

Welcome to Families on Faith Adventures @ Home!

This resource has been put together for you by the United Reformed Church Children's and Youth Work team and the synod CYDOs and their equivalents.

We hope you will enjoy sharing a time of faith and fellowship together as a family through these stories, games, activities and prayers. They are designed as a 'pick and mix' of ways to experience God's message through the Bible, exploring what it means to you and express that in words and action. They are not linked to the lectionary but can be used in any order as we explore all the different parts of the Bible.

The Walking the Way challenges are one way of continuing our walk with Jesus throughout the week.

These ideas are designed to be intergenerational - maybe even to be shared with members of the family you can't see now except via the internet.

The resources are based on our non-uniformed children's groups, Friends on Faith Adventures and Pilots, but have been modified to make them suitable for all families at home.

*These activities are planned to be used together as a family and under adult supervision. Please be aware of your family's ages and abilities as some activities may need more adult support than others. **Stay safe and have fun!***

This week we have also prepared a special service for Pentecost Sunday

join us for worship via: bit.ly/cyw-videos

(see advert within this pack for more information)

This week's Bible story is:

Pentecost Power

Acts 2



With many varieties of activities and things to do to help explore the theme. Look out for this 'hands on' symbol.

Get to know your Bible

The Bible is like a library made up of 66 books written by many different people over many years.

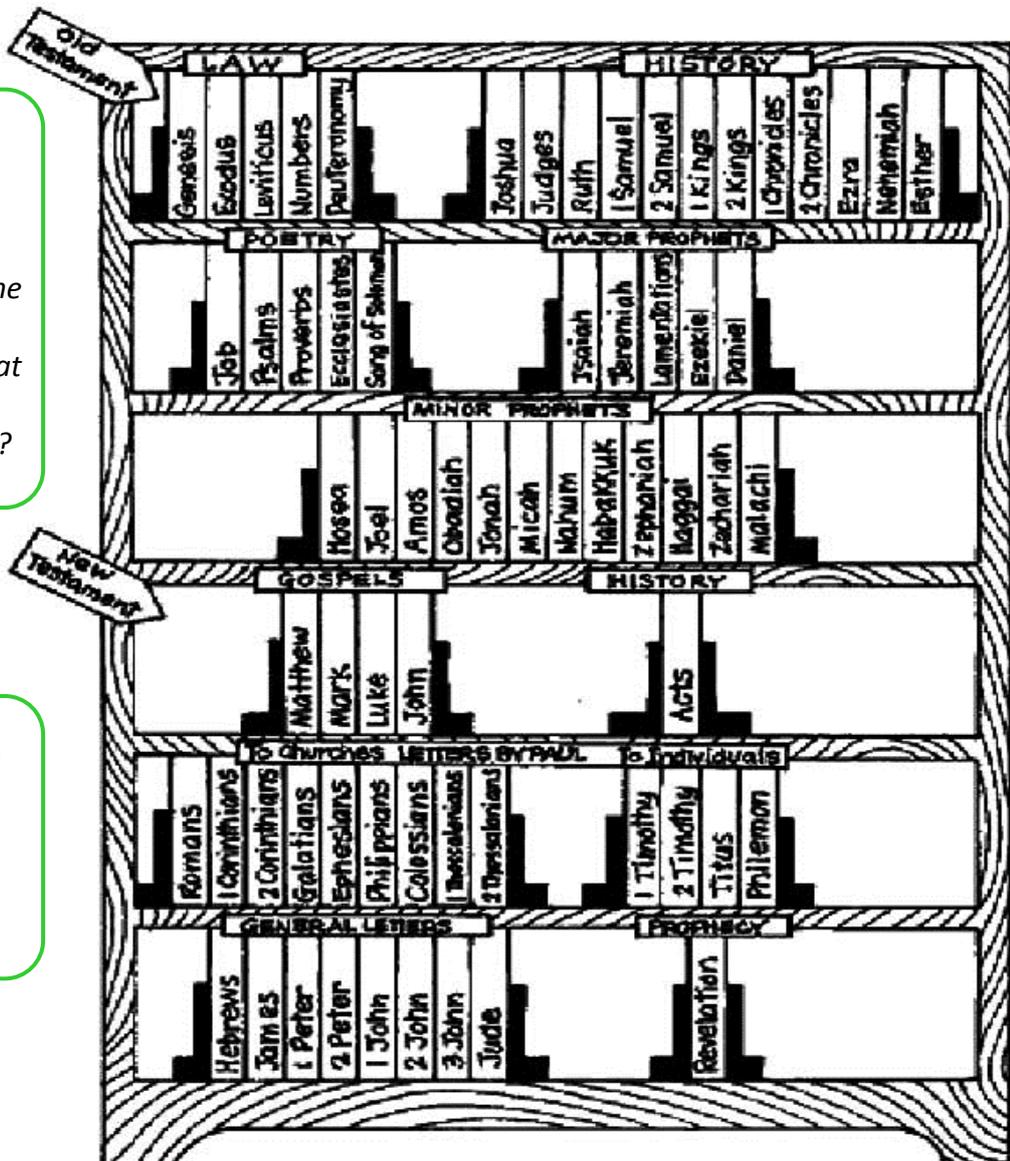
The Old Testament books were written before Jesus was born. They are the holy stories he would have grown up hearing and reading. There are 39 of these.

