

Pentecost

Theme: Telling the people the good news!

Prayer: Gather the group together and pray for each child by name. Ask God to speak to us this week and help us to understand more about Jesus.

Games:

Chinese whispers: Sit the children in a circle then starting with one child you whisper a simple message to them. Then the message gets whispered around the circle until it arrives at the last person who stands up and tells everyone what they heard.

Grab 3: This is a great game to tire your kids out FAST! You tape four circles or squares onto the floor and make them about 6 ft apart or you can use hoops. You place a number of objects in the middle of the room. Start off with a team in each corner and when you say "GO", the kids have to run to another circle and take one object and bring it back to their own circle. The object of the game is to get three objects into your own circle. This can be played with a number of teams, give each child a number and when called they compete against one another.

Memory verse: *"So we preach Christ to everyone".* Colossians 1 v 28A

Introduction: Have a box or packet of chocolates or sweets. Say they have been given to you but you want to keep them all to yourself! Get another leader to challenge you and say that good things should be shared. You can then share them out with the group.

Story: Acts Chapter 2. See resources section.

Application: From that first time that the Holy Spirit was poured out, the Christian church has continued to grow and spread all over the world. Today there are 6 billion people in the world and 2 billion of them are Christians. What percentage is that? (33%)
What does the word "Gospel" mean? (Good News) What is the best way to spread good news? (speak, write, text, e-mail, telephone.) Jesus told us to go and tell the gospel to the whole world. The first Christians did just that and ever since God has been calling people to do the same. God uses ordinary people like you and me and he fills us with his Holy Spirit which is his power. Without that Peter and the others would not have been able to tell people about Jesus. Is God calling you?

Prayer: In small groups, make a list of all the people who you know who need to hear the good news of Jesus. Put the names in the middle of the group and take turns to pray for those people.

Resources: Story, Funsheet

Song: "Great great brill brill" (Whoopah Wahey)

Extra Game: Islands. Scatter plenty of hoops around the floor, these are islands. Players wander around until the word 'island' is shouted. Everyone must try and get into a hoop. Remove one hoop each time. The aim is not to be out but an exercise in co-operation so no one gets left out.

After Jesus had gone back to heaven, the first Christians were all frightened and scared of being put into prison or even killed as Jesus had been.

There was a special harvest feast at that time called Pentecost. In Jerusalem where the friends were gathered, there were a lot of people coming for the feast from many different countries.

As Peter and the others were in a room, suddenly there was a loud noise like a strong wind blowing which filled the whole house. As they watched they saw what looked like flames of fire which spread out and touched each person. They were all filled with God's Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages.

When all the foreign people who were out in the streets heard this they were amazed because they heard their own languages being spoken.

Peter got up and began to explain.

"Listen to me," he said.

Jesus of Nazareth was a very special man. God clearly showed this to you by the miracles, wonders and signs God did through him. You all know this, because it happened right here among you. God sent Jesus to the earth but you killed him! With the help of evil men you nailed him to a cross. But God knew all this would happen. This was God's plan which he had made long ago. But the good news is that God raised Jesus from the dead!

So all you people should know this: God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ. He is the man you nailed to the cross!

When the people heard this they were sick at heart. They asked Peter and the other apostles, "What shall we do?"

Peter said to them, "Change your hearts and lives, believe in Jesus and ask for his forgiveness for all the wrong things you have done. He will forgive you and you also will receive the Holy Spirit just as we have done.

This promise is for you. It is also for your children and for all those who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself."

Peter warned them with many other words. He begged them, "Save yourselves from the evil of today's people!"

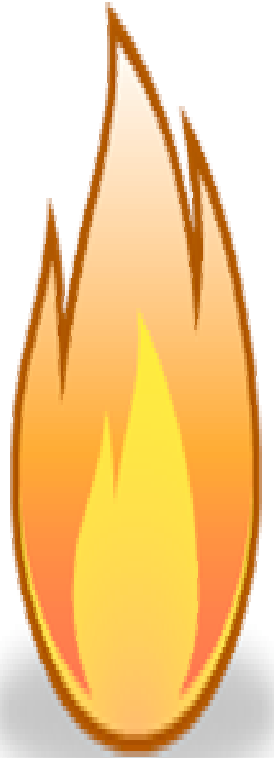
Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptised. About 3,000 people were added to the number of believers that day!

This is really how the first church was started!

Telling the people the good news!

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PENTECOST
SOUND
BLOWING
WIND

FIRE
FILLED
HOLY
SPIRIT

SPEAK
OTHER
TONGUES
LANGUAGES

HEAR
DECLARE
WONDERS
AMAZED

**"So we preach
Christ to everyone"
Colossians 1 v 28a**

