



Pentecost

May 24 - 30

On May 31, we celebrate the birthday of the Church – the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and the mission of the Church began.



Learning Targets:

- ☪ The Holy Spirit is one person of the Trinity.
- ☪ The story of Pentecost tells us of our mission in the world.
- ☪ God promised the Holy Spirit would come to help us.
- ☪ The symbols of the Holy Spirit are wind, fire, and a dove.



Vocab

- ☪ Pentecost
- ☪ Holy Spirit
- ☪ Trinity

Preparation

The story in Acts 2:1-42 tells how the early followers of Christ came together on Pentecost and bonded together into a body, ignited by the Holy Spirit, and felt prepared to spread the Word. Pentecost is the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Early Christians often baptized new converts on this day, and they traditionally wore white. In the Christian tradition, we use the color red, remembering the red flames of the Holy Spirit. It is a celebration of hope and renewal of purpose and mission. It is a perfect time for children to celebrate being a Christian, sometimes in very different ways.

Movement – Let the Holy Spirit be your Guide



Create a simple obstacle course in your living room or back yard. Blindfold a volunteer who then has to find their way across the room or yard by listening to your voice calling directions; turn right, stop, take two steps left, etc. The blindfolded one has to listen carefully to your voice or he will trip or bump into things.

Then talk about how this is like listening to the Holy Spirit's voice. To further illustrate this, send another person through the obstacle course and instruct other family members to call directions at the same time. This teaches a very practical lesson on learning to follow one voice as opposed to many other "voices" that might influence our lives.

Craft – Pentecost Stained Glass Art

Teaching students about the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost can be tricky because there is not a tangible person for them to connect to in the same way they can with a human person like Jesus. Instead we talk about the Holy Spirit being represented by fire, a dove, wind, water or oil. This craft allows students to make one of those symbols, a flame, as a “stained glass” representation that creates a great window display as you prepare for Pentecost.

You’ll need:

- White Cardstock
- Black Cardstock or construction paper (8 ½” x 11”)
- Contact paper or clear transfer tape (2 sheets about 9”x 12”)
- Yellow, Red, Orange tissue paper squares (about 1” x 1”)
- Scissors
- Flame template/Come Holy Spirit Card (found below)
- White crayon/colored pencil
- Tape or Glue



Instructions:

1. Print out the flame template on white cardstock for durability.
2. Cut out the thick black lines of the flame template. Also, cut out the “Come Holy Spirit” card that is included on the template and save that for the end.



3. Fold your black paper/cardstock in half vertically. Set the flame template at the crease and trace it onto the black paper. Use a white crayon or colored pencil to make it easier to see what you are tracing.
4. Cut out the flame that you just traced and open up your paper so the flame outline lays flat.
5. Take one of your pieces of contact paper or transfer tape, remove the backing and place it flat with the sticky side up. (Pro Tip: Either type of sticky paper will work, but I tend to prefer transfer tape. I’ve found transfer tape to be a little thicker and easier to work with. It doesn’t wrinkle up as much as contact paper does and you can often buy it on a roll that doesn’t have any backing to peel off. Either will work for this project though.)

6. Then set your black flame outline onto the sticky paper.
7. Stick the colored tissue paper one square at a time to the sticky paper, staying inside the black flame outline. Keep adding tissue paper until there are no more spaces showing. The tissue paper can overlap or can be cut or ripped to smaller pieces if needed.
8. Once the flame is full of color, take the second piece of sticky paper, remove the backing, and set it on top to seal in the flame and tissue paper.
9. Cut around the flame to remove the excess sticky paper. Tape or glue the Come Holy Spirit card to the bottom of the flame.
10. Hang these Pentecost stained glass crafts in a window to let the sun shine through the colors of the flame for the full effect.



Handouts / Resource Instructions

🌀 Background Information

The following **Information Resource** will provide you and your child with an overview focused on Pentecost. You can either use the resource to go over the information with your child or have them watch this short video to aid in learning.

- YouTube – “The Holy Spirit Comes (The Day of Pentecost)” -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=177&v=lqG_lvZhU-A&feature=emb_title (2:57))

🌀 CLOW- Grade 2: Celebrate the Church’s Birthday!

