

Pentecost

Bunting

You will need: pencil or pen; card; paper or fabric; collage bits and pieces in red, orange and yellow; scissors; glue; string or wool; stapler

Make a triangle template – take a square of card and fold it in half, then cut from the fold to the top corner and open it out. Use this to draw round on paper or fabric for as much bunting as you need. Decorate each triangle with coloured scraps and patterns on a fire or flame theme. Staple them to the string and hang up the cheerful finished bunting.

Talk about the exciting, party feel to this time of year, when we celebrate the birthday of the church! Jesus' first disciples were praying when they saw something like flames above everyone's heads and knew it was Jesus' Holy Spirit coming to be with them and fill them up to make them more like Jesus.

Peace be with you

You will need: the words and actions for 'hello' and 'peace' in different languages; paper; coloured pens

If you have enough people to divide into two teams, see how many of these words and actions you can learn in five minutes, then 'test' the other team and see which team can remember most. Turn the words for peace into a piece of art shaped like a dove – another symbol for the Holy Spirit.

Talk about how amazing it must have been on that first day when the Holy Spirit came, to be able to speak and understand other languages! It must have brought people together in a new and different way.

Paint splatter flames

You will need: drinking straws; runny red, orange and yellow paint; paper; pens; glitter and glue (optional)

Draw a person's head at the bottom of the paper. Then put a teaspoon of runny paint above the head and blow through the straw so the paint splatters up the paper and makes a flame shape. Add a dollop of a different colour and blow again until your wildfire looks very cool. Add glitter if you want to.

Talk about the first Christians seeing the Holy Spirit of Jesus come to them as 'something like flames' resting on each other's heads, and hearing the sound of a mighty wind in the room where they were praying. What noise did your breath make as you blew down the straw? What do you think God's breath sounds like?

Pentecost Cupcakes:

You will need: cupcakes; red and yellow icing; other things to decorate.

Carry on the party theme and celebrate with some cupcakes. You could even have a party!

Pentecost Flames

You will need: yellow, red and orange paint; (plastic) forks; card or paper (black is a good effect).

Use a fork to blob some paint onto the paper and then swirl and pull or brush with the fork! Mix the colours as the flames flicker together...

Talk about: The power of fire reflecting the power of the Holy Spirit. What is fire like? What can it do? How might the disciples have felt seeing tongues of fire above their heads? How would you have felt? What do you know about the power of fire? What about the Holy Spirit?



Reflective Activity

You will need: scrap paper; pencils; fire or fire pit.

The Holy Spirit can help us in all we do. Is there anything that is worrying you, or making you sad? Write it on a piece of paper and with the help of the Holy Spirit, throw it into the fire – it's gone! Don't let it worry you or make you sad anymore.

Spinner Art

Use a salad spinner to try out some spinner art!

You will need: A salad spinner; red, yellow and orange paint; small paper plates,

Put a plate on the bottom of the inside of the spinner and blob some paint in. Put the lid on and spin!



Thinking and praying ideas:

The noise and the spinning as you make the pictures is a reminder of the sound of the powerful wind that came upon the disciples at Pentecost and the 'flames' remind us of the tongues of fire.

Think about people you would like to be touched by the Holy Spirit and, as each picture is finished, write that person's name on the plate. Display somewhere in the house as a reminder to pray for that person.

Water Purifier

You will need: empty 2L plastic bottle; coffee filter; sand, gravel, small stones or rocks; scissors; soil.

Cut off the top of the 2L bottle (about a third), remove the lid and invert it, so that it balances inside the remainder of the 2L bottle. Place a coffee filter in the inverted section. Add a handful or two of sand, followed by about the same amount of gravel and the same amount of small rocks (the biggest rocks should be on top). Slowly pour some dirty water (you could mix some soil with tap water – don't drink it!) into the top of the water filter, and watch what drains out the bottom of the filter, into the rest of the bottle.

The muddy water passing through the water filter comes out clean. In the same way, the Holy Spirit can help take away anything that isn't good in our lives if we let it.

Flame Headband

You will need: card; scraps of red, yellow, and gold paper; feathers; glitter and glue.

Measure a band of card to fit your head and staple together. Decorate the band with strips of paper, feathers, glitter, whatever you can find to look like flames.

I wonder how the disciples must have felt to see 'tongues of fire resting on each of them'? (Acts 2:3)

Wind Chimes

You will need: small lengths of bamboo cane; string; strong card (12cm diameter, pre-cut with 5 slits around the out-side and a hole in the middle); sticky tape.

Make a wind-chime by threading string through the middle of each of five differing lengths of bamboo cane and securing at the bottom end with sticky tape. Draw the tops of the strings together by fixing them evenly around a circle of strong card and taping in place. Thread a further string through the middle of the card and hang the chime where the wind will catch it.

Think about the power in the wind, even though you can't see it.

The Power of Wind

You will need: small junk items (yoghurt pots, small boxes, kitchen roll inners etc); a tea tray.

One person builds a tower of junk and another has to knock it over, using just the power of the wind (wafting the tray). Wind is really powerful; even though you can't see it, you see the effects of the wind. The Holy Spirit is like the wind - it is really powerful and even though you can't see it you can see the effects of the Holy Spirit in people's lives, changing, encouraging and teaching.

