



Y1/2 Pentecost Pause Day: Cycle 2

To understand Pentecost properly it is helpful to engage with a story that demonstrates some changes that happened after the coming of the Holy Spirit. The story is about the healing of a man who had been unable to walk since birth and the power of the Holy Spirit that Peter had been given to perform a miracle. When Jesus was on earth in human form he performed similar miracles because the Holy Spirit was with him and Pentecost is about the power of the Holy Spirit being given to others and Peter demonstrates this. The result for the man who had been made well was not only that there was a physical change in his body but a spiritual change in his heart which led him to be full of praise to God.

Overview:

- Know the story of Peter healing the man who had been unable to walk since birth that happened very soon after Pentecost
- Experience the difficulties of not being able to walk
- Experience the joy of being able to dance and praise God
- Reflect on the changes in the man's physical and spiritual life

You will need:

- You will need a good children's bible e.g. The Lion Storyteller Bible ISBN 978-0-7459-4980-2
- Be familiar with the story from Acts chapter 3:1-10
- Outdoor (or appropriate indoor) space
- Prepare obstacle course
- It may be best to be in PE kit all day
- Contact praise dance practitioner if appropriate, choose music and prepare dance
- Paper, scissors, pens for cut out people chain
- Set up a quiet reflective area

Session 1

Introduce the story by saying that this event happened after God the Holy Spirit had given his power to the first Christians at Pentecost. Invite them to remember back to last year when they learnt about God the Holy Spirit coming as the helper and showing his power with wind and flames.

Use the story called 'The Beautiful Gate' from The Lion Storyteller Bible or a similar story bible which tells the story of Peter healing the man who had been unable to walk since birth based on the account in Acts 3:1-10 in the 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 story is read the middle group mime appropriate response. Read second section and second group mime in the centre of the circle etc

Session 2

Obstacle course

Remember that the man whom Peter cured had never been able to walk.

Use an appropriate space (perhaps outside) set up with a simple obstacle course and work in teams of 3 or 4. Nobody is able to use their legs but all

have to complete the course together so you will need to help and encourage each other.

e.g. travel along a bench or floor; travel underneath a table or similar; collect a plate of biscuits which need to be taken back to the start where they can be eaten together and where a drink of water is also waiting for all the team.

While eating biscuits and drinking water spend some time reflecting on the changes that had happened in the man's life (**Teachers please be careful to ensure that the discussion is about the changes that happened to the man because of the power of God the Holy Spirit and not about disability in general**):

Who do you think made the man better? (Was it Peter or was it the power of God in Peter?)

What do you think the man might have thought about God before and after he was made better?

What do you think about what happened?

How did the man express his feelings to God?

How might you express your feelings to God?

How do you think that the man lived the rest of his life?

How might you wish to live the rest of your life?

Session 3

Dancing

Christians believe that you can use your whole body to praise God for what he has done just as the man in the story.

Either inside or outside learn some flag dancing to a song that is about worshipping God e.g. 'Praise to the one who made our bodies' from Sunday's Cool Volume 1 Out of the Ark music.) You may wish to involve a worship dance leader for example Anna Henry from "[uc grace.Dance](#)"

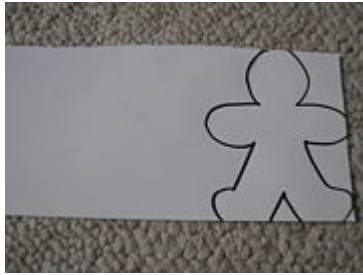
(Phone 07920 405512; Email info@ucgrace.co.uk Web: www.ucgrace.co.uk)

Session 4

Part 1 Reflecting

Make some cut out-people chains from a single piece of paper see www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-People-Chain

Cut a long strip of paper e.g. lengthways half of A4 paper or larger 20x38 cms



Draw the outline of a person at one end of the strip. Take care that the head touches the top edge and the feet touch the bottom edge of the strip and that the hands touch either side.



Fold the paper accordion style. Make sure that the width of the folds are the size of the outline of the person you drew.



Trim off any leftover paper that isn't long enough to fold.



Cut out the person, leaving the folds intact at the hands and feet so the chain does not break.

Unfold the paper chain of people...

Part 2 Reflecting

Set up a quiet reflective area

1. Talk about the active things that we can do with our legs and on one side of the people chain write the words 'Thank you God for.....' then on the different legs write active words eg leaping, dancing, jumping, skipping, running, walking, hopping, ...

2. Talk about the things that we sometimes make our legs do that are wrong and on the other side write the words 'Sorry God for...'. Then think of things that legs can do that are not kind or good eg:

- Kicking people
- Running off
- Tripping up
- Running to tell tales
- Hiding when we should be listening
- Secretly going to steal something
- Walking away when we should help

3. Finally invite the children to give ideas for a prayer based on the story that they have been thinking about today and the reflections that they have made eg:

- Please God help me to use my legs to do the right things
- Please God help me to praise you like the man in the story
- Please God help me to run to help other people
- Please God help me to stand still and listen

Invite the children to spend time in the quiet reflective area with their people chain prayers.