Ask: What are birthdays? Why do we celebrate birthdays? What kind of things do we do on birthdays?

Tell: Did you know the Church has a birthday too? We call the birthday of the Church – Pentecost.

Explain: The story of Pentecost using the **Information Resource** included in this packet or have them watch the YouTube video provided.

Say: So, when the Holy Spirit came to the apostles, the Church was born because more people got to hear God’s message and we became more united.

Tell the children this story and ask them the included questions:

🌀 Look up, in and out!

- **Look up!** God sent his Holy Spirit in a surprising and amazing way! Flickering fire, and people speaking in different languages! How would you have felt to be there, too?
- **Look in!** Jesus’ friends were together in the room. We don’t need to do this journey to Pentecost alone, either. God’s church is for everyone - all shapes, sizes, ages! Try and find a good faith-filled-friend to talk to about God.
- **Look out!** People in today’s story were confused by what was happening! Today, people may be confused about Christians, too. If your friends have questions about God or the church, ask God for the right words to talk with them.

Celebrate (Optional): If you and your children would like to have a birthday party for the church, you can do the following things:

- 🌀 Dress in flame colors on the day of Pentecost.
- 🌀 Make a birthday cake to share with your
- 🌀 Sing “Happy Birthday.”
- 🌀 Release Helium filled “birthday” balloons in flame colors of red, orange and yellow over the kids’ heads when you read the story of Pentecost.
- 🌀 Ordinary balloons are a much cheaper and can still have a great impact.
- 🌀 Ribbons on sticks made prior to the day can add to the “sacred” drama. Wave them while singing.
- 🌀 Dance - if you have dancers in your midst, put on some joyful music and show your moves.
- 🌀 Use other Languages - invite your children to learn some new words in different languages! (Find handout on CLOW/CFF Google Drive).

Activity: Using the **CLOW-Grade 2 Resource** page, have the children think about what happened on the day the Church began. The children should then cut out the sentence strips and put the strips in the correct sentence order. They can then tape or glue them in the correct order to a piece of construction paper. Last, have them write a sentence to tell what happened next.

☪ Grades 3-6: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

At Baptism, we receive seven special gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are freely given to us to help us live as followers of Jesus and to build up the Body of Christ, the Church. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are sealed and strengthened within us at Confirmation.

These seven gifts help us to respond to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to make good choices, and to serve God and others.

For an overview of the 7 Gifts, youth can watch this YouTube video – “Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWq3HzBSRnI> – (6:14)

The Catholic News Service on YouTube provides short videos (about 2-3 minutes long) that discuss each gift further. I found them to be very well done. I've included the one on “Fear of the Lord” below in case youth were interested in investigating each gift further.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Piety - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMYM7e_SZ5s – (2:07)

Using the Grades 3-5 Resource, children will read through the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit and their descriptions. They will then come up, with their own unique symbol to represent each gift.

☪ Middle and High School Youth: The Spirit in Us

For this age level, the focus is on diving into defining the many ways the Holy Spirit helps us in our life.

First, have the youth watch a short video on what occurred at Pentecost and the Holy Spirit – “Holy Spirit” - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9iIGjc&t=24s> (4:11).

Using the **Middle and High School Youth Resource**, youth will use a Bible (they can type in the scriptures and do a search on-line as well) to look up scripture and see if they can figure out characteristics of the Holy Spirit. The answers are below.

This activity will help youth discover what it says about the Holy Spirit.

- ☪ Romans 8: 9 (Lives in Christians)
- ☪ Acts 13: 2 (Speaks)
- ☪ Romans 8: 26 (Prays with us)
- ☪ Acts 8: 29 (Leads)
- ☪ Acts 16: 6, 7 (Commands)
- ☪ John 14: 26 (Teaches)
- ☪ John 16: 8-11 (Convicts)
- ☪ John 14: 26 (Reminds)
- ☪ Acts 1: 8 (Gives power)
- ☪ Galatians 5: 22, 23 (Changes lives)
- ☪ 2 Corinthians 3: 18 (Is God)
- ☪ Hebrews 9: 11 (Is eternal)
- ☪ Genesis 1: 2 (Is creator)
- ☪ John 16: 7-15 (Is a person)
- ☪ 1 Corinthians 12: 7-11 (Gives spiritual gifts)

Reflection: Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised the disciples that he would send someone to guide and enable them to live godly lives. When we accept Christ into our lives this promise is true for us and the Holy Spirit enters our lives. This means that God is with us continually, ready work in and through us. How do you think the Holy Spirit has worked (and continues to work) in your life?

