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# “Rushing Winds and Tongues of Fire”

Pentecost Bible Lesson for Kids from Acts 2:1-21

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It’s Pentecost! There are many exciting elements to examine when it comes to this church event. The Holy Spirit comes, the church kicks off, tongues of fire appear and tongues of language are spoken...whatever you hone in on, this is a blessed and beautiful occasion. For kids, we celebrate Pentecost for its historical importance, as well as recognition of how God wants us to continue sharing the Gospel with others.

**Lesson focus:** At Pentecost, the promise of Jesus was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. We recall these events in order to understand how we, too, have the Holy Spirit and should share the Gospel with one another.

**Passage:** Acts 2:1-21

**Target Audience:** Kindergarten-6<sup>th</sup> grade (or whoever you might have at home!)

**Materials Needed:** Candles, balloons, straws, construction paper, decorative materials, streamers, party horns, hair dryer, cups, beads, scissors, pencils, balls, Bible (all optional, depending which activities you choose to use—except for the Bible, you need that for sure).

## More Teaching Ideas about Pentecost

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# Game and Lesson Introduction

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**Lesson Opening:** In this story, the Holy Spirit helper came to the disciples, just like Jesus had promised. The events of Pentecost are remarkable: flames on heads, speaking in other languages, enthusiasm and excitement...this could only come from God! Celebrate the story. Sprinkle some of these bonus items in before, during, or after the Scripture exploration.

Here are some potential activities to enjoy...(select the best ones for your audience and age group):

- Try your hand at some language fun! Pick a foreign language, and learn some new words in it. Learn about the culture and people who speak that language, too.
- Make a fun craft to accompany the story (see ideas below). You can also make some "blown painting" by using a straw to spread paint across a paper (hint: cover your work area well!)
- Light some candles! With supervision, of course...
- Have a windy race...Using a straw, see how fast you can blow a ping-pong ball or pom-pom from one side of a room to the other!
- Fill a balloon with air...let it go, and see where it lands! With multiple people, see whose balloon can reach farthest across a playing area.
- Some people call Pentecost the birthday of the church. Celebrate with party favors and classic birthday games (pin the cross on the steeple? Get creative!).

Explain that Jesus had promised, before going to Heaven, that He would send the Holy Spirit for the disciples. He kept that promise, and in this lesson we will explore how Pentecost energized people to spread the Gospel good news. This message was not just for the early church, but for us, too, as we shine God's love to one another.

**Ask:** The Holy Spirit entered like a rushing wind...what is so important about air? (It gives us life! We have to breathe...God gives us life, too!)



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# Pentecost Bible Lesson (Acts 2:1-21)

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As always, how you choose to experience the story will vary according to the ages and abilities of your children (and how many are participating). You may wish to share video clips, children's versions, or other methods to communicate the story of Pentecost.

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested<sup>[a]</sup> on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. -Acts 2:1-4*

**Ask:** The Holy Spirit entered in this event, just as Jesus had promised to send His presence. How do we know that God is always present? (This could be a tricky question! Consider elements of prayer, knowing all we have comes from Him, and the Bible.)

Amazing things were happening here. Tongues of fire and rushing wind? Speaking other languages? Of course, we don't experience these things on a daily basis. This was a remarkable and special event in the life of the church. We may not see this all the time, but it's still amazing and exciting to learn about in order to consider how Christ still can and does work through us today.

*Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." -Acts 2:4-13*

Sometimes people don't understand what God is doing in our lives. They might criticize or critique what confuses them. The disciples were filled with power to do amazing and



remarkable things, like speak in other languages. A lot of people believed the things that they shared, but there are always some who will be skeptical or grumpy. Explain to kids that even in this experience, God gave the disciples wise words to help them explain what was happening.

*But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.[b] 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:*

*17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;*

*18 even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.*

*19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;*

*20 the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,*

*before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.*

*21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ -Acts 2:14-21*

Peter uses Scripture prophecies to remind the onlookers that God had promised what was happening would happen. The Holy Spirit enabled it, and that was only the beginning of the growth of the church.

