

Pentecost Children's sessions



Introduction

Thank you for using the Wycliffe Pentecost children's resource.

Our Pentecost session plans are designed to help your children's ministry prepare for Pentecost Sunday.

The session plans are designed to work for children in school years from reception to year 6.

Each plan can be tailored around your own kids' work and offers a choice of different games and crafts, depending on the age or size of your kids' work or your own preference.

While we suggest running each session in the following order, there is actually no need to do so. The sessions have been designed so that every part can be moved around or removed, yet will still fit within the overall session theme.

Session structure (about 75 minutes)

- | **Welcome and news of the week** – highlights of the children's week (5 minutes)
- | **Icebreaker** – introducing the theme (10 minutes)
- | **Story** (5 minutes)
- | **Huddle groups** – discuss the different questions. This is broken down to different ages (10 minutes)
- | **Memory verse** (10 minutes)
- | **Game** (15 minutes)
- | **Craft** (20 minutes)
- | **Prayer** (10 minutes)

Session objectives

As you journey with the children through each week's session, you will use different stories from the Bible to articulate the overall theme. The aim of this is for the final session on

Pentecost: Children's sessions

Pentecost to bring together all these points, as this is what God was doing by sending his Holy Spirit to speak through the disciples.

- | **Session 1** – the Holy Spirit will bring power to witness to Jesus
- | **Session 2** – God wants to have a personal relationship with people
- | **Session 3** – now everyone can be saved and receive the Holy Spirit
- | **Session 4** – God has no favourites and anyone can know him.

We pray that you may find this resource useful and that your children will grow in their faith through using this, that they will have fun and build strong friendships with each other.

We are offering these resources free of charge, but if you would like to make a donation or take up an offering, you can find all the information you need at wycliffe.org.uk/church-giving.

Thank you so much for considering using the Wycliffe Pentecost resources. I pray that you and your church find them a blessing and an encouragement to you this Pentecost.

God bless,



Neil Graham
Director for Churches
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Children's sessions – summary

Four children's work sessions (school years reception to year 6) with an icebreaker, story, memory verse, game and craft, with questions tailored for different age groups.

Sessions exploring:

1. How the Holy Spirit can give us power to witness to Jesus
2. God wants to have a personal relationship with people
3. Now everyone can be saved and receive the Holy Spirit
4. That God has no favourites – everyone can come to him through Jesus.





Session title: The Holy Spirit will bring power to witness to Jesus

Bible verse:

Acts 1:1–8

Learning point:

The Holy Spirit is powerful and can help us to tell others about Jesus

Icebreaker – Create your own superhero (10 minutes): *(link to power in the story)*

Put the children in groups of three or four. The children create their own superhero by drawing on a large sheet of paper. Ask the children to think carefully about what power the superhero will have and what that will enable the character to do.

Retell the story (5 minutes):

Before you tell the story, you may need to explain or remind the children where we are in the Bible timeline (Jesus has done his work on earth, died and come back to life, and here he meets his disciples before he does something amazing!).

Gather the children in front of a chair and desk. Get an adult to dress up as Luke and sit at the desk with paper and pens. Luke tells the children his story in Acts 1:1–8.

Huddle group questions (10 minutes):

Younger children: ages 4–6 years (this age group will need more help filling in the gaps of the story as they answer the questions)

1. Who was in the story?
2. Who was Jesus talking to?
3. Who will help the disciples (witness) tell others about Jesus?

Older children: ages 7–11 years

1. What did Jesus tell his disciples and who was going to help?
2. If we are followers of Jesus we are also called to be witnesses, but why would we do that or want to do that?
3. Who does Jesus say is able to help us? Has anyone experienced God's Holy Spirit helping them in this way before?

Memory verse (10 minutes):

Acts 1:8a: 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses'

Here is a suggestion for teaching the memory verses:



Pentecost: Children's session 1 (continued)



Before the children arrive, write the memory verse on an A4 piece of paper. Then cut this piece of paper into eight pieces and hide each piece around the room. In the meeting, invite the children to find the pieces, and then they race to find all the pieces. When they have completed the puzzle they shout out the memory verse together. If you have several groups of children, each group needs their own copy of the verse written on different coloured pieces of paper. The groups then race to find their coloured pieces of paper to complete the puzzle.

