



Pentecost



Our Helper and Guide





Lesson at a Glance

Scripture Focus

John 14:16–17, 26–27

Lesson Goals

- to explain the Feast of Pentecost as the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples
- to define the Feast of Pentecost as the beginning of the Church’s mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- to name the Holy Spirit as the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, sent to help us understand what Jesus taught

Catechism References

683–747, 1287, 2623

Church Year Calendar

A Church year calendar is available in black-and-white at the end of this book on page 326 and in full-color at www.smp.org/discover_grade3.

Key Words

reveals, Holy Spirit, kindle, Pentecost

Music Suggestions

- “Holy Spirit Come,” by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- “Send Down the Fire,” by Marty Haugen (GIA Publications, Inc.)

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children’s Bible* and the Pentecost activity booklet
- the *Discover!* folder
- paper strips for bookmarks
- copies of the handout “Holy Spirit Flame Stencil,” one for each child
- red, orange, and yellow construction paper
- paper strips for headbands
- scissors, one pair for each child
- several bottles of glue
- several staplers
- markers
- a board or poster to write on
- materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Background Reflection

Something astonishing happens when the Spirit comes! Where the disciples were once afraid and in hiding, they now burst forth brave and enlivened. People from every nation hear their proclamations as they speak boldly of Jesus and of the greatness of God. With the coming of the Spirit, the early disciples find a voice and a call to do what Jesus instructed them to do. And the Church is born!

Jesus promised he would send a “Helper” to guide and instruct us after he was gone. He tells us that this promised Spirit will bring peace. This peace is a deep contentment and a confidence that God can bring good out of any suffering or evil.

At Pentecost, we remember the promise of Jesus to send the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is always there to help, guide, encourage, and inspire us to do great things and to be the disciples we are called to be. All we need do is to be open, aware, and willing to listen.



Get Ready! (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of the Pentecost activity booklet.
- Begin prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross. Then say, "Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Read aloud the prayer on page 1 of the activity booklet. Invite the children to say "Amen," and then close with another Sign of the Cross.

Engage Activity

- Invite the children to share what peace means to them. Encourage them to describe what a peaceful world would look like and what it might mean to have peace-filled hearts.
- Remind them that at Mass we offer a sign of peace to one another. Ask them to share different ways they might offer a sign of peace to someone. Affirm all reasonable responses.
- Invite the children to offer each other a sign of peace.
- Tell them that today they are going to read a Scripture passage in which Jesus promises to leave his peace with his followers. Explain that in this same passage, Jesus talks about sending a helper and a guide to always be with us.
- Ask the children if they know who this helper and guide is (*the Holy Spirit*). If they don't recall, tell them that they will find out in the Scripture passage.

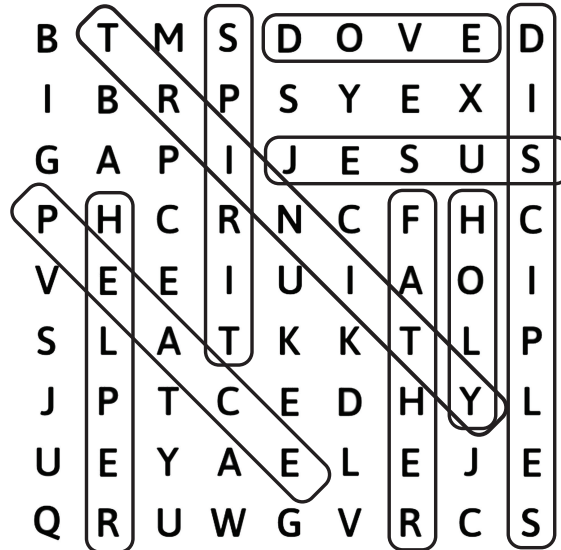


Dive In! (15 minutes)

Scripture Focus

- Invite the children to find John 14:15–31 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (pages 1689 and 1692). Point out the green leaf at the beginning and end of the passage.
- Have the children turn to the Featured Story on page 1690. Explain that the green leaves on this page mark that this is a shortened version of the same Scripture passage found on the other pages.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on pages 1690–1691 and describe what they see.
- Read the Scripture passage to the children. Then ask the children several questions to check for comprehension, such as the following:
 - What will Jesus ask his Father? (*to give his followers a Helper*)
 - Who is this Helper? (*the Holy Spirit*)

- What does the Holy Spirit do? (*The Holy Spirit reveals the truth about God; teaches us and helps us remember all that Jesus told us.*)
- What else does Jesus leave his friends? (*peace*)
- Have the children turn to the activity on page 2 of the activity booklet and complete it. *Solution:*



Pentecost

Understand It!

