

'Everyone was amazed...'



## Y1/2 Pentecost Pause Day: Cycle 1

### Overview:

Know the story of Pentecost

- Know that this story really happened and is about the first Christians
- Know that the first Christians experienced change from fear to hope, scared to confident, self absorbed to sharing with others.
- Experience not having as much as other people and the effort it is to share when you have something special
- Experience praising God

You will need:

- You will need a good children's bible e.g. The Lion Storyteller Bible ISBN 978-0-7459-4980-2
- Bible verses in child friendly language (Possibly Contemporary English Version see <http://www.biblegateway.com> )
- To be familiar with the story from Acts chapter 2
- To try to refer to 'God the Holy Spirit' as this will aid understanding that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity is therefore also God.
- A few small chocolate bars and cards
- A Praise song. Sunday's Cool Volume 1 and 2 from Out of the Ark or other songs that praise God
- Optional - Simple musical instruments
- To set up a quiet, comfortable space (perhaps in a gazebo with cushions) and prepare some prayers, a prayer box and pencils

## Session 1

Tell the story of Pentecost from a good story teller bible – may even be the same story used for Reception e.g. ‘The Helper Arrives’ from The Lion Storyteller Bible

Pre divide the story into short sections of action.

Divide the class into groups of 4/5 and everyone sits in a circle.

Ask one group to go into the middle of the circle. While the first section is read the middle group mime appropriate response. Read second section and second group mime in the centre of the circle etc

## Session 2

At Pentecost the first Christians were changed from scared, lonely people to confident, strong people who loved and cared for each other:

**Read the following words from Acts 2: 43 – 47 which are from the bible, not a story teller bible:**

<sup>43</sup>Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. <sup>44</sup>All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup>They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it. <sup>46</sup>Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, <sup>47</sup>while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

**Brief discussion** using *I wonder* prompt:

I wonder how you would feel to see:

- sick people being made better?
- people who had never learnt a foreign language speaking well in that language?
- people being very happy to share out all their money, their houses, all their food, giving money away?
- people singing and praying to God a lot?

### **Activity – Sculptures from Acts 2:43**

‘Everyone was amazed.....’ This activity is designed to show the extraordinary changes that happened to the first Christians from before to after Pentecost.

In pairs one person is the sculptor and one is to be sculpted. **Freeze** after each sculpting then invite the sculptors to look at each other's sculptures

and make comments. Invite the person who was sculpted to comment on the changes that they had to make in their bodies and faces. Change role after each pair of sculptures.

1. Sculpt a **scared** person. Sculpt a **brave** person.
2. Sculpt a **lonely** person. Sculpt a **person with lots of friends**
3. Sculpt an **unloving** person. Sculpt a **person who is loving**
4. Sculpt a **selfish** person. Sculpt a **person who shares**

### **Session 3**

**At Pentecost the first Christians shared everything.**

Acts 2:44 and 45 ‘.....they shared everything they had. <sup>45</sup>They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever needed it’

**Chocolate game: Prepare enough cards for all the class to have one. Half of the cards will have the same picture of a piece of chocolate on them and the other half will be blank. Everyone sits in a circle. Tell the children that you want to give them all a treat and put a plate of small chocolate bars in the middle of the circle having ensured that there are insufficient even for half of the class. Shuffle the cards and tell the class that you are going to put an upside-down card in front of each person. On a given signal ask the children to turn the cards over. Following careful instructions by the teacher invite the children with chocolate pictures to come and take one bar each, go back to their place and put the bar in front of them. When all the bars have gone make a big show of the fact that not every one has had one and that you have not got any more. Even some of the people who had a picture of a chocolate have not had a bar.**

**Discussion:** How do the people with a picture but without a bar feel? What do the people with a blank card think? What do the people with a chocolate bar think? What can be done? There is no more money left to buy extra bars so what should we do? Should those with chocolate bars give them back so that no one has any? Should the people who have a bar give it to someone else? What should we do?

Hopefully someone will suggest that all the chocolate bars are put back together and then broken up into enough pieces so that everyone including adults can have an equal amount. What should be done if there are any pieces left over?

This is a picture of what happened at Pentecost when the first Christians shared everything that they had by putting all their money together and then sharing it out.

#### **Session 4**

At Pentecost the first Christians praised God

Acts 2:47 '....Praising God'

Learn a new praise song. Sunday's Cool Volume 1 and 2 from 'Out of the Ark music' have many good songs.

Use simple instruments to accompany the song; shakers, beaters etc

#### **Session 5** (or ongoing)

Set up a simple, quiet and comfortable space with cushions and perhaps inside a gazebo. Scatter around some unfinished prayers written on card and some pencils. Have a box available for the children to post their prayers eg:

Dear God, please help me to change from ..... to ..... Amen

Dear God, please help me to share my ..... with ..... Amen

Dear God, thank you for ..... and please help me ..... Amen

Dear God, thank you for the good things that you have given me and please help me to share them with..... Amen

Dear God, sorry for the times when I want to stay (angry, jealous, greedy) ..... and do not want to change. In Jesus name, Amen

Dear God, sorry for the times when I think that everyone else should change and not me. In Jesus name, Amen

Invite any who wish to spend time in the space to talk to Jesus/God and/or complete /think a prayer about change and sharing.