**\*Ask:** The disciples were excited to tell everyone who would listen about Jesus. Who do you tell about Him?

Remind kids that all of us are called to celebrate what God has done. The church is not just one place, but is the way Jesus uses us and our love to continue spreading the joy and love of Christ everywhere. We can tell people about God, and we can also live as His people by demonstrating genuine care for one another. Everyone, everywhere is our mission field!

**Crafts:** “Spirit Wind” Pinwheel; party noisemaker shaker, tongue of fire headband, blown painting.



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# Snack Ideas for this Lesson

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Make yourself a "flame in a cup" with some fire-colored fruits or veggies like strawberries, oranges, carrots, and peppers.

- Have some flaming hot Cheetos!
- It's the birthday of the church...enjoy some cupcakes!
- Top crackers with orange and yellow cheese
- The Holy Spirit is often depicted as a dove...how about some Dove chocolates?!





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# “The Holy Spirit Breathes Fire” Craft Ideas for the Celebration of Pentecost

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Pentecost is a wonderful and blessed event in the history of the church. Not only does it commemorate the “birthday” of the Christian church (in a sense), but it also signifies the coming of the Holy Spirit. The day of Pentecost was an exciting and amazing time, but it’s important to remember that it was only the beginning. We are called to share the good news of the Gospel with all around us, and to spread the love of Jesus with the world! These crafts remind kids of the joy of Pentecost, and of the Holy Spirit’s power.

## Bible Verses or Craft Captions to Consider... (Main Text: Acts 2:1-11)

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. <sup>43</sup>And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. -Acts 2:42-43*

*And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. -Acts 2:2-4*

*The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost...and is still with us!*

*Sound, Wind, and Fire...Happy Pentecost Birthday to the Church!*

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# Craft one: “Tongue of Flame Headband”

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## You will need:

- Construction paper or card stock
- Markers, stickers, or other decorating materials
- Tape, glue, or staples
- Scissors



## Procedure:

1. Cut paper into long strips, in order to form into a headband.
2. Decorate the paper with markers, stickers, and/or verse captions.
3. Measure the headband to fit the desired wearer's head, and staple or tape together.
4. Create a “flame” by cutting and gluing paper together.
5. Attach the “flame” to the headband portion. Pop on a head, and have fun!



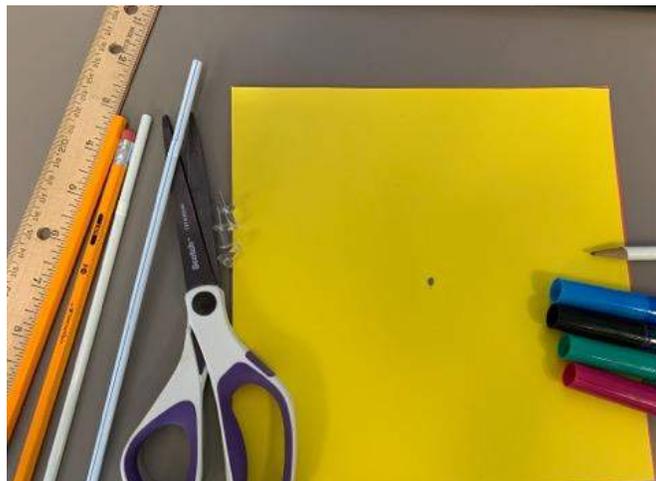
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# Craft Two: “Holy Spirit Pinwheel”

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## You will need:

- Pencils (with erasers) or straws
- Paper (construction)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Ruler
- Thumbtacks



## Procedure:

1. Make sure the paper is square in shape. Color or decorate as desired.
2. Place a mark in the center of the paper, and draw lines from each corner to the center (use a ruler if necessary).
3. Carefully cut from the corners of the paper to almost the center, stopping just short of the center to avoid cutting all the way through the paper.
4. Starting at one corner point, carefully pull every other “point” of the paper down to the center of the paper. Hold the paper together.
5. Push a thumbtack in the center of the paper, going through the points and into the eraser of the pencil (or the straw). Tape to secure if necessary.