Game – Bring me a... (15 minutes):

Before the meeting, hide some items of clothing around the room. Split the group into teams of three or four children. The leader calls out an item of clothing and all the children look for it. For example, a left-foot trainer, hat, scarf, hoodie, or watch. The first team to bring the item to the leader wins the round.

Craft – Superhero cuffs or mask (20 minutes):

Items needed – colouring pens and pencils, sticking tape, scissors and superhero cuffs and mask templates (see Appendix 1)

Give each child a template of two superhero cuffs and/or a superhero mask. The children design and colour in the templates to remind them that the Holy Spirit gives them power to witness to others about Jesus. Try to add in the learning point from the session: The Holy Spirit is powerful and can help us to tell others about Jesus.

Pray – Fizzy power prayer (10 minutes):

In small groups the children are each given a cup of water and a fizzy energy or fizzy denture cleaning tablet (something that fizzes in water, but not medication). Ask the children in your group if they can think of someone to whom they would like to witness to, tell about Jesus or invite to church. Go around your group and give each child a turn at asking God to give them power to tell their friend or invite their friend to church. As soon as that child has prayed they can drop their tablet in the water and watch it fizz with power as a reminder that God is powerful!



Pentecost: Children's session 2

Session title: God wants to have a personal relationship with people

Bible verse:

Acts 2:1–12

Learning point:

God wants a personal relationship with people

Icebreaker – Bean madness (10 minutes): *(link to declaring and hearing in the story)*

A simple, fun game about listening. A leader calls out different types of beans and the kids have to do the appropriate action for that bean. (1) runner bean: run around; (2) broad bean: stretch wide; (3) jelly bean: wobble like jelly; (4) baked bean: sit in a ball; (5) chilli bean: shiver; (6) beans on toast: lie down, arms and legs like a star.

Watch the story (5 minutes): *(includes last week's story and this week to 2:54)*

The Holy Spirit comes (Sharefaith Kids Pentecost for Kids)

Huddle group questions (10 minutes):

Have the questions written down and put in small envelopes. The envelopes are numbered 1 to 3. Put the envelopes in a small box or bag. Ask a child in the group to find the envelope with number 1 on it, then open it and ask the group the question. (The envelopes need to be found in order, so allow children to take part as much as they want to.)

Younger children: ages 4–6 years

1. When the disciples prayed together what did they see around them?
2. What did the disciples do after they received the Holy Spirit?
3. What, and how, can you share with your friends about God?

Older children: ages 7–11 years

1. Can you retell the story in your own words?
2. Why did God enable the disciples to declare the wonders of God in different languages?
3. What kinds of wonders about God do you think you could tell others that would amaze them or challenge them? What are some of the barriers that need to be overcome?

Memory verse (10 minutes):

Ask if anyone can remember last week's memory verse. And then teach the second half (below), using the Balloon verse game (on the next page) as the way to teach it.

Acts 1:8b: 'in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

Pentecost: Children's session 2 (continued)

Game – Balloon verse (15 minutes):

Items needed – balloons, paper, sticking tape

Write the Bible verse on several balloons. Or write the verse on paper and tape it to the balloon if the words are too long! Ask some helpers to hold them up.

Ask the children to read the verse aloud once. Get a volunteer to pop one or two balloons to remove some of the verse. Now ask the children to read the verse aloud and try to remember to say the missing words. Repeat this until all the balloons have burst and the children are reciting the memory verse without the balloons.

Offer a bonus prize if anyone can remember both sections of the Bible verse they have learned so far.

Craft – Paper cup phone (15 minutes):

Items needed – colouring pens and pencils, paper cups, string, scissors, sharp pencil to pierce the cups

Each child gets a two-metre piece of string, some colouring pens or pencils, stickers and two paper cups. Both cups need one small hole in the bottom for the string to pass through.

Children decorate their cups. One of the cups can have written on it: the Holy Spirit will help us tell others about how amazing God is.

Once the cups have been decorated, help the children to thread the string between the two cups. Then make a knot to prevent the string slipping out. The children can now practise talking into them and listening to someone on the other end. How many things can they tell their friend about how amazing God is?

