

Pentecost

Cooking and Games Workshop

Scripture Reference:

Acts 2

Summary of Lesson Activities:

The children will celebrate the birth of the church at Pentecost with a birthday party. They will decorate cupcakes, play party games, and identify a gift which they can give to the Church.

Memory Verse:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) (NIV)

Objectives for Pentecost rotation

At the end of the Pentecost rotation, the students will

- know where Acts is in the New Testament and know that it is the story of the early church after Jesus' death and resurrection.
- be able to retell the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- begin to understand the role of the Holy Spirit.
- understand that the Spirit is with us as we are called to share the Good News.
- find their own answer to Acts 2:37 in response to the coming of the Spirit: "Brothers, what shall we do?"
- repeat the memory verse.
- identify the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost as the birthday of the Christian Church.
- identify something they can do that would be a gift to the Church.

Teacher preparation in advance:

- Read the scripture passages and attend the Bible Study Sunday. It will be very important for you to attend this study.
- Learn the memory verse.
- Prepare a closing prayer.
- Practice reading the scripture with "whoosh" inserted in the proper places.
- To our teachers at RCC: The design of this workshop is very intentional. The activities and discussion questions for this workshop were designed to meet the goals of the entire rotation and the educational objectives of the Rotation Model (tm) at River Community Church. While we feel it is important to follow the serendipitous leading of the Holy Spirit, please do not change the lesson plan without consulting a Curriculum Planning and Writing Team member.
- Check out the room before your first Sunday workshop so that you know where everything is located.
- Make sure you have all the supplies you need. All the supplies will be provided except the cupcakes and the cards for the memory verse game.

- Bake enough cupcakes for each child in the class.
- Make cards for memory verse activity

Room set-up:

You will need tables for the cupcake decorating activity. Cover tables with disposable plastic tablecloth. Set out cupcakes around the table with a plastic knives by each cupcake. Place icing and decorating supplies on the table in reach of the children. Set up CD/cassette player.

Supply List:

- wet wipes
- a cupcake for every child
- white icing
- 2-3 different red, orange, and/or yellow cake decorating items (red sprinkles, Reese's pieces, yellow gel icing, etc.)
- plastic knives
- trick candle for each child
- matches
- disposable plastic tablecloth
- cups and cold water
- napkins
- roll of red crepe paper
- CD/cassette player, tape or CD of upbeat praise and worship music

Lesson Plan

Opening:

Greet the children and introduce yourself. Wear your name-tag. Make sure the children are wearing name-tags. If not, ask the shepherd or co-teacher to supply a temporary badge. Remember, you are interacting with a different group of students each week who may not know you.

Explain the purpose of this workshop. Use kid friendly words to give a brief overview of what the children are going to learn and do.

Scripture/Bible Story: Read Acts 2:1-4, 14, 36-41
(Encourage the children to use their Bibles in looking up verses.)
Remind them where this story is located in the Bible or ask them:

1. In which part of the Bible is Acts located?
2. What book comes before Acts?
3. Who wrote the book of Acts? (Talk a bit about this if you are teaching this lesson on the third or fourth week of the rotation.)

Dig:

Application:

Explain that the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Christian Church. No birthday party would be complete without birthday cake, so they will be decorating a cupcake for the party. They are going to decorate the cupcake with items that are the colors of fire because the Holy Spirit was described as tongues of fire. There was also a wind associated with the Holy Spirit's arrival, so they will use wind to blow out the birthday candle.

Allow the children to decorate their cupcakes. When they finish give them each a candle to put in their cake, but do not tell them it is a trick candle. Tell the children you are going to read the Bible story again, but this time you are going to say "Whoosh" at appropriate spots to replicate the wind of the Holy Spirit. When they hear the "whoosh" they are to gently blow on their candle. (When they realize that the candles won't burn out explain that is similar to the Holy Spirit's fire in each of us.)

Light the candles. Read Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 36-41 and insert a "whoosh" in the following spots:

- 1:4 after ". . . the gift my Father promised . "
- 1:5 after ". . . you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit . "
- 1:8 after ". . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; . . ."
- 2:2 after ". . . a sound like the blowing of a violent wind . . ."
- 2:4 after "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit . . ."
- 2:38 after ". . . will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ."
- 2:41 at the end of the verse.

Before eating, have the children place their candles in a cup of water. Say a blessing. Let the children eat their cupcakes. Pour cups of water for them to drink. Have the children throw away their cups, napkins, etc. when they are finished. Talk about parties and celebrations while they eat.

Reflection:

Pulling it all together (closing discussion):

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor or in chairs. Ask the following questions:

What birthday are we celebrating today?

What gift did the Church receive on its birthday?

I wonder what kind of gifts we could give the Church for its birthday?

After posing this question give the first child who wants to answer a roll of red crepe paper. After he/she has given his answer ask him to hold on to the end of the paper and gently toss the roll to another person who would like to answer the same question or another question you have asked. Make sure each child is holding a part of the streamer. It will be crisscrossed through the circle after everyone has suggested a gift. Tell them that when we give a "gift" to the Church it helps to spread the story of Jesus to other people, just like we "spread" the streamer. Allow each child to tear off a small piece of the streamer and tuck it in his pocket to be able to take out later in the day to remember what gift he is going to give the Church.

Review the memory verse.

A birthday party would not be complete without a game! Play a version of musical chairs to learn or review the Bible verse. Write the memory verse on index cards with two or three words on each card. Place chairs in a circle or paper squares on a carpet, with one less chair/paper than there are children.

Put the cards in the correct order on the floor in the middle of the circle with the words facing up or hang them on the wall where all can see them. Have the child who did not get a spot when the music stops read the words of the memory verse. Turn over the first card of the verse so the words are not visible. Don't take out any chairs/papers from the circle. Continue to allow everyone to participate. Each time the music stops, have the child without a spot say the memory verse and then turn over another word card. Allow the group to help the child remember the words to the verse that are missing. By the end of the game all the cards should be turned over and the children should be able to recite the verse from memory.

Closing prayer:

Offer a prayer thanking God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and asking help for children to carry through with the gifts they will give to the church.

Tidy and Dismissal: Ask children to help tidy up. Make sure all the cupcake decorating and game supplies are picked up. Clean the floor if any crumbs, decorations, or crepe paper pieces have fallen on the floor.

Give everyone the parent take-home flyer the first week of the rotation; give it only to children who were absent and have not yet received it the other weeks of the rotation.

Additional Suggestions:

Older Children: remind them not to get too rough with the musical chairs game — there are no winners or losers!

Younger Children: These children may not be able to read the memory verse cards for the musical chairs game. Instead, prompt the children with the words if they are not able to read.

Supervise the younger children closely with the candles, especially when putting out the flames.

Resources:

- Gee, Martha Bettis. *Creative Activities for Children's Ministry: Things to Make and Do for Pentecost*. Louisville: Bridge Resources, 1998.
- Kitchen/science idea posted by Brenda V. at the rotation.org site under Pentecost Act 1 and 2, Miscellaneous Pentecost Ideas: <http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve...6088121&m=6636088121>.
- Game idea posted by Jan FPC Napa at the rotation.org site under Pentecost Act 1 and 2, Miscellaneous Pentecost Ideas: <http://rotation.infopop.cc/eve...6088121&m=6636088121>.
- Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

This lesson was written by Jamie Senyard for River Community Church
Prairieville, Louisiana.

Copyright 2003 Jamie Senyard. Permission granted to freely distribute and use, provided the copyright message is included.