

Pentecost

PICK 'N' MIX

Here are a number of ideas you can choose from as part of your ministry for Pentecost. The ideas are suitable for online discipleship groups, online worship or in the home.

In addition, we have recently produced some new weekly online children's discipleship material. Session Five of this material is also on the theme of Pentecost and includes Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families to think further about Pentecost at home.

We would love to hear how your ministry goes.

Please share via our social media channels @youthchildrenSA or email youthchildren@salvationarmy.org.uk.

This resource is split into six sections

- Start It** Gives ideas and activities for introducing the theme. >
- Tell It** Gives a range of ways to share the story of Pentecost. >
- Action It** Gives some ideas for unpicking the theme further. >
- Pray It** Gives suggestions for ways to engage in prayer together. >
- Sing It** Song suggestions. >
- Explore It** Check our Dropbox for send home activities for children to do on their own and with their families. >

EXPLORE IT MATERIAL

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yz93leu4070v4nr/AACQI-1OljqqHhkLNJJxllka?dl=0>

KIDS ALIVE

Kids Alive are still creating their weekly comic which you can read by clicking here: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>



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Start It

Hello!

What a great opportunity to greet each other in another language. Could you teach the children some words or phrases? If you are able to you could send each member of the group a phrase to learn in another language, then have them greet each other using it when they arrive in the session. Others could try to guess what language they are speaking. Maybe there are people in your corps or group who speak another language - could they teach you? Here are some ideas to get you started. <https://ideas.brf.org.uk/speaking-tongues>

Pentecost Scavenger Hunt

Challenge children to search their homes for items to represent words from the story of Pentecost. There are some clues to help the children.

1. **People** – Have you got some Lego figures? A picture of your family?
2. **Wind** – Could you find something that blows in the wind or flies?
3. **Fire** – Be careful, I don't want a real flame! A candle? Something yellow, orange or red?
4. **Languages** – Have you got a phrase book? Could you write hello in French or Spanish?
5. **Jesus** – What symbols do you think of for Jesus? A cross? A Bible?
6. **The World** – A map? An atlas? A globe?
7. **Gift** – Have you got something to represent a skill you are good at? A whisk for baking? An instrument for playing? A ball for kicking?
8. **Happiness** – What makes you smile?
9. **Dove** – Could you find something white? Who could make a paper aeroplane really quickly?
10. **Water** – You're probably thirsty after all that running around so you could grab a drink and bring it back with you!

Ask the children if any of the objects they have collected have been particularly important to them during the lockdown. Ask the children if they know what any of the words you shared have to do with today's story.

The Memory Game

Already done a scavenger hunt and want to try something different? Place some objects that represent each of the words in the scavenger hunt on a tray. Give the children one minute to try to remember the objects, then cover the tray and give the children one minute to write down as many objects as they can remember. Talk about what each of the items could represent in today's story.

Party Time

Why not start with musical statues for your Pentecost Party? Choose a happy tune and play a couple of rounds. Then discuss with the children about the favourite party they have been to. What made it so enjoyable? What times of joy have they had in the last few weeks? Why might we be thinking about a celebration today?

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Tell It

Here are some different ways to tell the story of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13.

Set the scene

Pentecost takes place after Jesus has returned to heaven. At this time, the Bible tells us the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the gift Jesus had promised them. Jesus had told them they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came on them. Some people interpret the Bible to mean that Jesus' followers had been waiting in their homes as they were scared about how people would respond to them for still believing in Jesus. I wonder how the disciples used their time waiting? I wonder how you would have felt as a follower of Jesus, waiting for what Jesus had promised?

Interact

The Bible Reading Fellowship have created this 'weird - but wonderful' Pentecost response story. <https://ideas.brf.org.uk/pentecost-response-story>

Reflect

Questions to reflect on the story. I wonder:

- ➊ What the disciples thought was happening when it sounded like the blowing of a mighty wind filled the house and saw what seemed to be tongues of fire resting on them?
- ➋ How the people on the streets felt when the disciples began telling everyone what had happened in the languages they all spoke?
- ➌ Jesus loved the disciples. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples keep feeling his love. I wonder how that love helped the disciples?
- ➍ How it feels to have God's love and Spirit poured on you?
- ➎ How has the Holy Spirit helped you?
- ➏ Who could you share with about knowing Jesus?

Retell

Many corps are using Godly Play to share stories from the Bible and help children explore what God is saying. If you have access to the materials and script, positioning your camera carefully will allow children to focus on the story being told.