A video of this craft can be found here.

Pray – LEGO® prayer (10 minutes):

Items needed – LEGO, DUPLO® or other different coloured building bricks

Get the children into small groups, with each group in a circle around a small pile of LEGO or DUPLO. Each child needs to choose a brick which has more than one stud on it. Go around the circle for each part of this prayer time:

- Part 1:** give thanks to God that he wants a personal relationship with people
- Part 2:** count how many studs on a LEGO brick and name the same number of people whom you want to tell how amazing is God. Say a prayer like this, 'Please help me tell [insert names] how amazing you are.'
- Part 3:** ask the children to swap their brick with someone else. Pray that those who hear amazing things about God will decide to follow Jesus.



Session title: Now everyone can be saved and receive the Holy Spirit

Bible verse:

Acts 2:12–21

Learning point:

Everyone can be saved and receive the Holy Spirit

Leader summary point (5 minutes):

Ask the children what they have learned over the past couple of weeks. Once they have contributed, go over some of the points they may have missed.

- | The Holy Spirit is powerful and can help us tell others about Jesus
- | The Holy Spirit can help us to tell others about how amazing God is.

Explain that today we will find out that everyone can be saved and receive the Holy Spirit.

Icebreaker – Guess the language (10 minutes):

Write the words 'God loves you' in lots of different languages, eg French, Hebrew, Welsh, Mandarin and Arabic (you can use Google Translate). Print each of these, along with the name of the language on a separate sheet and ask the group to match the name of the language to the translation.

Watch the story (4 minutes): (watch up to 1:32 for a recap of the story so far. Stop the video and ask if anyone has any questions or thoughts. Then watch up to 2:30 for today's part of the story)

God sends the Holy Spirit (Saddleback Kids)

Huddle group questions (10 minutes):

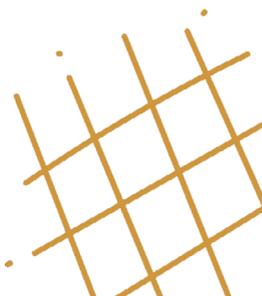
Write the questions and attach them to different household objects. Put those objects in a box or bag. Children can choose an object from the bag and answer the question.

Younger children: ages 4–6 years

1. Who stood up to speak to all these people about Jesus?
2. What did the people do when they heard what Peter had to say?
3. How can everyone hear about Jesus? Can you help God in this huge mission?

Older children: ages 7–11 years

1. When Peter spoke to the crowd, what did he tell them about Jesus and the Holy Spirit?



Pentecost: Children's session 3 (continued)

2. Can you remember how the crowd reacts to the different things they see and hear?
3. How do you think everyone in the world will get to hear about Jesus? How can you be a part of that?

Memory verse (10 minutes): (recap)

Ask the children if any of them can remember the memory verses they have been learning over the past two weeks. Perhaps give a prize to the children who have tried hard.

1. **Acts 1:8a:** 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses'
2. **Acts 1:8b:** 'in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

Game – Stuck in the mud (15 minutes):

Choose one player to be 'it'. The player who is 'it' must run around and tag as many other players as they can. When tagged, a player becomes 'stuck in the mud', they cannot move and must stand with their legs and arms apart. The only way to be freed is for a non-tagged player to crawl through their legs. Players are safe while crawling under legs and cannot be tagged. The game ends when all players have been tagged and are 'stuck in the mud'.

Craft – Bible story cube (20 minutes):

Each child should have a copy of a **Bible Story Cube** to make. This can be taken home and used to explore Bible stories they read or hear at home.

Pray (10 minutes):

Put the children in a large group. Children throw an inflatable globe around the group. When someone catches the globe it's their turn to say a fact that they know about somewhere in the world. Either a fun fact or if it's somewhere they have visited. Then the child can pray for people in that place, that they would hear about Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you don't have an inflatable globe you can use a world map (drawn roughly) and children approach the map to point to their place of interest and then pray.

Pentecost: Children's session 4

Session title: God has no favourites and anyone can know him

Bible verse:

Acts 10

Learning point:

God has no favourites, anyone can know him

Icebreaker – This or that (5–10 minutes): *(link to idea of favourites)*

Get all the children in the middle of the room. Then say two things, eg fish or chips, and ask them to go to one side of the room to show which is their favourite. Repeat this a few times to set the scene.