- Read aloud the Understand It! on page 1691, or have a volunteer read it.
- Invite the children to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review some of the key points with them:
 - The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one God.
 - They are the three Persons of the Holy Trinity.
 - We received the Holy Spirit at Baptism.
 - We cannot see the Spirit, but we can feel the work of the Spirit in us when we get a sudden idea or feel brave or do something good.
 - We can ask the Holy Spirit to help and guide us each day.

Live It!

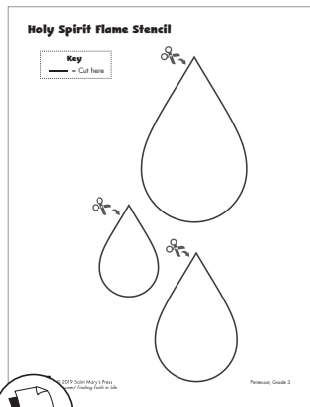
- Read aloud the Live It! on page 1691, or have a volunteer read it.
- Give each child a small slip of paper and have them write the prayer to the Holy Spirit on it to put in their Bibles as a bookmark. If time is short, encourage them to do this activity at home.
- Explain that **kindle** means “to set on fire.” Ask the children to share times that they have been “fired up” about something special.
- Invite them to draw a flame or a dove on the other side of their bookmark.

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in the Tell It! on page 1691.
- Invite them to share what is happening in each of the images. (*Image 1 shows Jesus speaking to the disciples. Image 2 shows the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, whom Jesus promised to the disciples. Image 3 shows Jesus offering his peace.*)

**Discover! (25 minutes)****Core Learning Activity (Craft)**

Note: The handout can be found at the end of this chapter or accessed online at www.smp.org/discover_grade3.

**Pentecost Headband**

- Distribute the handout and three pieces of construction paper to each child: one red, one orange, and one yellow.
- Give each child a strip of paper long enough to make a headband.
- Distribute the scissors and have the children cut the three flames from the handout and use them as stencils to trace the pattern onto their construction paper. Explain that the smallest stencil will be for the red construction paper, the middle-sized stencil will be for the orange construction paper, and the largest stencil will be for the yellow construction paper.
- Tell them to cut the construction paper once they have completed tracing the flame stencils.
- Distribute the glue, and invite the children to glue the flames on top of each other with red on the bottom, orange in the middle, and yellow on top. Help them attach the flames to the center of the headband strip with a stapler.
- Distribute markers, and invite the children to write "Come, Holy Spirit" on the headband.
- Assist each child in adjusting the band to fit comfortably around his or her head. Then have them staple the ends together.

Process the Activity

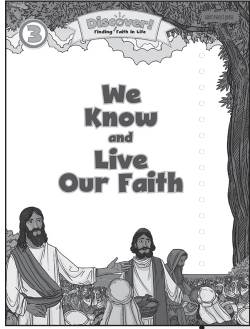
- Tell the children that when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as Jesus promised in today's Scripture, there was a sound of a great wind blowing, and the disciples saw what looked like tongues of fire that touched each person.
- Remind the children that the Holy Spirit helps us to be brave, kind, and loving even when we don't feel like it or are afraid or unsure. Tell them that these flames will help them remember that the Holy Spirit is with them and will help them to be "fired up" with the love of Jesus and love for others.
- Remind them that they received the Holy Spirit's power at Baptism and will be strengthened with the Holy Spirit at Confirmation.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the additional activities on page 314 in its place.

Core Teaching

- Explain to the children that the promise Jesus made in today’s Scripture passage was fulfilled by the coming of the Holy Spirit on **Pentecost**. Tell them that *Pentecost* comes from a Greek word that means “fifty,” and we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost fifty days after Easter. Explain that this recalls the day Mary and the disciples were gathered together and were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Tell the children that Pentecost is a special Sunday because we celebrate that Jesus kept his promise and sent us the Holy Spirit. Tell them that, after the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the disciples were brave and wanted to share the Good News and the way that Jesus taught them to live.
- Remind the group that the Holy Spirit is always with us and within us and connects us to God the Father and God the Son (Jesus). Explain that the Holy Spirit guides us and helps us understand what Jesus taught.
- Remind the children that the Holy Trinity is three Persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Point out that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- Tell the group that often we call Pentecost the birthday of the Church, because this was the beginning of the Church’s mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the children some questions to check for comprehension, such as the following:
 - What is Pentecost? (*It is the feast that celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit.*)
 - Why is it a special day? (*It is special because Jesus kept his promise; it was the beginning of the Church’s mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*)
 - What happened on the first Pentecost? (*The Holy Spirit filled Mary and the disciples with courage, and they started telling people about God and Jesus.*)
 - How does the Holy Spirit help us today? (*The Holy Spirit is always with us and within us and connects us to God the Father and God the Son; the Holy Spirit guides us and helps us understand what Jesus taught.*)
 - Who are the three Persons of the Holy Trinity? (*the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*)
- Have the children turn to page 4 of the activity booklet. Read the “People of Faith” section aloud. Add any other information you know about Mary, Mother of the Church, and encourage the children to say, “Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us,” during the next week.