Where do you need the Holy Spirit to work in your life today?

☪ Older Children and Adults: Flame Finger Labyrinth

Labyrinths have been around for over 4,000 years with labyrinth stone wall carvings, clay tablets and coins dating back to the Bronze Age. Labyrinths have been featured in Greek and Roman mythology and, in the Middle Ages, they started to appear in churches and temples around the world. Labyrinths have been used by many different cultures and religions across time as they have been known to be used for relaxation, meditation and prayer that can bring spiritual and emotional well-being to the lives of those who used them.

Now, labyrinths can be found in hospital gardens, church grounds, parks, schools and home gardens as they are known for their meditative properties.

What is a Labyrinth?

A Labyrinth is not a maze; a maze has blind dead ends that are used to confuse and trick the mind. A labyrinth is a spiral course having a single, winding unobstructed path from the outside to the center that is used to calm and relax.

What is a Finger Labyrinth?

A finger labyrinth is similar to a full-sized labyrinth you would walk except it is on a much smaller and more portable scale. The user traces the path to the center using their finger rather than with their feet. There are many different kinds of labyrinths differing in size and complexity.

Finger Labyrinths are known to help children and adults relax, feel better when they are sad or scared, deal with situations when they feel ashamed or embarrassed and help them to concentrate.

How to do a Finger Labyrinth Meditation?

Take deep breaths to begin to relax and focus on the entrance to the labyrinth.

Place your pointer finger from your non-dominant hand on the entrance of the labyrinth. If you find this too awkward at first, use your dominant hand. However, over time, keep trying your non-dominant hand. This helps keep the mind focused on the meditation due to the challenge it presents.

Slowly trace the pattern of the labyrinth with your finger allowing your mind to clear from extra thought and focus solely on following the path of the labyrinth.

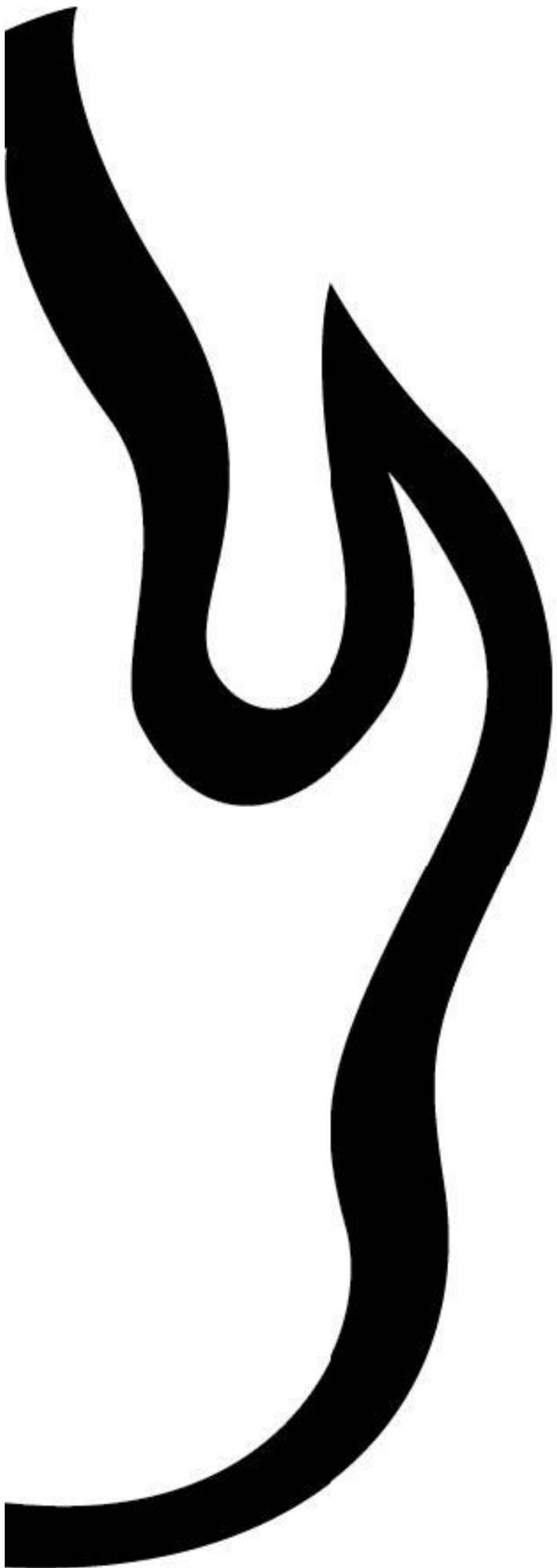
“Walk” to the center of the labyrinth and rest momentarily, taking deep breaths observing how you are feeling.