Watch the story (4 minutes): *(stop at 2:43)*

Peter and Cornelius (Kingdom Videos)

Huddle group questions (10 minutes):

Younger children: ages 4–6 years

1. What did Peter see lowered down to earth?
2. Why did Cornelius ask Peter to come to his house?
3. Do you think God has favourites? Why/why not?

Older children: ages 7–11 years

1. How do you feel when your friends have favourites?
2. How do you feel about knowing God doesn't have favourites?
3. Why do you think God doesn't have any favourites?

Memory verse (10 minutes):

Acts 10:34: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism.'

First, you may wish to do a final recap and ask the children if any of them can remember all three memory verses they have learned (with optional prizes).

Here's a suggestion for teaching the memory verse.

Items needed – whiteboard, whiteboard pen

Grab a whiteboard pen and write the verse on a whiteboard. Say the verse several times as a group (shout, whisper, slowly or fast). Then rub out a few words at a time and see if the group can remember the verse. Keep rubbing out words until there's nothing to read and the group can say the verse. If you don't have a whiteboard use a large piece of paper and instead of rubbing the words out, simply cover them with a piece of paper using some sticking tape.

Pentecost: Children's session 4 (continued)



Game 1 – Keeper of the keys (10 minutes):

Items needed – chair, keys and blindfold

The children sit in a circle with a chair at the centre. Place a set of keys under the chair. Choose a child to sit on the chair, wearing the blindfold. Silently indicate to another child to attempt to steal the keys and return to their space without being heard.

If the blindfolded child hears them they must point in their direction. But if the thief is successful, they have a turn wearing the blindfold. As this game requires the children to sit quietly, it is best played in short bursts.

Game 2 – Assault (15 minutes):

Items needed – soft balls, four barriers (tables) and safety gear where appropriate

Set up the play area with four barriers, eg tables, for the runners to hide behind.

Set aside a small area for the gladiator (thrower) to remain in, and a finish area. Provide soft balls for the gladiator to use. Supply safety gear (eg goggles, headgear, knee pads) where appropriate for the runners to wear while running the course.

The aim is for the runners to get to the finish area without being hit by a ball. Runners can hide behind the barriers to avoid being hit. If you want to add another level, you can time the runners and keep a scoreboard of the fastest runs. Any runner who is hit by a ball is out. Repeat until everyone has had a run.

Craft – Cup cake decorating (10–15 minutes):

Items needed – ready-made cup cakes, icing, sprinkles, and other cake decorations

Get the children to decorate the cup cakes.

As they are decorating, explain that they will be handing out the cakes to different people in church. This is to show how God hasn't got any favourites and loves everyone.

Once the cakes are decorated, ask the children to hand out the cakes to different kids and adults at the end of church.

Pray – Caterpillar prayer (10 minutes):

Children and leaders make a long line with their hands on each other's shoulders. Each person speaks to the person in front of them to ask them what they would like prayer for. Once everyone has shared something and the group is ready, all the children and leaders pray at the same time. The leader finishes with a prayer, thanking God that he doesn't have favourites and that we can all know him.