The New Testament tells us the stories of Jesus and his followers. There are 27 books in the New Testament.



Can you find and colour the book on the bookshelf that this week's story is from?

If you have a Bible, see if you can find the story in there.



You could print this out once and colour each new book on the bookshelf as you read stories from it.

Bible context

The book of Acts was written around 62 AD by Luke, one of Jesus' disciples. It tells the stories of the early Christian Church, beginning with the coming of the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension.

Pentecost (Shavuot) was a Jewish festival similar to Harvest. It is the time when the Jews remember how God gave them the Torah (Law) and they bring their first fruits to temple to offer thanks to God.

Online versions of the story

Watch and listen

A short retelling of the story using shadow puppets

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtTiqmIUtps>

Cartoon version by Saddleback Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

Retold by children at Crossroads Kids Club

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuUK6REOWuE>

Narration of 'God Sends Help' from the 'Jesus Story Book Bible' by Sally Lloyd-Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cTjA5vcpS/>

Dance and sing

A beautiful reflective song by a young woman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDhWLF6MC0c>

A very silly muppet style song about fruit of the spirit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA-TMUDQ7us>



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The Story of Pentecost – Acts 2

(adapted from The Living Bible)

Seven weeks had gone by since Jesus' death and resurrection and the Day of Pentecost had now arrived. As the believers met together that day, suddenly there was a sound like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them and it filled the house where they were meeting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on their heads. Everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know, for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Many godly Jews were in Jerusalem that day for the religious celebrations, having arrived from many nations. And when they heard the roaring in the sky above the house, crowds came running to see what it was all about and were stunned to hear their own languages being spoken by the disciples. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "For these men are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking all the native languages of the lands where we were born! And we all hear these men telling in our own languages about the mighty miracles of God!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd were mocking. "They're drunk, that's all!" they said.

Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen, all of you, visitors and residents of Jerusalem alike! Some of you are saying these men are drunk! It isn't true! It's much too early for that! People don't get drunk by 9:00 A.M.! No! What you see this morning was predicted centuries ago by the prophet Joel. 'In the last days,' God said, 'I will pour out my Holy Spirit upon all mankind, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men dream dreams. Yes, the Holy Spirit shall come upon all my servants, men and women alike, and they shall prophesy. And I will cause strange demonstrations in the heavens and on the earth—blood and fire and clouds of smoke; the sun shall turn black and the moon blood-red before that awesome Day of the Lord arrives. But anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved.' "O men of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus of Nazareth by doing tremendous miracles through him, as you well know. But God, following his prearranged plan, let you use the Roman government to nail him to the cross and murder him. Then God released him from the horrors of death and brought him back to life again, for death could not keep this man within its grip. "And now he sits on the throne of highest honour in heaven, next to God. And just as promised, the Father gave him the authority to send the Holy Spirit with the results you are seeing and hearing today. These words of Peter's moved them deeply, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

And Peter replied, "Each one of you must turn from sin, return to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; then you also shall receive this gift, the Holy Spirit. For Christ promised him to each one of you who has been called by the Lord our God, and to your children and even to those in distant lands!" Then Peter preached a long sermon, telling about Jesus and strongly urging all his listeners to save themselves from the evils of their nation. And those who believed Peter were baptized—about three thousand in all! They joined with the other believers in regular attendance at the apostles' teaching sessions and at the Communion services and prayer meetings. A deep sense of awe was on them all, and the apostles did many miracles.

And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything with each other, selling their possessions and dividing with those in need. They worshiped together regularly at the Temple each day, met in small groups in homes for Communion, and shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness, praising God. The whole city was favourable to them, and each day God added to them all who were being saved.