Retrace your path out of the labyrinth.

Sit back, breathe deeply and relax. Observe how you are feeling again.

Note: The same steps apply for a Walking Labyrinth, except you slowly walk the path. St. Catherine of Siena has a wonderful labyrinth behind the Church.

There are also many websites that have printable finger labyrinths aimed for adults and children. For this week, older children and adults can use their **Resource** page to participate in a finger labyrinth that focuses on the Holy Spirit.



Instructions for use: Cut out the flame template. Fold an 8 1/2 " x 11" piece of black cardstock or black construction paper in half. Set the template at the crease and trace around it. Cut out the lines you traced and then unfold to make a flame.

**Come
Holy Spirit**



Pentecost

Background Information



Why is Pentecost important?

Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church and is the start of the Church's mission in the world. As Catholics, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on this day. Pentecost, which comes from the Greek word *pentecostē* translates to "50th day." We celebrate Pentecost on the 50th day following Easter.



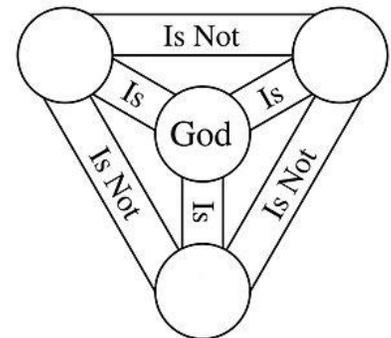
The First Pentecost

The Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot) was primarily a thanksgiving for the *first fruits* of the wheat harvest, but it was later associated with a remembrance of the Law given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. The church's transformation of the Jewish feast to a Christian festival was related to the belief that the gift of the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus was the *first fruits* of a new revelation that fulfilled and succeeded the old revelation of the Law.

The apostles were celebrating this feast when the Holy Spirit came to them. The Holy Spirit sounded like a very strong wind and it looked like fire. The apostles were suddenly able to speak many different languages. People outside began to hear about the Word of God in their own language and were inspired to believe in God. Peter told the crowd that they were full of the Holy Spirit.

What is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Some believe that the Holy Spirit became present at Pentecost, however, the Holy Spirit was also present at the Creation of the world, when Mary found out she was going to be the mother of Jesus, and when Jesus was baptized.



One of the most common symbols of the Holy Spirit is a dove. It comes from the story of Jesus' baptism, when Jesus saw "the Spirit, like a dove descending upon him." (Mark 1:10) The other three Gospel writers use similar wording to describe the event (see Matthew 3:16, Luke 3:22, and John 1:32).

Fire is another popular representation of the Holy Spirit. The fire that appeared on Pentecost (Acts of the Apostles 2:3) was reminiscent of the burning bush on Mount Sinai from which God spoke to Moses. (Exodus 3:2) During the Exodus, the people of God were led by a pillar of fire at night. (Exodus 13:21) Fire calls attention to the strength and force of the Holy Spirit. The color of Pentecost is red to symbolize fire. We commonly will wear red to Mass that day. The church is also decorated in that same color (plus Father Joe usually wears his red Converse sneakers).