We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to concepts introduced in this lesson:

- “The Beginnings of the Church,” pages 10–11
- “The Holy Spirit,” page 11
- “The Church Year” + activity, pages 28–29
- “Many Ways to Pray,” page 50
- “The Holy Spirit Teaches Us to Pray,” page 51

Read aloud, or invite a volunteer to read, the selections as time allows. Check for understanding by asking several questions. You may want to summarize the key concepts for the children.



Go! (10 minutes)

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all the different things they did in this lesson, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take time to get input from the group and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - The Feast of Pentecost is the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples.
 - The Feast of Pentecost is the beginning of the Church’s mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, sent to help us to understand what Jesus taught.

Short Closing Prayer (optional)

Note: Use this prayer if you do not intend to use the longer prayer service on the next page to close this lesson.

- Begin prayer by leading the group in the Sign of the Cross. Then say, “Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God,” and allow a few seconds of silence.
- Invite the children to turn to the Live It! on page 1691 of *The Catholic Children’s Bible* and to read together the prayer to the Holy Spirit.
- End the prayer with a final Sign of the Cross.

Prayer Service

Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Invite the children to wear their Pentecost headbands and gather around the prayer space. Light a candle (real or battery-powered). Ask the children to stand almost shoulder to shoulder in a tight circle. Explain that the Holy Spirit brings peace to our hearts and unity to us as Church. Explain that, after each prayer statement, the response will be in both words and actions: "Come, Holy Spirit" (raise arms up high), and "come!" (bring arms down and cross hands over heart). Explain that expressing unity means that the children should raise arms straight up and not bump others, and bring arms straight down to cross hands over hearts.

Leader: Let us begin our prayer with the Sign of the Cross. *(All make Sign of the Cross.)* Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God. *(Allow about 10 seconds of silence.)*

Leader: We celebrate that Jesus' promise was fulfilled on Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the disciples.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!
(Arms raised up, down, and hands over hearts.)

Leader: We are grateful for receiving the Holy Spirit's power at Baptism and look forward to being strengthened with the Spirit at Confirmation.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!
(Response as above.)

Leader: We remember Pentecost as the beginning of the Church's mission with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!
(Response as above.)

Leader: We know that we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us, guide us, and inspire us each day.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, come!
(Response as above.)

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, be with us each day. Guide our path to love and truth. Bring peace to our hearts. Help us follow Jesus as his disciples, and help us bring his love and peace to all we meet.

All: Amen.

Close with one of the music suggestions or another appropriate song.

Additional Activities

Materials Needed

- smooth river rocks
- bright colors of craft paint in small cups or containers
- paintbrushes
- tablecover for protection
- markers (*optional*)

Materials Needed

- a large poster board
- construction and blank paper
- several pairs of scissors
- markers or crayons
- glue, glue sticks, or tape

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible*
- a computer with internet access
- a computer projector

Spirit Prayer Rocks (15 minutes)

- Prepare by setting up a station with the supplies needed for this activity. Invite each child to choose a rock and to decorate it with craft paint.
- Invite them to draw a symbol of the Holy Spirit on the rock, such as a dove or a flame. Provide simple symbols that the children can use as examples.
- Encourage them to add other decorations to the rock. Then have them set their rocks aside so that they can dry.
- Tell the children that they can keep these prayer rocks to remind them that the Holy Spirit is always with them, and they can ask the Holy Spirit to help and guide them each day.

Pentecost Poster (15 minutes)

- Show the children the large poster board and tell them that the goal is to create a poster that celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised the disciples.
- Give each child some construction paper or blank paper and markers or crayons and explain that they each need to each come up with a symbol, word, or Scripture verse they can add to the poster.
- Offer some ideas they could use, and help the children individually if they get stuck.
- Invite them to cut out their symbol or cut around the word or words they wrote.
- Write "Come, Holy Spirit!" on the poster board as the children are working. Then have each child come forward and add their piece to the poster board with glue or tape.

Sing Along: Holy Spirit Action Dance (15 minutes)

- Play the video "Holy Spirit Fills Me Up" (YouTube, 2:40).
- Invite the children to watch the video and to sing along to the words.
- Show the video several times, encouraging the children to mimic the motions that are being used in the video.
- Invite the children to find the Featured Story on page 1714 and tell them that this is the story of Pentecost. Read the passage to the group and then explain that this is the day that Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled.

Holy Spirit Flame Stencil

Key
— = Cut here