Ideas to retell the story

The birthday of the church – You could plan a big birthday party, decorate the room, prepare some party food and drink, make paper hats and a birthday cake, design a Pentecost cocktail. Then enjoy the party, telling the story at the birthday table.

Transformed by the wind and fire – re-enact the story by closing all the doors and windows, sit comfortably and read the story together, you could make wind noises, use fans and fire streamers to shake as you tell the story.

Popping Pentecost

Use popcorn to bring the story to life. Look at the unpopped kernels and think what words come to mind (e.g. closed, unpopped potential, hard, yellow) now as you tell the story put them into the popcorn maker/pan and put the lid on. As you feel the heat and hear the fan, you will see a change is taking place. Now look at the popcorn; what words come to mind now (e.g. open, popped, exciting, appealing)? When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were locked away in a room. They were yellow (scared), they were hard hearted, closed up. But after the wind of God and the flames of the Spirit came, they were open, exciting, popped, reaching their potential. Celebrate as you eat the tasty treat.

A version of this can be seen on our YouTube channel:

<https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0dWr4cxnjTTFdAY2f4KMuvVrsRkDfL-Z>

What's in the box?



What treasures can you find to put in the box for your little ones to explore?

Perhaps older children could help find the things.



Use a box or a bag to hold the treasures and encourage any little ones to explore what's in the box/bag each week to go with the Bible story.

This week's Bible story is:

Pentecost Power

Acts 2



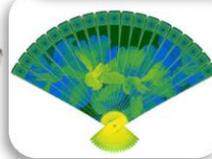
Some flame-like materials – gold, yellow, red, orange...



Something with rainbow colours for God's promise



A torch



A selection of things which work with wind or create wind

Pray Together

Pentecost Spinners

You will need card
(large cereal box or recycled card is fine)
paper and colouring pens
scissors and glue
and string or wool

*This will make two
you could give one to a friend or a family member too!*

Method

- Cut four circles of paper and two of card, all the same size.
- Decorate your paper circles with bright colours to look like fire.
- Stick the paper circles to both sides of your card.
- Place two holes in the middle of your circles – you may need a grown up to help you.
- Thread your string /wool through the holes and fasten off.

*Enjoy the energy your spinner makes and think of the energy in our story - how exciting it was for those who were there, and how exciting it is for us to be a friend of God!
Amen*



Spiralling flames!

You will need: Spiral template (See activity Sheet 1a and 1b)
Card – large cereal box or recycled card is fine or stiff paper
Colouring pens
Scissors and string /thread / wool

Method

- Copy the pattern or print it and stick onto your card.
- Colour lovely hot flame colours onto your spiral - you could add a message e.g. God sent fire at Pentecost, or On Fire with God!
- Cut out your spiral.
- Thread your string, thread, or wool through as a hanger!

Watch them spin and think of all the people in the world who follow Jesus. You might want to think of your friends and family as you watch the spiral move. Thank God that God's Holy Spirit is always with us.



Pray Together

Transforming Prayers

You will need a jug or jar of water and some effervescent vitamin tablets.

Think about things that you would like to change or say sorry for.

We can ask God to help us just as God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

When you are ready, drop the tablet into the water. Just as the disciples were changed, we can be changed too. As you watch the tablet dissolve and the bubbles start to rise up, imagine giving your feelings to God and the hurt that you feel or the things you want to say sorry for disappearing into the water. Sit quietly and listen to the bubbles in the water. When the fizzing has stopped join in together and say amen.



Fizzing Prayers



You will need:

Food colouring
Bicarbonate of soda
White vinegar



Mix food colouring or gel into a small amount of white vinegar to colour it.

Cover the bottom of a plate with bicarbonate of soda.

Using a teaspoon drop a very small amount of the coloured vinegar onto the soda and watch as the colour fizzes and bubbles.

In the story we heard about how the Holy Spirit came and transformed the disciples' lives and the Holy Spirit can transform our lives too. As you drop the vinegar onto the soda, pray that the Holy Spirit will come and change your life.