The Holy Spirit is also represented by wind. In fact, the original Hebrew and Greek words for "Spirit" can be translated as "wind." The wind that appeared on Pentecost (Acts of the Apostles 2:2) was reminiscent of the wind that blew over the waters at the beginning of Creation. (Genesis 1:2) The wind calls attention to the Holy Spirit breathing life into the Church.



Pentecost

CLOW – Grade 2

Celebrate the Church's Birthday!



The Story of Pentecost

Directions: Read the description of each symbol of Baptism below. Then, cut apart the names and pictures of each symbol below and paste them into the correct row that matches each description.



Early one Sunday morning the disciples were together in one place.



The disciples went out into the street.



The disciples heard a noise like a strong wind.



They saw what looked like flames of fire over each of them.



Pentecost

Grade 3-6 Gifts of the Holy Spirit



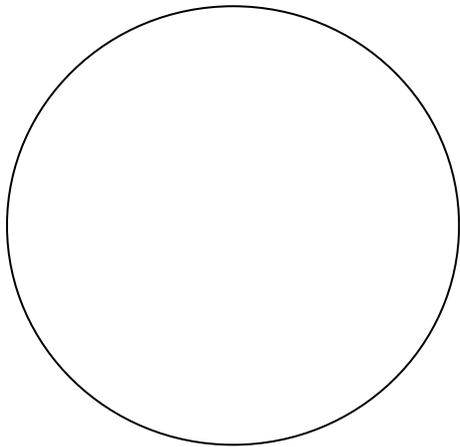
The 7 Gifts

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to love God. Each gives us special graces to respond to God's call to live holy lives.

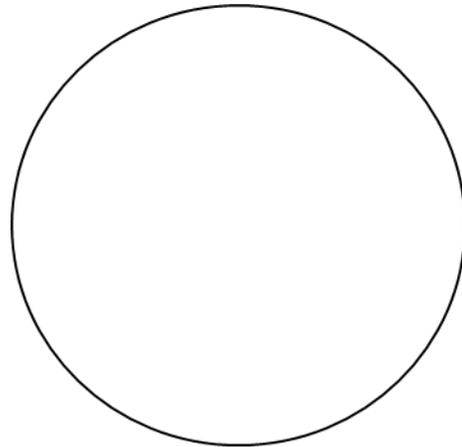
There are 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit. They are:

- ☉ **Wisdom** is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.
- ☉ **Understanding** is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.
- ☉ **Right Judgment, or Counsel**, is the gift of prudence. The gift of right judgment helps you make choices to live as a faithful follower of Jesus.
- ☉ **Courage, or Fortitude**, is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith.
- ☉ **Knowledge** is the gift of knowing and enlightenment. The gift of knowledge enables you to choose the right path that will lead you to God. It encourages you to avoid obstacles that will keep you from him.
- ☉ **Reverence, or Piety**, is the gift of confidence in God. This gift of reverence inspires you to joyfully want to serve God and others.
- ☉ **Wonder and Awe, or Fear of the Lord** is the gift of wonder and respect that encourages you to be in awe of God. The gift of wonder and awe moves you to so love God that you do not want to offend him by your words or actions.

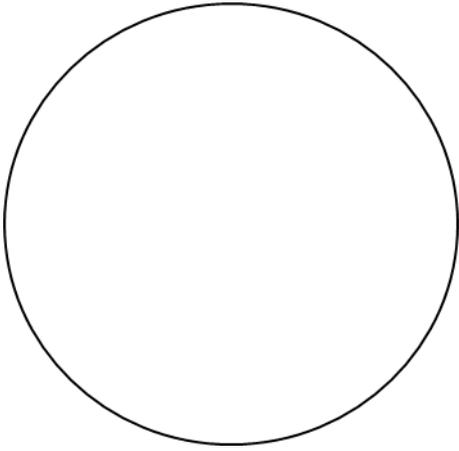
DIRECTIONS: Complete the names of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and draw a suitable symbol for each.



