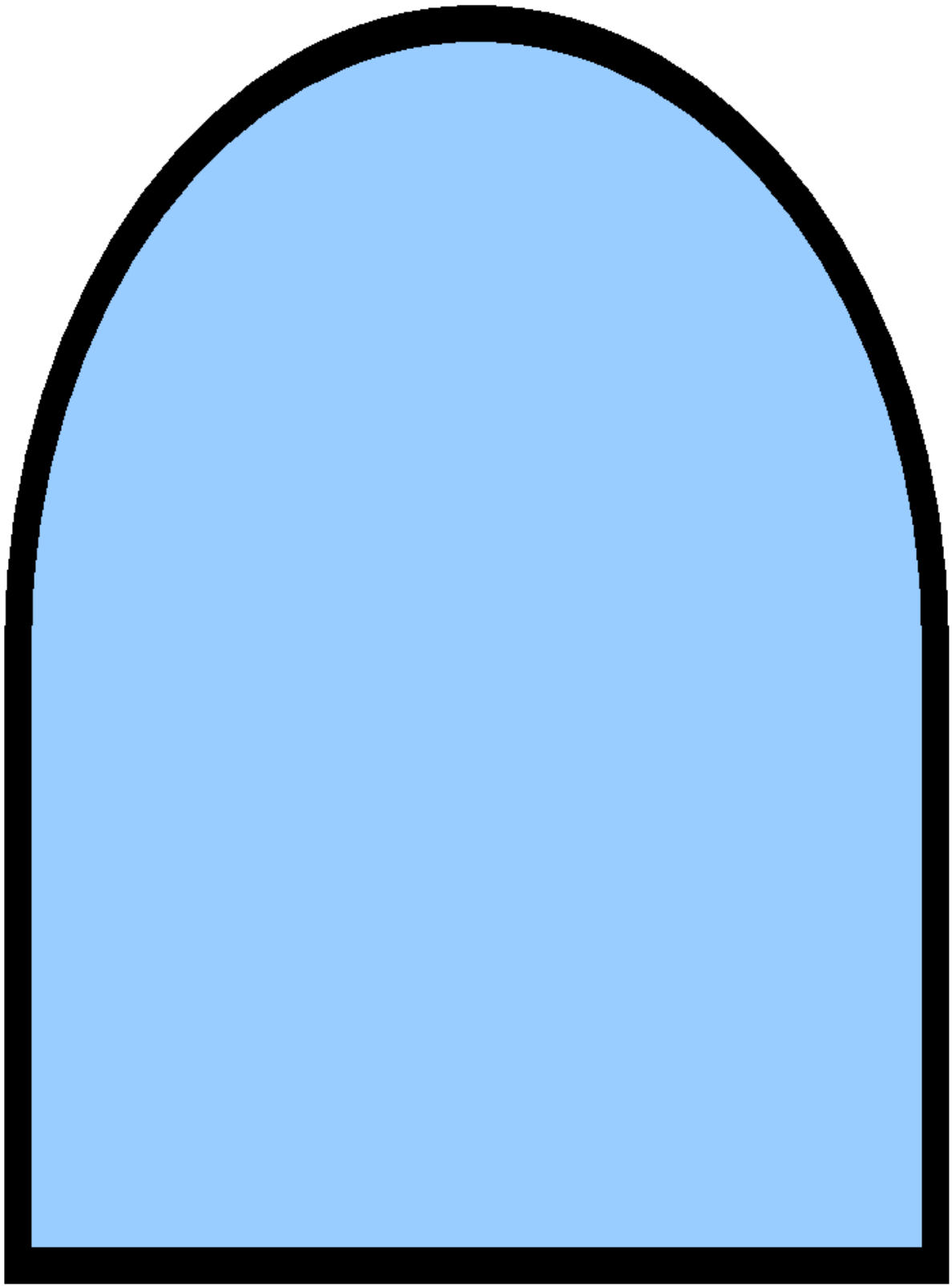
The dove and flame are good for a holy spirit or Pentecost theme.