*I wonder what you think
the disciples were feeling
before and after God's
Pentecost Power?*

*I wonder how we can
see God working
today?*



*I wonder what gifts
God has given to you
for his Holy Spirit to
work with?*

*I wonder whether anyone
in the room guessed
instantly that it was God?
I wonder whether there
were any clues?*

*I wonder how we can
prepare ourselves to be
empowered by God's
power and equipped to
transform?*



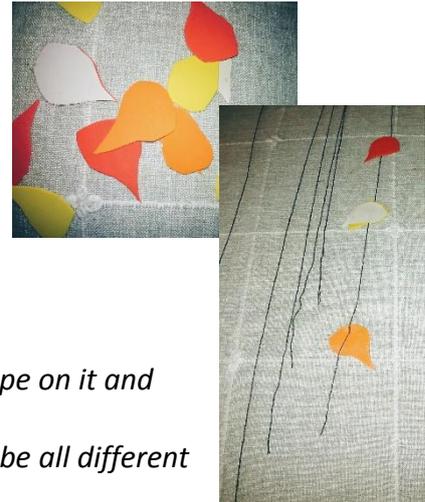
TO DO TOGETHER...

Pentecost Mobile

You will need: Sticky foam or coloured paper
(or pictures from magazines which are red, orange and yellow)
A piece of white paper
Thread, wool or string

What you do:

Cut out flame shapes from your coloured paper or foam.
Fold the piece of white paper in half and then draw a dove shape on it and cut it out (so you create two doves).
Cut six different length pieces of thread or wool - they need to be all different sizes to get a spiral effect on your mobile.



Lay out your thread and fasten onto it either one sticky foam piece (peel off the backing and stick the foam to the thread, then put the backing back in place) or two paper flames (glue one and place it on the thread and place the other flame shape on top). Add more flames.



Continue this until all your threads have flames on them, making sure you have one flame at the bottom of each thread.
Cut one more short length of thread and glue your dove in place in the same way, at the end of the thread.

A grown-up may need to help with this.
Using Sellotape, stick the flame threads around a lamp shade. Start with the longest thread and end with the shortest, to create a spiral effect, then tape the dove in the middle of the shade.





TO DO TOGETHER...

More sensory ways to explore

Hovercraft

You will need:

An old DVD or CD
A bottle top from a drinks
bottle
A balloon

What you do:

Decorate the shiny side of the CD.
Tape the bottle top to the centre of the CD, using
strips of strong tape all the way around it. You
need to make sure there are no gaps in the tape for
air to escape.
Open the top of the bottle top and place your
balloon around it.
From the other side of the CD, blow up the balloon and hold the
balloon until you are ready to release the hovercraft. Place it on a
flat smooth surface and open the top or let go.

The Holy Spirit helps us to go where God sends us.



A version of this can be seen on our YouTube channel:

<https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0dWr4cxnjTTFdAY2f4KMuvVrsRkDfL-Z>



TO DO TOGETHER...

More sensory ways to explore

Fireworks in a Jar

You will need: A jar of warm water
Oil
Food colouring
(red, orange and yellow)

What you do:

Fill the jar about 3/4 full of warm water from the tap.
In a separate bowl or dish, place three tablespoons of vegetable oil. Carefully put drops of food colouring into the oil. Mix it all gently with a fork (but not too much).
Add the oil to the water in your jar. Watch as the coloured drops sink down into the water and mix together, creating a firework effect.



Together for Pentecost

A service from the URC for worship at home, Sunday
31 May, available from 9am on YouTube (bit.ly/cyw-videos).

This special service has been prepared by the
Children's and Youth Work/CYDO+ team of the URC.

A service sheet is available from bit.ly/cyw-events and
worshippers are encouraged to have a piece of paper and pen(s)
ready to help them participate.



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Walking the Way

Living the life of Jesus today

**Our Walking the Way Challenge
this time is...**

At Home:

Our story is about new beginnings. Hang up your prayer spiral somewhere where you can see it each day. Spend a few moments each morning remembering that God is the God of new beginnings and asking to be fuelled with God's power.

Outside:

On your walks, see how many signs you can see of the wind moving or lifting things around you. Stand in a windy spot and thank God for always being with you, even though you can't ever see God with your eyes.

For Others:

Do you know someone who speaks a different language than you? Can you learn to say "God loves you" in their language? Perhaps you could learn to say it in Makaton. Point up when you say "God", cross your hands over your heart when you say "loves", and point at someone when you say "you".



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Adventurers Go!

You've shared together, now share with us!

Why not send photos of your crafts, your treasure boxes, your Walking the Way challenges - or dress up to make a tableau of the Big Story and take a photo to send in.

Email your photos to: lorraine.webb@urc.org.uk
with parental permission for them to be used in publicity and online URC social media.

