

## Celebrate Pentecost!

### Three Family Activities for the Seventh Sunday after Easter

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#### ***WHY CELEBRATE PENTECOST?***

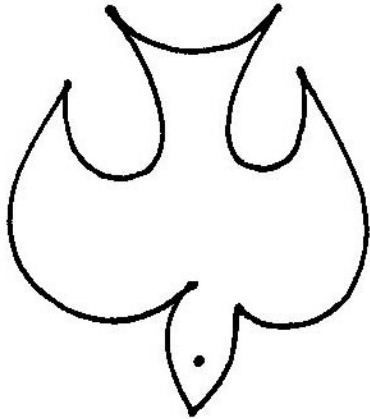
***Pentecost*** is a great day of celebration for Christians! **RED** is the festival color for Pentecost.

*Pente* means 50 in Greek. Does that give you a clue about Pentecost Sunday?

Before Pentecost was a Christian festival, it was a Jewish holiday. Pentecost was a harvest festival 50 days after the Passover. The crops were harvested and the people celebrated with great feasts.

Now identify the Christian festival that comes at the end of Passover. Did you say **EASTER? That's right!**

**Pentecost** comes 50 days after Easter. But the date isn't nearly as exciting as the events of the very first Pentecost. You can read that Bible story in Acts 2. As you do that together, list all the surprises that happened that day!



On **Pentecost** today, Christians celebrate the first coming of the Holy Spirit to His church. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit and He kept His promise. He came then and He comes to us now through Baptism, The Lord's Supper and through God's Word.

**Hooray for Pentecost!**



### **1. Create a Pentecost Candle for Your Family Worship Center**

Freeze water in a large, clean, empty soup or coffee can.

Use a hammer and nail to punch holes in the can to create a shape such as a flame, a dove or a cross.

Empty the ice and dry the punched can.



Place an inch of sand or cat litter into the can to weight it and to help stabilize a votive candle.

Light the candle and watch the design flicker on your walls. Read the Pentecost story from Acts 2.

Read Scripture verses about the Holy Spirit from Genesis 1:2; 1 Samuel 10:10; Isaiah 44:3; Joel 2:28; Matthew 3:11; Luke 1:35; Acts 2:17; Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Galatians 5:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

Find many more references to the Holy Spirit in your Bible's concordance.

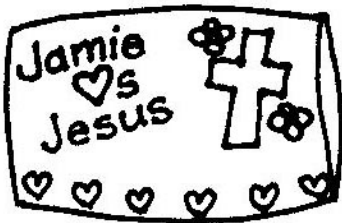
What is the work of the Holy Spirit? Review Article 3 of the Apostle's Creed together from your catechism. Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit!

## 2. God Answers Prayers – Make A Prayer Pillowcase

Jesus' friends met to pray and eat together. They remembered Jesus' promise, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses ... to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Then Jesus went into the clouds into heaven!

Jesus kept His promise. God answered His people's prayers and sent the Holy Spirit to fill the people with His Word and joy in His presence.

Have each family member decorate a plain pillowcase with short prayers and reminders of Jesus' love. For example, *I love You, Jesus; Forgive me; Help me show Your love; Thank You, Jesus!*



Use fabric paint in tubes or pens from a craft store. Add Christian symbols such as a dove, cross, Bible, praying hands, heart and smiling face. Fabric paint dries quickly. Before laundering the pillowcases, soak them in cold salt water to "set" the paint.

### Sanctified – Made Holy – by the Spirit

*You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:11*

God has set you aside for a special purpose, made you holy through Jesus' blood, and sent the Holy Spirit to live in you through His Word and Baptism! (Read John 17:17 to find out how God does this!)

Give each family member one or more strips of paper. Start a "Sanctification Chain Story" by having one person begin, "One beautiful morning, God ...". Create a continuing story that tells how God helps you and uses you as His holy people. Write each action on a strip of paper. Staple or tape the strips together.



Remember to focus on God's actions in your life. He's the one who sanctifies you and keeps you in His Word and faith as the Spirit lives in you.

See more worship ideas and ways to integrate the celebration of Pentecost into your family's faith life in the Pentecost Son Times, a newspaper for children and their families to share the Good News with one another and with others.

Call Child Ministry at 1-800-248-1930 to order single or multiple copies of Son Times or to subscribe to the 6 issues per church year.