

Family activity:

Remember and celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit with a family activity, exploring the images of fire and wind:

- *build a fire and roast some marshmallows*
- *fly a kite*
- *create a pin wheel for your garden*
- *watch a dove flying*
- and talk about how the Holy Spirit moves us.



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Front cover icon: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pentecost>
Reading: *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories*, Mary Batchelor 1995.
Family prayer: Adapted from *Blessings and Prayers for Home and Family*, CCCB 2004
Clip art: Gertrud Mueller Nelson 1987

Celebrating Pentecost:

The descent of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Easter





Reading:

God's Spirit Comes (Acts 1-2)

The disciples met to talk and pray together while they waited for the Holy Spirit to come. They knew that Jesus would no longer appear suddenly, to talk to them. But once his Spirit came, he would be with them in a new and closer way.

Seven weeks after Passover, the Jewish people celebrate the festival of Pentecost. It is a harvest thanksgiving for the first ripe crops. Soon Jerusalem was packed with pilgrims once again, as Jews from all over the world returned for the happy celebration.

Early that Sunday morning, on the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were all together, when something extraordinary happened.

They described it afterwards as a great rushing wind that swept down from heaven and filled the whole house with the noise it made. Then separate little tongues of flame settled for an instant on every person there.

But what they could see and hear was nothing compared to how they felt inside themselves. The warmth and life that Jesus always brought with him surged into them again, and they knew that his promised Holy Spirit had come to live inside them forever, close and real. They were bursting with joy and began to pour out aloud their thanks and praise to God.

Meanwhile, a huge crowd had collected outside the house. They had seen and heard some of the strange happenings and were curious to know what was going on. But when the disciples came out of the house and onto the street, they were even more amazed.

Everyone there, whatever country he came from, understood perfectly what the disciples were saying, as they praised and thanked God for his wonderful gift to them. (...)

That day the number of believers in Jesus swelled to three thousand. They all began to meet regularly in the days that followed. They had meals together, prayed and learned more from the apostles about what it meant to follow Jesus.

Family prayer:

All: - Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Parent: - Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
All: - and renew the face of the earth.

Parent: - O God, on the first Pentecost
you touched the hearts of those
who believed in you.
Just like them, help us to sense the
presence and power of the Holy Spirit,
who brings us joy and helps us to know
what is right and true.

We pray this through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

All: - Amen.