Read

Display the Bible text of Acts 2:1-13 on your screen and read it to your group or choose a confident reader from the group to read aloud. Depending on your group you may read further or choose to share what Peter did next. The Children's Storybook Bible or similar have some descriptive versions of this story to help children picture what is happening.

Watch

God's Story: Peter Preaches - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKa9jqvJ378>

Perform

Get creative as you read through Acts 2:1-13.

- ➊ Use facial expressions to show the different emotions the disciples may have been feeling at different points.
- ➋ How can the children huddle in their homes?
- ➌ Who can create the loudest wind sound?
- ➍ Ask each child to pretend to be a tongue of fire.
- ➎ Use the phrases from the 'Start It' idea and get the children talking in different languages.
- ➏ Have some fun together trying to pronounce the names of different places or find them on a map you show on your screen.
- ➐ Have someone take the role of Peter and read Acts 2:38-39.

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Action It

Pentecost Banners

Let your community know that your church is still worshipping, praying, supporting and filled with the Holy Spirit by decorating your windows and display boards with banners from members of the congregation. Use any resources you can find to create large flame banners. You could add messages of hope or pictures of ministry your Salvation Army corps has been doing.

Flame Selfies

Encourage children to draw a self-portrait with a flame on the top of their head. They could then use different materials from around their home to collage the flame. As they draw you could discuss how you can share with others that you are filled with the Holy Spirit? Where could you display your image for people to see?

Origami Doves

Ask the children what symbols they know of the Holy Spirit. Explain in the Bible there are several different symbols. One is a dove. Children could create their own origami dove to hang in their room as a reminder that the Holy Spirit is with them at this time. This website has easy to follow instructions for an origami dove. <https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/origami-peace-dove-instructions-2540776>

Message of Hope

The disciples needed a sign and needed God's power. Is there a friend or family member you have not contacted while you have been in lockdown, who you could share a message of encouragement and hope with? Or maybe as a group you want to encourage another group of friends you would normally spend time with. There are lots of ways to send messages: letters, emails, phone calls, video messages etc. (Make sure you have the correct permissions.) Lots of groups are making fun videos, such as virtually throwing a scrunched-up ball of paper to each other, to send to teachers, sports coaches, youth leaders etc. Identify a way to send a message of hope to someone who you haven't spoken to in a while. Share with them what you have been doing and what you are looking forward to. Could you include some artwork you make or a gift you could prepare?

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Pray It

Fire Prayers

Light some candles as a symbol of God's light to guide us. If you are leading this session online, dim your own lights and let the flames flicker on screen. Ask the children to share about individuals in their communities that have been showing God's light at this time. Pray for energy and courage for them.

Thank God for the ways he has helped you shine his light. Pray for inspiration for ways you can continue to shine God's light in the world.

Pray for Peace

If you made origami doves, you could now use these in your prayer time to think about the peace the Holy Spirit can give each of us. Play some reflective music in the background and think about the times you have known peace. Hold the dove carefully in your hand and think about the places in our homes, communities and world which need care and peace now. Share these with each other.

Pray for Action

Display some photos or a map of your community on your screen. The children could begin by identifying where their homes, schools, clubs are. You could point out some local landmarks to the group using the annotate function.

The Holy Spirit is God's power working in us and encouraging us, and we are his way of sharing his love in the world. You could show your group how to use the annotate function and ask them to stamp or highlight or draw little flames on the places on your map/photos where you want to share God's love.

Talk about ways to practically do this in your community.

Pray your group will have the energy and opportunities to share God's love.

The Power of Wind

If possible, ask every child to have a balloon for the session. Read the following instruction to help the children pray with the balloon:

Blow the balloon up. Hold the filled balloon but don't tie it. Pray God's Holy Spirit fills you up and gives you strength. Release the air in the balloon slowly and pray that as you feel the air, you feel God's Holy Spirit empowering you.

Blow the balloon up. Hold the filled balloon but don't tie it. Thank God for when you have felt his presence. Release the air in the balloon slowly and pray that as you feel the air, you feel God's Holy Spirit empowering you.

Blow the balloon up. Hold the filled balloon but don't tie it. Pray to God to inspire you, as he did the disciples, so you know best how to serve Jesus.

Release the air in the balloon slowly and pray that as you feel the air, you feel God's Holy Spirit empowering you.

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Sing It

My Lighthouse - Rend Collective
Shine (From the Inside Out) - Elevation Kids
As The World Shakes - Hillsong Kids

Explore It

There are Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families to think further about Pentecost at home, available with Session Five of the new online children's discipleship material available from the Youth and Children's Ministry Unit.



Youth and
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