Materials:

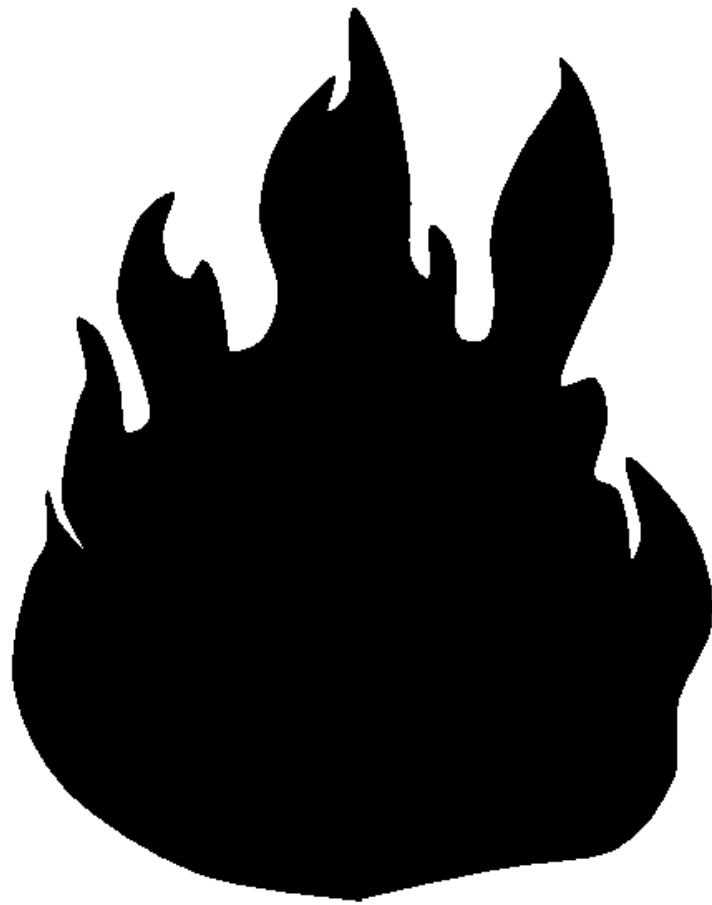
- printer
- construction paper in a variety of different colours.
- scissors
- glue

Instructions:

- Print out templates of choice
- Create the stained-glass window background:
 - Cut out an archway shape from blue construction paper or use the template provided.
 - Cut out random rectangular shapes from multiple colours of construction paper.
 - Glue the pieces all over the window to give it a stained-glass look.
- Cut out the shape from your chosen template or make your own. If using the B&W version, you can trace the shape onto black construction paper or colour in the image
- Glue it to the centre of the window.





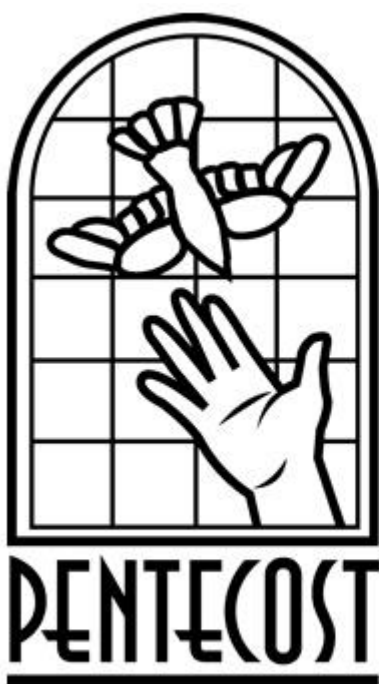


Filled With The Holy Spirit Jumble

Check your answers by looking them up in the Bible. (Clues are from the NIV)

Word Jumble
Acts 2:1-21

Unscramble each word and then place the numbered letters in the numbered boxes at the bottom to reveal the "Final Answer."



WNID
3

IFER
2

SIRITP
8 1 4

SEKPA
5

CDORW
6 7

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 4

Puzzle Clues

Check your answers by looking them up in the Bible.
(Clues are from the NIV)

1. A sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from heaven. (Acts 2:2)
 2. They saw what seemed to be tongues of _____. (Acts 2:3)
 3. All of them were filled with the Holy _____. (Acts 2:4)
 4. They began to _____ in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:4)
 5. Peter stood up and spoke to the _____ of people. (Acts 2:14)
- FINAL ANSWER: All of these events took place on the day of _____. (Acts 2:1)

Filled with the Holy Spirit

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Based on Acts 2:1-21 (NIV)



O M D E D N W Q T H X X G E M
U A Y N M H I B Q O O U K P Y
W J U W E V B L V H N L O E O
O O R I B A M O E E Z G Y N E
S R N N C E G W T A T N U T I
K P L D Y D M I R R Q J W E W
M A N A E G L N O T H E R C S
C U M L N R X G S L S Z Z O W
V P L J H G S A H P P N H S X
Y I C D Y N U M N P I Q D T U
F P J G X K W A F X S R U R W
T Z C B E X Y Z G S P S I Y B
Z F I R E G P E S E E T N T Q
D E C L A R E D G E A C M K Y
L S G F K V Z C V M K L N J T

FIRE	PENTECOST	WONDERS	AMAZED
HEAR	OTHER	SPEAK	WIND
SPIRIT	BLOWING	TONGUES	HOLY
DECLARE	LANGUAGE	SOUND	FILLED