

Pentecost – Bible Story

What is Pentecost?

One of three important Jewish festivals, Pentecost is the Greek name for the Festival of Weeks. It celebrates God giving the Israelites the Ten Commandments fifty days after the Exodus from Egypt.

Who was there?

In Bible times, Jewish law required all adult Jewish men to come to Jerusalem from wherever they were living to be in attendance personally for the celebration. The city was full of people from multiple countries speaking different languages.

The followers of Jesus were gathered in a big room, probably talking about the things Jesus had told them and praying together.

What were the followers waiting for?

When Jesus went back to heaven, he told the disciples to watch and wait. He would send a comforter to help them. They had been gathered together waiting to see how Jesus would fulfill his promise. Finally, their wait ended.

What happened to the disciples gathered in the room?

They heard the sound of a rushing, mighty wind and felt it all around them.

They saw little flames of fire that came to rest above each person's head.

Just as Jesus had promised, the Holy Spirit came and filled all of them.

They began to speak in other languages that they had never learned.

What happened to the other people who filled the city of Jerusalem?

The noise in the room was so loud, the people outside heard it and wondered what was happening.

When they came to find out about the noise, they were amazed. The disciples spoke, and everyone heard what had happened in their own languages.

Some of the people wanted to hear about the wonderful works of God. Other people didn't understand, and they even accused the disciples of being drunk.

How did the disciples respond?

Peter stood up and started preaching. Everyone listening to him understood what he was saying. He told the crowd that the things that happened that day were from the power of the Holy Spirit.

He preached about Jesus' teachings and resurrection. Then he explained that the coming of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise to send a helper.

What happened then?

The people asked, "What can we do?"

Peter replied, "Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

On that day, three thousand people changed their hearts and lives, were baptized, and became part of the church.

What happens now?

Pentecost is celebrated as the birthday of the New Testament church!

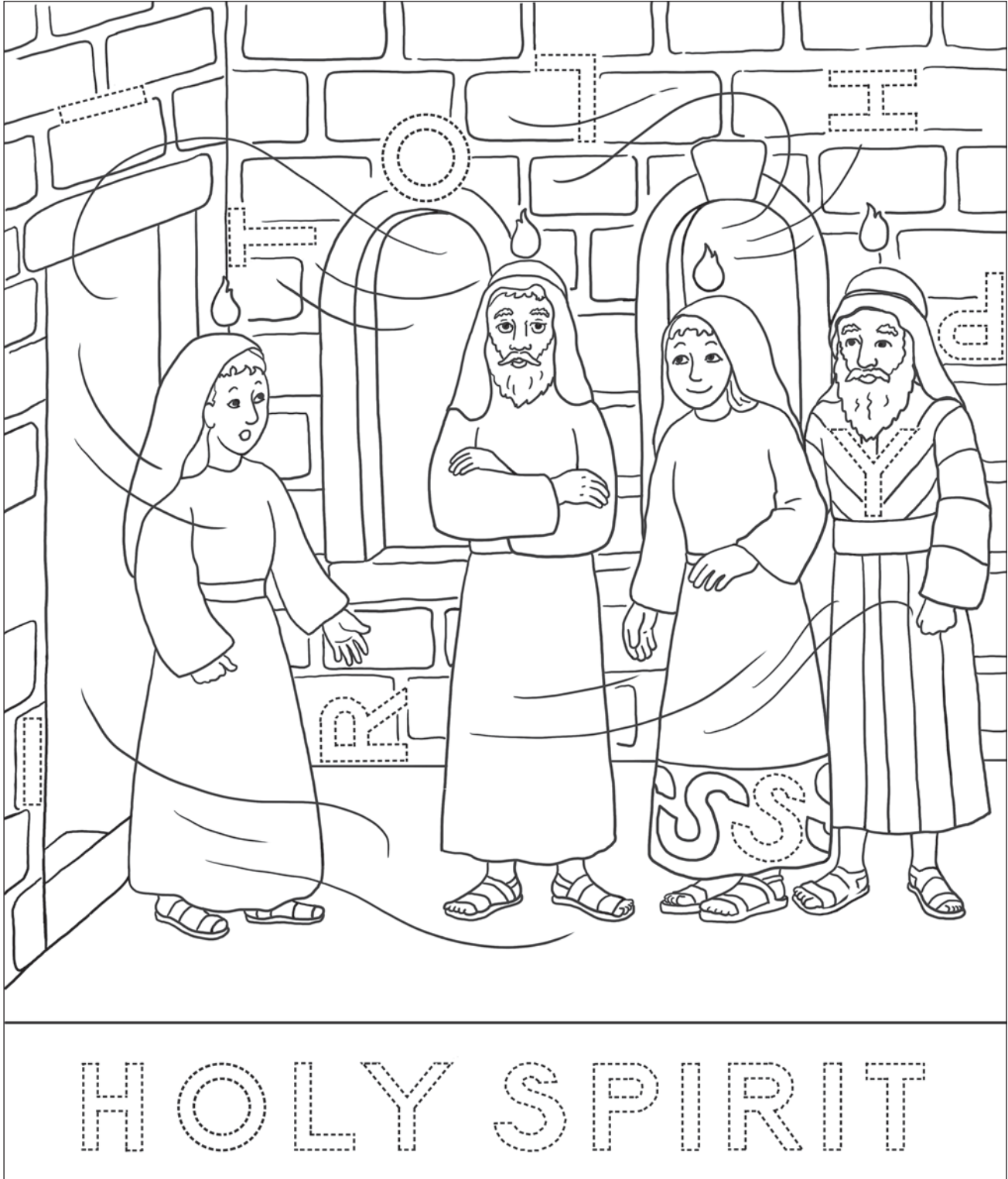
The Holy Spirit is for all people!