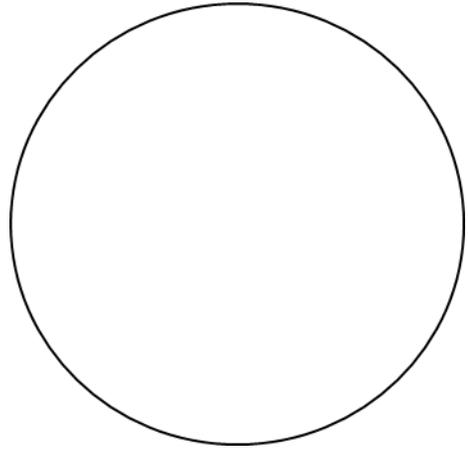
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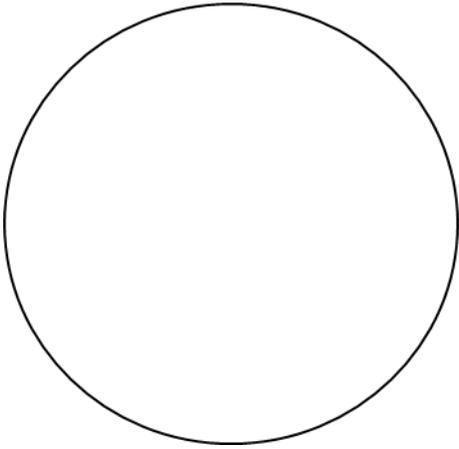
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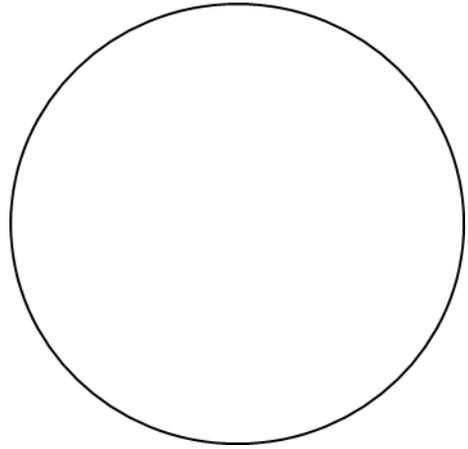
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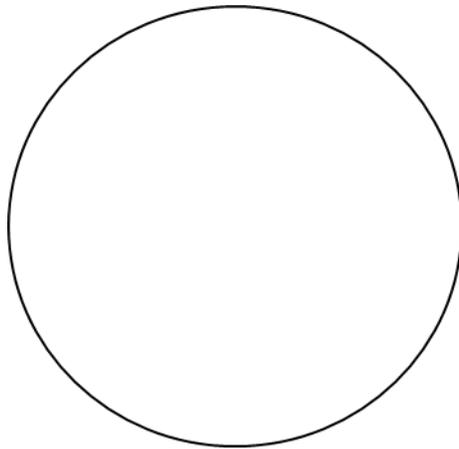
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Pentecost

Middle and High School Youth
The Spirit in Us!



Who is the Holy Spirit?

Directions – Of the three persons of the Trinity, many people mention that they know the least about the Holy Spirit. Have you ever wondered how the Holy Spirit dwells in you?

For this activity, you will need a Bible. If you don't have one at home, you can look up each scripture below on-line. After looking up each scripture verse and reading through it, your goal is to figure out descriptors or characteristics for the Holy Spirit.

Example: Romans 8:9 – “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.” So, the Holy Spirit dwells within us.

Acts 13:2 -	Acts 1: 8 -
Romans 8:26 -	Galatians 5: 22, 23 -
Acts 8: 29 -	2 Corinthians 3: 18 -
Acts 16: 6, 7 -	Hebrews 9: 11 -
John 14: 26 -	Genesis 1: 2 -
John 16: 8-11 -	John 16: 7-15 -
John 14: 26 -	1 Corinthians 12: 7-11 -

How do you think the Holy Spirit has worked (and continues to work) in your life?

Where do you need the Holy Spirit to work in your life today?



