

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS

SESSION  
05

### GOD IS WITH US *Pentecost*

 Acts 2:1-13 The Holy Spirit comes

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

In preparation for this session, send each family a greeting to learn in another language. When the session begins everyone can say their phrases to each other. Here are some ideas to get you started. <https://ideas.brf.org.uk/speaking-tongues>

Also, you could ask the children to wear yellow, red and/or orange clothes to symbolise the tongues of fire.

For more ideas for sharing the message of Pentecost, check out our Pentecost Pick 'n' Mix resource.

## Start it

If you were able to send each member of the group a phrase to learn in another language, then have them greet each other using it when they arrive in the session.

Otherwise you can teach the children a few phrases in another language so they can greet each other.

● **Say:** We are going to play a themed scavenger hunt. You will need to search your homes for items to represent words in our story. When I say 'go' you need carefully go and find the item in your house and bring it back to the screen as fast as you can.

- People - Have you got some Lego figures? A picture of your family?
- Wind - Could you find something that blows in the wind or flies?
- Fire - Be careful, I don't want a real flame! A candle? Something yellow, orange or red?
- Languages - Have you got a phrase book? Could you write hello in French or Spanish?
- Jesus - What symbols do you think of for Jesus? A cross? A Bible?
- The World - A map? An atlas? A globe?
- Gift - Have you got something to represent a skill you are good at? A whisk for baking? An instrument for playing? A ball for kicking?
- Happiness - What makes you smile?
- Dove - Could you find something white? Who could make a paper aeroplane really quickly?
- Water - You're probably thirsty after all that running around so you could grab a drink and bring it back with you!

● **Say:** Look at your array of items. Have any of these objects been particularly important to you during the lockdown?

Give time for response and discussion.

Ask the children if they know what any of the words you shared have to do with today's story. Give time for response and discussion.

● **Say:** What is the most amazing or exciting thing that has ever happened to you? Our story today takes us back to the beginning of the Church. It was an exciting time, but a time which also involved worry and change, a bit like now!

## Sing It

The song 'My Lighthouse' (Rend Collective) reminds us that God's love for each of us helps us overcome the fears we have each day and his Holy Spirit can guide us through testing times.

Lyrics version - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFBZJGSgyVQ>

Actions - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeJvKkBV6rY>

## Tell It

🗨 **Say:** Pentecost takes place after Jesus has returned to heaven. At this time, the Bible tells us the disciples were waiting in Jerusalem for the gift Jesus had promised them. Jesus had told them they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came on them. Some people interpret the Bible that Jesus' followers had been waiting in their homes as they were scared about how people would respond to them for still believing in Jesus. I wonder how the disciples used their time of waiting? I wonder how you would have felt as a follower of Jesus, waiting for what Jesus had promised?

Give time for response and discussion.

Get creative as you read through Acts 2:1-13.

- ➔ Use facial expressions to show the different emotions the disciples may have been feeling at different points.
- ➔ How can the children huddle in their homes?
- ➔ Who can create the loudest wind sound?
- ➔ Ask each child to pretend to be a tongue of fire.
- ➔ Use the phrases from the 'Start It' ideas and get the children talking in different languages.
- ➔ Have some fun together trying to pronounce the names of different places or find them on a map you show on screen.
- ➔ Have someone take the role of Peter and read Acts 2:38-39.

Discuss with the children:

I wonder:

- ➔ What the disciples thought was happening when it sounded like the blowing of a mighty wind filled the house and they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire resting on them?
- ➔ How the people on the streets felt when the disciples began telling everyone what had happened in the languages they all spoke?
- ➔ Jesus loved the disciples. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples keep feeling his love. I wonder how that love helped the disciples?
- ➔ How it feels to have God's love and Spirit poured on you?
- ➔ Have you struggled to have faith in God?
- ➔ How has the Holy Spirit helped you?
- ➔ Who could you share with about knowing Jesus?

🗨 **Say:** Wind and fire are metaphors. The Bible says a sound like wind and what seemed to be tongues of fire appeared. Hold your hands a little way from your face and blow gently. What can you feel? What can you see? We can feel the air, but we can't see it. The disciples felt God with them, and it gave them the courage and excitement to go into the streets and tell everyone they met about Jesus. Today God is still with us and his Holy Spirit enables us to do God's work on earth.

## Action It

🗨 **Say:** The disciples needed a sign and needed God's power. Is there a friend or family member you have not contacted while you have been in lockdown who you could share

a message of encouragement and hope with? There are lots of ways to send messages: letters, emails, phone calls, video messages etc. Share with them what you have been doing and what you are looking forward to. Could you include some artwork you make or a gift you could prepare?

Ask the children to write down the names of some people they would like to contact and discuss some ideas of what they could say/send.

## Pray It

**Share screen:** Display some photos or a map of your community on your screen.

The children could begin by identifying where their homes, schools, clubs are. You could point out some local landmarks to the group using the annotate function.

Allow time for response and discussion.

● **Say:** The Holy Spirit is God's power working in us, encouraging us and using us to share his love in the world.

You could show your group how to use the annotate function on Zoom and ask them to stamp or highlight or draw little flames on the places on your map/photos where they want to share God's love.

Pray together that your group will have the energy and opportunities to share God's love.

## Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.