(Based on Acts 2:1-41)



14b Hidden Letters – Puzzle (Preschool)

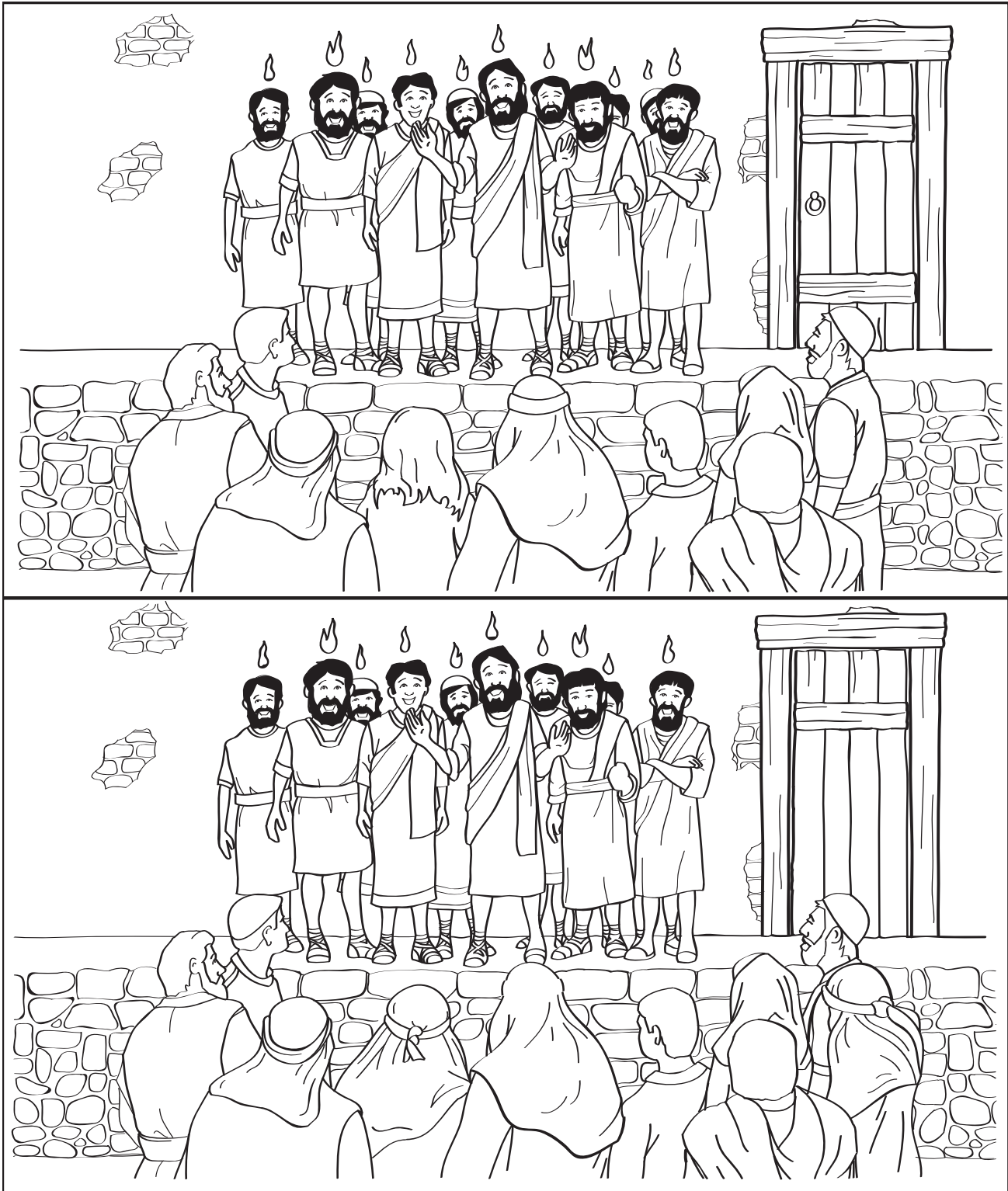
Pentecost was a special day for the church. Look carefully at the picture of the church on Pentecost and see if you can find some hidden letters. Circle the letters you find. Trace the letters at the bottom of the page to see the letters that are hidden in the picture.



Find the Differences – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

14c

Pentecost was the day the Holy Spirit filled the followers of Jesus. Then they began preaching to the crowd in Jerusalem and telling them what had happened. Look carefully at the two pictures and find 10 differences in the two pictures. Circle the differences.



14d Cryptogram – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Use the flames of fire code to discover the answers to the questions about Pentecost Day.

What did they hear?



What did they see?



What did they receive?



What did they do?



A	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N
O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y				



14f Loving God/Loving Neighbor – Faith Family Devotional

Pentecost

John 4:1-42

Each year, we celebrate Pentecost. It is a time to remember how God powerfully sent the Holy Spirit as the promised helper. The followers of Jesus were gathered in a room when they heard and felt a mighty wind blowing around them. They saw little flames of fire above their heads. The Holy Spirit filled all of them. They began talking about what had happened, and all the people from different lands understood what they were saying. More than three thousand people believed the disciples' message, were baptized, and became a part of the church. It was the birthday of the New Testament church!

Verse of the Month

"As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

What Do You Think?

Can you describe what you think it was like that day in Jerusalem? How did the people feel? What did they see? What did they do?

How do you think you would have reacted to everything that was happening?

Family Activity

Talk about the church's birthday and what the purpose of the church is.

How do you serve in your church? How would you like to serve? How can your church serve in your community? Talk about some ways you as a family can help in the church.

Prayer

Dear God, we celebrate the birthday of the church. Show us how to serve in our church; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.