Pentecost

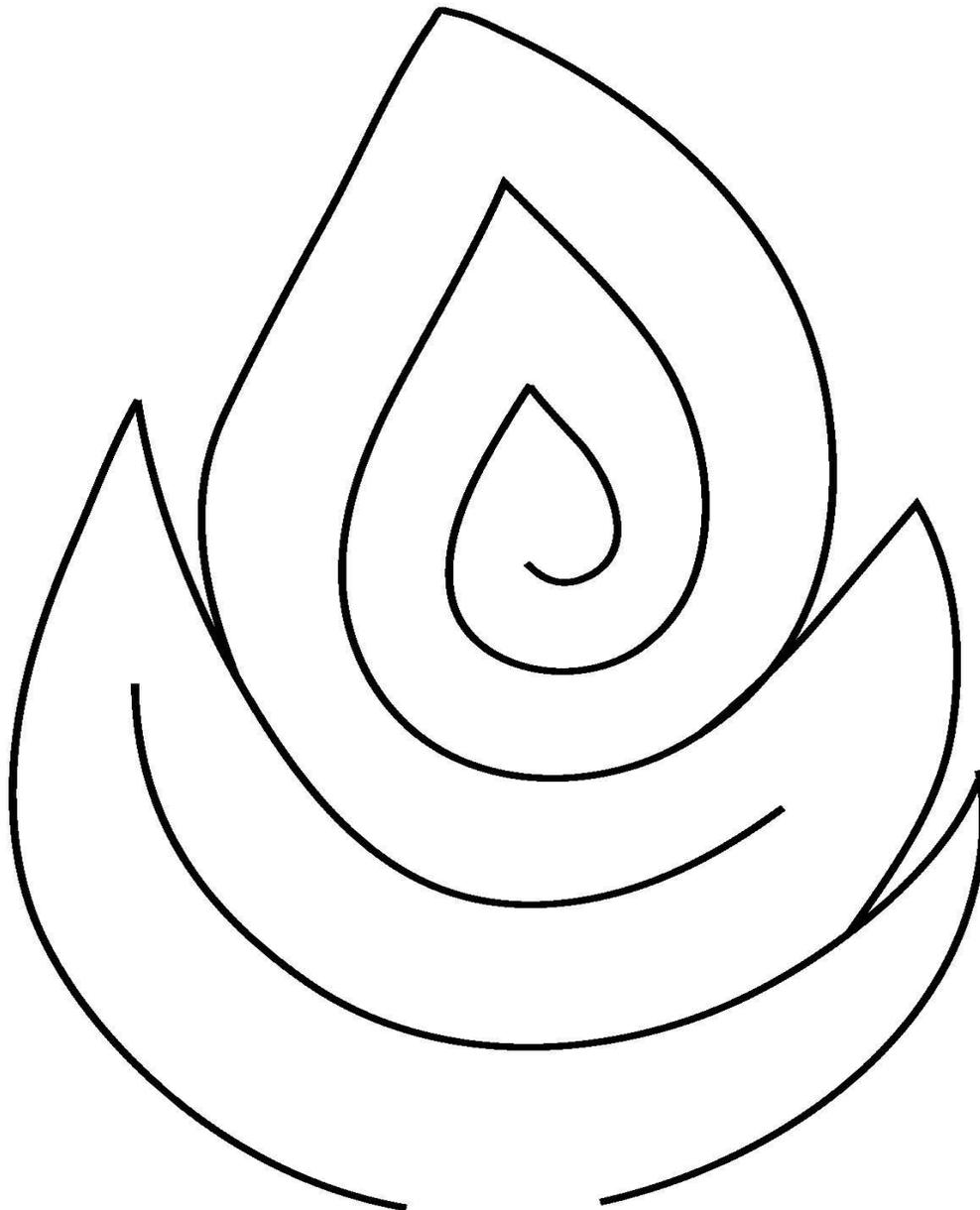
Older Children and Adults

Flame Finger Labyrinth



Labyrinth

Each of us is on a path – a journey through life toward self-realization, love, peace and healing. The labyrinth is a reflection of this path – the journey beginning with the first step toward your desired goal. As you take this journey, inner knowing, healing and transformation blossom within you.



START

As you move to the center of the flame, think about the word: Hope. What does it bring to mind? What do you think of?

IN THE CENTRE

Pause and listen to God. The Bible reminds us that the Holy Spirit can fill us with hope. (Romans 15:13). What do you need hope for today? Ask God to fill you up with hope.

ON THE WAY OUT

As you trace your way back out the flame, think about someone who needs hope this week, and ask God to fill them with the Holy Spirit.