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# Craft Three: “Holy Spirit Shaker”

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## You will need:

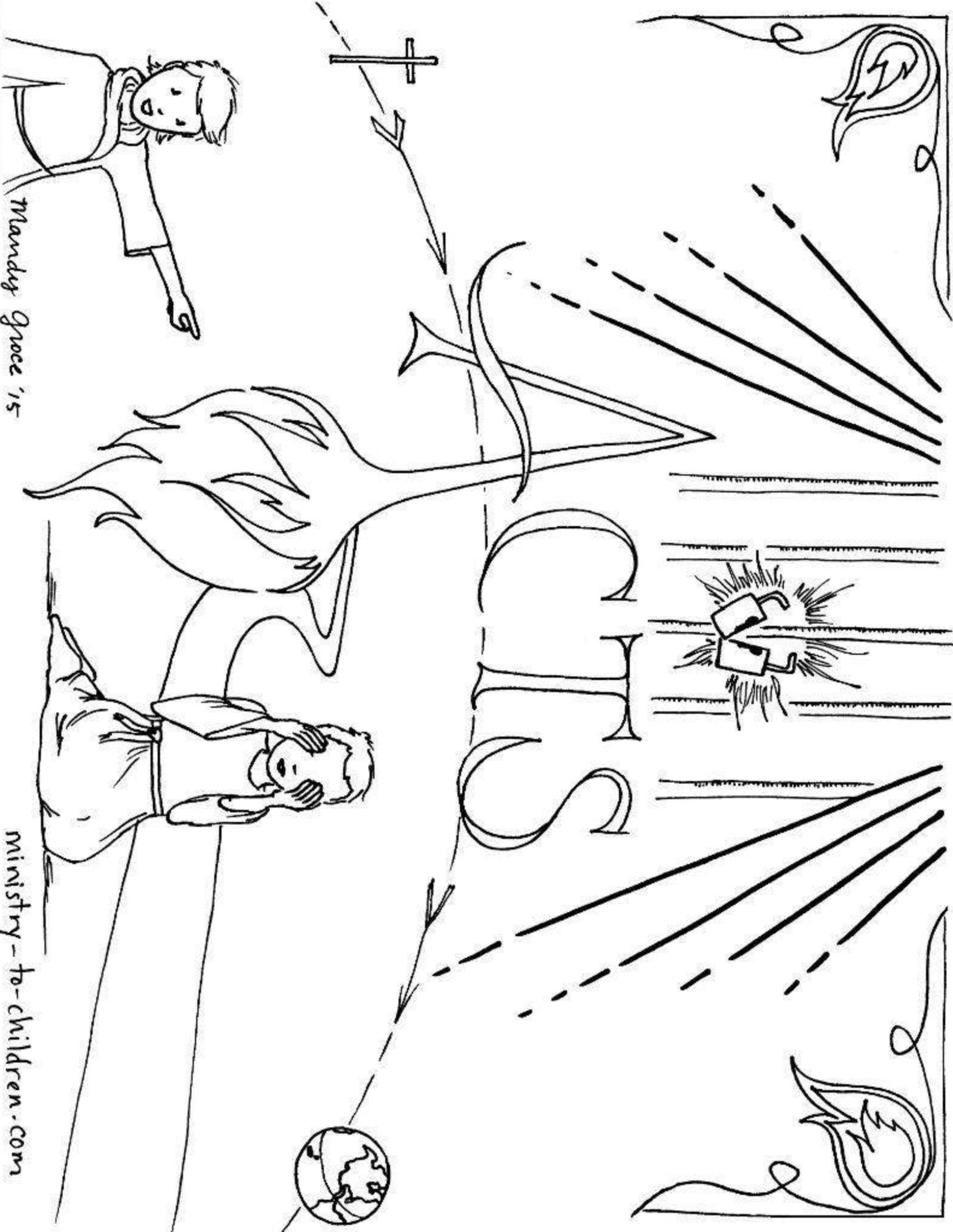
- Plastic, paper, or foam cups
- Crepe paper (streamers) or tissue paper strips
- Scissors
- Glitter, sequins, and/or beads
- Glue and/or tape
- Additional decorations or noisemakers as desired