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Translators**

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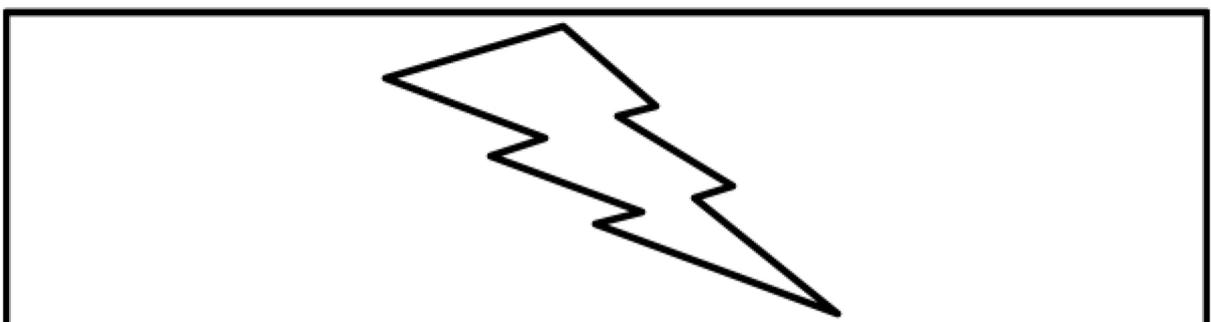
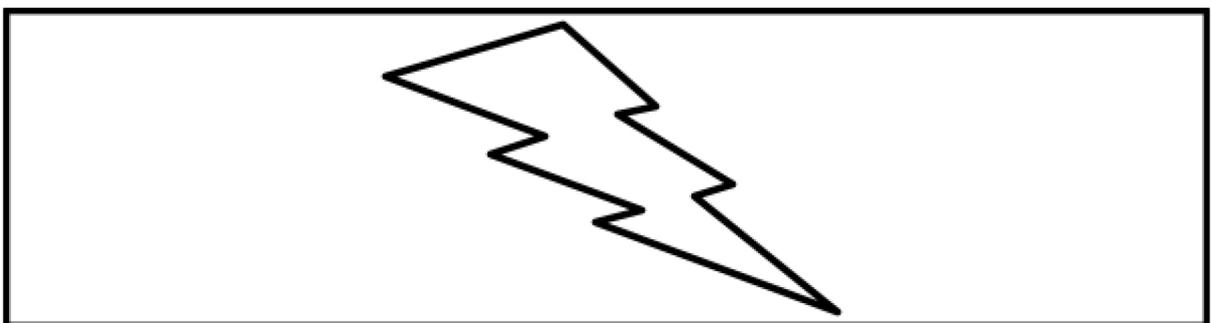
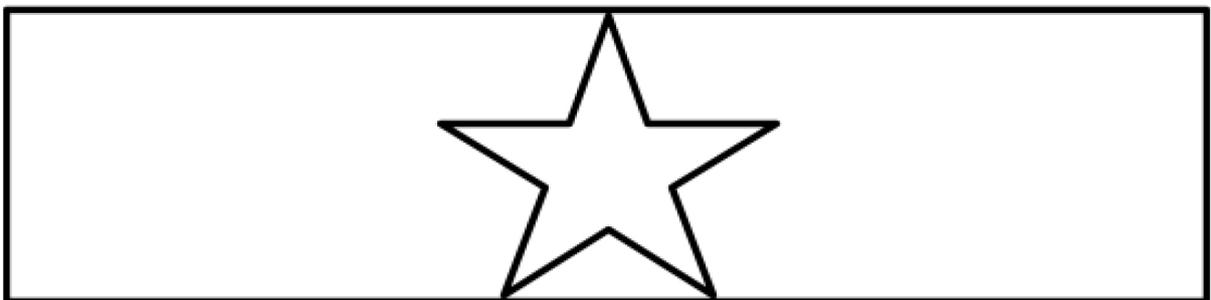
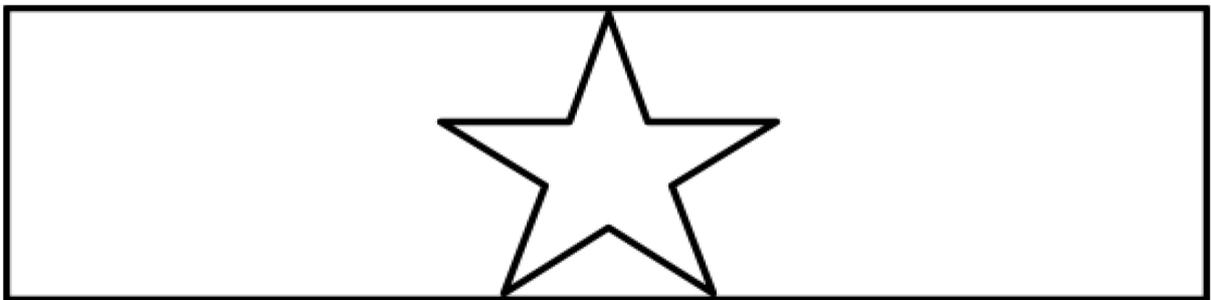
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Appendix 1: Cuffs to print



Appendix 1: Masks to print