Alternatively, share them on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/URCchildren.and.youth/>

Remember you can find more resources on our website:
<https://urc.org.uk/resources-for-children-and-youth>

And if you've enjoyed these activities, why not see whether your local church runs Pilots or Friends on Faith Adventures (FOFA) when things get back to normal again.

Created for you by Nicola Grieves (Eastern Synod), Judy Harris (National Synod of Wales), Hannah Middleton (Northern Synod), Philip Ray (Wessex Synod, North), Lorraine Webb (Programme Officer for CYW), and Ruth White (Wessex Synod, South) on behalf of the CYDO+ and Children's and Youth Work team and Pilots.



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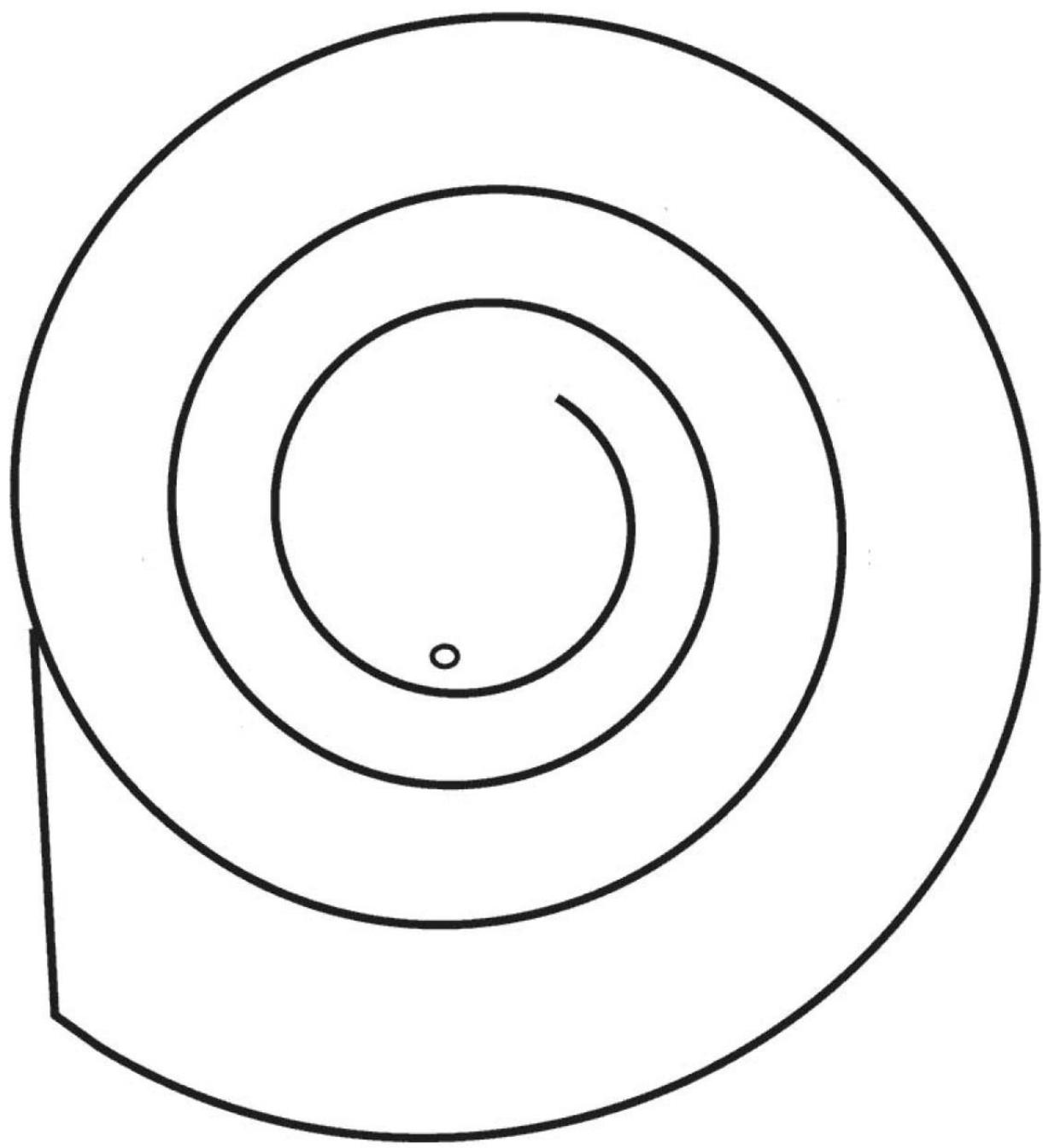




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Activity Sheet 1a





Activity Sheet 1b