## Procedure:

1. Decorate the outside of two cups with stickers, verse captions, or permanent markers.
2. Place beads, glitter, sequins, or other noisemaking or decorative elements inside one cup.
3. Place streamers or tissue across the top of one cup, to hang over the sides.
4. Tape the sides of the cups to attach them together.
5. Make a joyful noise, shake your streamers, and enjoy!





Mandy Grace '15

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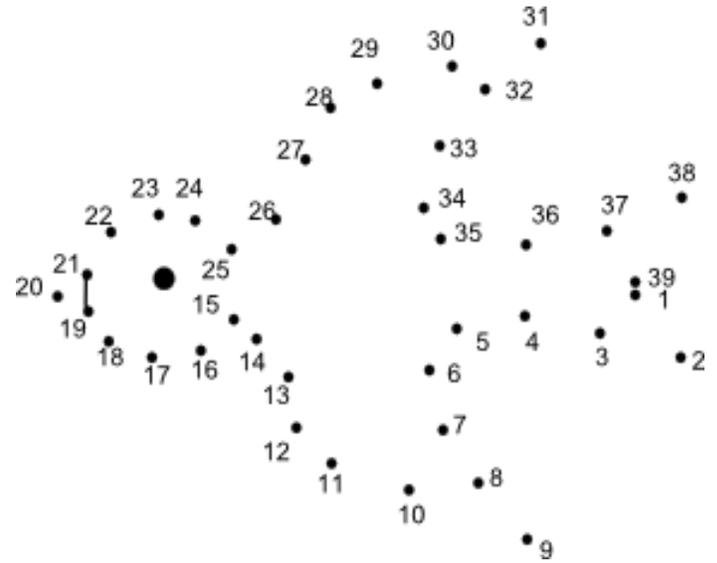
# Learn About The Holy Spirit

## The Trinity

God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three persons who are all the same person – God. This is called the Trinity (Trinity means three).

When we think of God living inside us, in our hearts, and speaking to us each day, this is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside every person who has become a Christian.

Work the puzzle to see a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.



## The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Before Jesus came, the Holy Spirit did not live inside every person.

God sent the Holy Spirit into a person when he had a special job for the person to do.

Read each verse, and write the name of the person who received the Holy Spirit.

**Genesis 41:38**

\_\_\_\_\_

who interpreted dreams and advised the Pharaoh of Egypt

**Exodus 31:2-4**

\_\_\_\_\_

who made beautiful things from gold, silver, and bronze

**Judges 6:34**

\_\_\_\_\_

a judge who led the people of Israel

**2 Samuel 23:1-2**

\_\_\_\_\_

who was the king of Israel and wrote beautiful songs

**Daniel 4:8**

\_\_\_\_\_

who advised the king of Babylon and interpreted dreams

## What Jesus Said

When Jesus was on earth, he spent time with his friends. He told them that after he was gone, God would send the Holy Spirit to be with them.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would:

 come after                                                        went back to                                                       

↓   +   ⇨   ▲   ⇨                      ✨   +   \*   ▼   +   →

 give them                                                        to                                                                  

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                                                        them everything

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                                                                              them when they were sad

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## When the Holy Spirit Came

Use the picture clues to read the story of how the Holy Spirit came to all believers.

 told his  to wait for the  to come to them. One day the  of

 were all together. A strong wind brought . The  gave the  to

each person. They were able to  about  in different languages. About 3000 people

heard them and believed in  that day! Now the Holy Spirit lives inside each person who believes

in .

