



Reception Pentecost Pause Day

Overview:

- To know that the Pentecost story is about God the Holy Spirit
- To know that this story is all about **change**
- Try to refer to God the Holy Spirit rather than just the Holy Spirit as that will aid understanding that the Holy Spirit is God in spirit form.
- Children need to be able to choose to pray or not

You will need:

- The Lion Storyteller Bible
- Torches, batteries, light circuit
- Materials and directions for windmill making
- ‘That’s Amazing’ in other languages
- Equipment for optional activity

Activity 1

Read/listen to the story from ‘The Helper Arrives’ from The Lion Storyteller Bible or another good story bible

Activity 2

Power that can change

Have a selection of torches and be ready to use the word **change** as much as possible to describe what happens in the following scenarios:

Turn on/off

What happens? Note the **change** from light to dark

Take out the batteries, see what happens and note the **change**.

What happens? Note that there is no **change**

Replace the batteries incorrectly

What happens?

Talk about the need for power and how it can **change** things.

Use a very simple light bulb circuit and turn the switch off/on. Talk about what is happening and the need for a power supply to **change** the situation and to make the light work.

Talk about the importance of power to **change** things from darkness to light from cold to heat.

Talk about the flames at Pentecost as a symbol of the power of God the Holy Spirit to **change** people's lives ie without the power of God the Holy Spirit the people were frightened, scared, felt helpless, didn't know what to do. When the power of God the Holy Spirit came to them they were **changed**.

Activity 3

We can Change

Learn to do sad/happy faces:

Hold your hand in front of you just below your chin but not touching. Make a sad face by turning your mouth down. Gradually move your hand up and as your hand moves in front of your mouth **change** your mouth from sad to happy with a big smile so that by the time your hand has moved on up to the top of your face you are looking happy. You can repeat this the other way around and so on.

Talk about God the Holy Spirit **changing** the people from sad to happy, from frightened to brave, from unsure to certain.

Activity 4

Make a windmill

Lots of instructions available on line

First decorate the windmill using flame patterns and colours and then make it up.

Take the completed windmills outside to a windy spot and enjoy watching the **change** that the wind makes.

Talk about the power of the wind to make the windmill **change** from being still to moving.

Ask:

Does the wind mill work without the power of wind? Talk about the power of the wind as a symbol of God the Holy Spirit's power at Pentecost to **change** people's lives.

Activity 5

Other languages

Translate 'That's amazing' into other languages using Google Translate if necessary e.g "Eso es increíble", "C'est incroyable"

Tell the children that they are going to learn some words from other languages and invite any bilingual/multilingual children in the class to tell you what 'That's amazing' is in their language/s.

Learn to say the phrases or even better set them to a simple well known tune.

Talk about the power of the God the Holy Spirit to **change** these people and make it possible for them to communicate in different languages. Ensure that the children understand that the reason for the people speaking in other languages was not a magic trick but was a gift from God the Holy Spirit in order that lots of people might hear about Jesus in their own languages so that they could also **change**.

Activity 6

Prayer

As a group write a Thank you, Sorry and Please prayer about God the Holy Spirit changing lives e.g.:

Thank you God for the story of God the Holy Spirit
Sorry God that sometimes we do wrong things
Please God help us to change

Amen

Optional activity:

Remind the children that God has the power to change things for good. Here is a fun experiment to illustrate good, overflowing and bubbly **change**:

Invite the children to watch the following experiment (Be prepared! You will need to trial this first to ensure that you have all necessary equipment to cope with the overflow!):

For this experiment you will need:

- 1 tablespoon of baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)
- 1 tablespoon of laundry detergent
- about 180 millilitres (3/4 cup) of water
- about 60 millilitres (1/4 cup) of vinegar
- several drops of food colouring (optional)
- a 400-millilitre drinking glass
- a waterproof (plastic or metal) tray
- a teaspoon

Place the drinking glass on the tray. Put baking soda and laundry detergent to the glass. Add water and a few drops of optional food colouring. Gently stir the mixture to mix the contents of the glass. To display and observe the fizzing and foaming, quickly pour the vinegar into the glass. The mixture will foam up and over the top of the glass, covering the tray with a froth of tiny bubbles.

Invite the children to join in saying their prayer together while they watch the bubbles.