



ACTS 2 PENTECOST

Scripture: Acts 2

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Main Takeaway: Jesus poured out his Holy Spirit on the believers and Peter told the crowd the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Supplies: Matches, candles, bowl of water, wet sand, adult comfortable with a fire experiment, timer, birthday cake (optional).

Ask:

Who remembers what new book we are studying? (Acts)

What can you remember about the background?

What did we talk about last week? (Jesus ascending into heaven, telling the disciples to spread the good news)

Today we are going to talk about a very important birthday- the birthday of the church!

Read: Acts 2:1-13

Explain:

Pentecost was a holy day for the Jewish people called the Feast of Weeks. All men of Israel were supposed to come to Jerusalem on this day to present their wheat offerings and other animal sacrifices to the Lord. Later on, it became a day to remember that God led the Israelites out of slavery and gave them the Torah.

Because of this festival, people from all over the world were here, allowing for the gospel to go to many nations in one day.

But let's talk about these tongues of fire! Who remembers how the Israelites were led in the desert? (Pillar of fire). This represented God's presence. Now, individual fire is resting on each believer! Each believer is a temple- the place where the Holy Spirit of God rests! During the OT, only select people were ever filled with the Spirit. Now it is poured out on all people!

Experiment:

We are going to make a flame come down like the apostles experienced on that Pentecost.

Create a fire safe area by wetting down sand in a bowl or pan. Have a bowl of water nearby or a fire extinguisher. Place your candle (or several) in the sand and light it. Jesus said that it would be good for him to leave so he could send the Advocate (John 16:7). I bet the disciples had a hard time believing it would ever be good for Jesus to go, but he does and tells them it will be good. (At this point, have a lit match ready in your hand, and blow the candle out. Then, hold the match over the candle in the smoke and watch the flame descend to relight it.) If this doesn't work, you can also have two candles next to one another. Light both. Then, blow out one candle (while very close to the other one) and watch the lit candle relight the extinguished candle.

Explain:

Jesus poured out his Spirit on the believers and the church was born. Then, Peter preaches his first sermon.

Read: Acts 2:22-41

Explain:

Quite the sermon, huh? Peter doesn't shy away from the truth and the people are cut to the heart. What does Peter tell the new believers to do? (Repent and be baptized) Who can tell me what those words mean? (Allow for answers. If no one knows, repent means to turn from what you were doing and turn to God. To be baptized is to be dunked under the water, symbolizing the believer is participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus, dying to their old way of living and being raised to new life in Christ).

If anyone would like to follow the command that Peter gave (which is also a command that Jesus gave) to be baptized, see me after the service and I can talk to you about it.

Explain:

Throughout Acts, we'll see the believers are often filled with the Holy Spirit. DL Moody, a very influential pastor, said he needed to be regularly filled with the Holy Spirit because he leaks. When we believe, we are given the Holy Spirit, but I think it is very acceptable and common to regularly ask God to fill us with his Holy Spirit, because we tend to leak! Let's play a game to remember this.

Play a Game:

Have two adults be the fill stations. Play a regular game of freeze tag with 2 or more people being "it." Play freeze tag as usual, but the "its" have to get back to a fill station to be filled before 30 seconds (or a time you determine) is up, otherwise they are stranded and run out of fuel. The adult can keep the timer for each child or the child can count aloud their seconds. Play as long as you like.

Explain:

We need to stay in contact with our fuel station in life. We need to be with God in prayer and in his Word, spending time with him and drawing from his strength, power, and the filling of his Holy Spirit. What can you do this week to stay fueled up in your faith?

Optional: Eat cake and sing Happy Birthday to the church.

Memorize Acts 2:38

Close in Prayer