 Jesus

 Holy Spirit

 talk

 friends

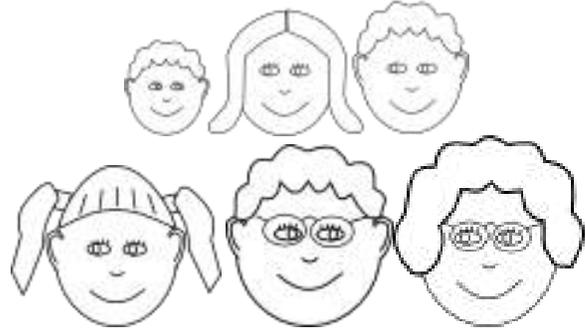
 tongues of fire

# Learn About The Church

## Jesus Started the Church

When Jesus said, "I will build my church," he was talking about the church of all Christians.

If you are a Christian, you belong to Jesus' church.



## Local Churches

After Jesus went back to heaven, Paul and other Christians traveled around, telling people about Jesus and starting local churches in the towns they visited. A local church is a group of Christians that live in the same area and meet together to worship and do God's work.

Look up the verses, read them, and complete the statements about churches.

Ephesians 1:16

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ for the churches he had started.

Acts 15:36

Paul went back and \_\_\_\_\_ the churches he had started.

Hebrews 10:25

Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ together as a church.

1 Corinthians 16:2

Give an offering of \_\_\_\_\_ each Sunday.

Acts 14:23

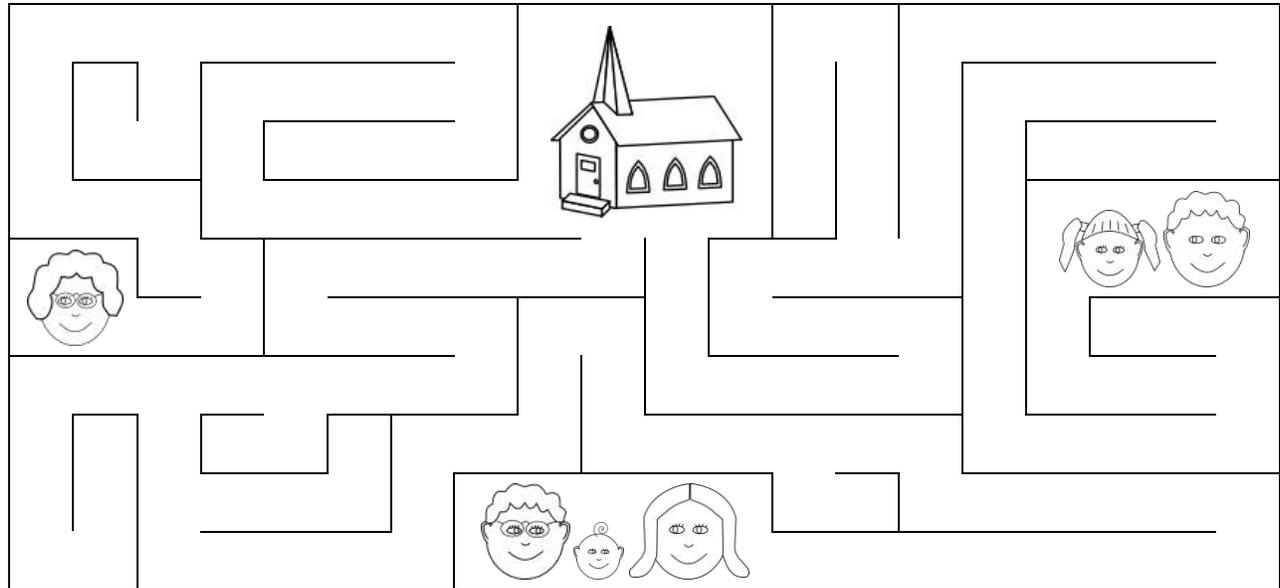
Each church had church \_\_\_\_\_.

Word List: leaders, meet, money, prayed, visited

## Church Buildings

Some churches meet in houses, schools, or other places, but most churches meet in church buildings.

Draw a path for each family to get to the church building.



## Your Church

What is the name of your church?

Who is the pastor of your church?

Who are some other people in your church?

What do you do when your church meets together?