

# Pentecost activities

## Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Acts 2 in their Bibles. Ask:

**On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' followers were all together. What suddenly happened that was out of the ordinary?** *(Acts 2:1-3. There was a sound like a blowing wind and there were tongues that looked like fire that came to rest on each believer. )*

**What impossible thing happened when the tongues of fire came to rest on each believer?** *(Acts 2:4. They began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak. You might give examples of different words in different languages like Spanish or French.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Why do you think it was important for the disciples to be able to speak in different languages?** *(It showed God's power, but it also showed that God wanted the message to go to all different kinds of people. "You will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem... and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8)*

**Why do you think the people who saw the believers were so surprised? Why would they have said, "Who would have guessed it?"** *(Because the disciples were ordinary men and didn't know these languages. It was too early in the day to be drunk.)*

**Were the disciples bold and brave before this happened? (No.) What changed?** *(The Holy Spirit filled them up and they became bold witnesses for Jesus.)*

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

*For this next section, you will need two small cups for each child, one paper plate, club soda and enough 7 UP or clear lemon-lime soda to serve each child. Keep supplies out of sight until needed.*

Have your children close their eyes and explain that you want them to taste test some soda pop. Explain that after they have a sip, they should try and describe the taste. When you have finished pouring a small amount for each kid, have them open their eyes and everyone drink a sip at the same time. Then, let them describe what they tasted. Their drink will look like 7 UP but will not taste like it. The children will probably struggle in their descriptions. When they have shared what the soda tasted like, you may then show them the container of club soda.

Ask them to close their eyes again and pour a small portion of lemon-lime soda (or 7 UP) in their cups. Let them drink and describe what that is like. It will be easy to conclude that, although the sodas look alike, they taste different.

**We poured two different sodas into our bodies that looked similar but tasted differently. Today we are talking about being filled with something that we cannot see—God's Holy Spirit. He wants to pour his Spirit into our souls.**

**Are there ways we can pour bad spiritual influences into our souls? What do you think?** (*Discuss what would happen if they were only around friends that encouraged them to do wrong. How would they be influenced if they watched TV for 12 hours every day and watched programs that showed people trying to solve their problems by making bad choices... like killing people or taking drugs?*)

**Can these kind of bad influences be poured into our souls? In other words, can we be filled with bad influences? Would it change the way you think or feel?** *Let the kids discuss.*

Pour lemon-lime soda (or 7 UP) into each of the children's cups again.

**How many of you like the taste of the lemon-lime (or 7 UP) soda better than the club soda? Let's think of it like God's Holy Spirit being poured on us. The Bible says that we can "taste and see that the Lord is good."**

**Before, we tried to describe what this lemon-lime soda tasted like. How would you describe the Holy Spirit poured into our lives? You see, when the Holy Spirit comes in our life, he brings us the power to trust Jesus as our Savior and he fills us up with Jesus' character. The Holy Spirit gives us the power to be like Jesus.**

**Describe what Jesus was like.** (*He was kind. He loved others. He helped others. He did what God wanted. He gave his life for us.*)

**Which of those things can we be like?**

**How do we receive the Holy Spirit?** (*We can pray and ask God to pour his Holy Spirit on us. He will fill us with his Holy Spirit every day.*)

**What happens when we are filled with his Holy Spirit?** (*We can tell others about Jesus and serve God the way Jesus did.*)

**Acts 1:8 says, "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me (Jesus) in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

Final Example:

Take one cup and set it upside down on a paper plate. Begin very slowly to pour the lemon-lime soda (or 7 UP) until it begins to flow over the sides. The kids will note how absurd this is. Say:

**When we don't allow the Holy Spirit to fill us up or pour himself into us, we don't have his power. But when we ask him to give us his power, he fills us up. Turn the cup right side up, filling the cup and letting it run over. God said he would let his Spirit overflow out of our lives so that other people would be able to experience him also.**

Conclude your conversation with specific ways the Holy Spirit can help you share God's love with your friends. You could also mention the fruit of the Spirit as found in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Prayer:

**Today we learned that *\*we can ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let's do that now.***

Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Thank God for giving the gift of the Holy Spirit who gives power to continue the ministry of Jesus.