

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

ASCENSION AND PENTECOST

TOPICS(S): FAMILIES WILL LEARN ABOUT PENTECOST AND REFLECT ON HOW THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT STRENGTHENS US TO LIVE THE MISSION JESUS HAS GIVEN TO US IN AND THROUGH THE CHURCH. FAMILIES WILL REFLECT ON MARY AS THE MOTHER OF GOD, QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, SPOUSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND OUR MOTHER.

MATERIALS

*Scroll down and read the May Crowning Directions so you can set up before the session begins.

- Rosaries
- Rosary for Children Pamphlet
- Music
- Altar
- Statue of Mary
- One flower per person
- Large vase(s)
- Crown for Mary
- Birthday Cake with plates, napkins, utensils
- Ice cream is optional but preferred!

OPENING PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit, come.

Fill us with the grace that the Apostles experienced in the Upper Room.

Renew our baptismal consecration and transform us

Anoint us with the fire of Your love.

Release and pour out the fullness of Your Spirit within our family life,

So we may go out and preach the Good News.

Holy Spirit, come.

Holy Spirit, come.

Holy Spirit, come.

Glory Be...

ICE BREAKER

See which family can line up in order of the month of their birthdays the fastest.



1. Hook/Question

What do you like best about birthdays?

(Let families discuss among themselves, and then invite sharing with the larger group.)

TEACH

2. Introduce Topic

What is sometimes called the “birthday or baptism of the Church”?

Answer: Pentecost

Today we are going to learn about Pentecost and how the coming or Descent of the Holy Spirit strengthens us to live the mission Jesus has given to us in and through the Church.

(note: Church Fathers also spoke of the Church being born from Jesus’ self-gift on the Cross [see CCC, no. 766]. Since Pentecost was the day that the Apostles and disciples began to witness openly to the Resurrection by the power of the Holy Spirit, that was the day the Church was manifest or presented to the world—hence the common reference to her “birthday or baptism.”)

3. CONTENT

Show Video: *Pentecost* by Catholic Central (1:45)



Ask: What are two ideas that you learned from the video?
(Mute to let families discuss amongst themselves, and then unmute to share with the larger group)

Show Video: *Pentecost Catholic [Forever Changed]*, Catholic Minute (6:48)



PRAYER

Light a candle.

Invite families to quiet themselves.

Ask everyone to make the Sign of the Cross with you.

Read: Acts 2:1-11.

Ask everyone to lift up their hands, bow their heads and repeat after you:

Come Holy Spirit, come.

Fill us with the grace that the Apostles experienced in the Upper Room.

Renew our baptismal consecration and transform us

Anoint us with the fire of Your love.

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Holy Spirit, come.

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Holy Spirit, come.

Glory Be...



FAMILY SHARING

How did receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost change the Apostles?

For those who are Confirmed, has receiving the Holy Spirit at your Confirmation changed you or given you strength to share in the Church's mission of witnessing to Christ? If so, how?

(Let families to discuss privately. Then invite large group sharing.)



OPEN MIC!

Explain: Now that *Families Forming Disciples* is coming to a close this year, give each family the opportunity to share their experience with everyone.

Ask: *How did learning and living the faith together as a family, and with other families, impact you?*

(Give families time to share with everyone)

Explain: As we end our *Families Forming Disciples* year, we thank God for bringing us together and we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives as Mary did. Mary is the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and during the month of May we honor Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. Her Son, Jesus, is our King, so therefore His Mother is our Queen!

A May crowning is a special way we honor Our Lady during the Month of May.

*May Crowning Directions:

- Decorate an outside altar (weather permitting, otherwise inside) where you have placed a statue of Mary.
- Make a crown of flowers that will fit the statue. Let the smallest child carry the crown.
- Give everyone else a flower to be placed in a vase on the altar.
- Tell the children that the flower is a symbol of their love for their heavenly Mother.
- Line up in a procession and sing a Marian song, like “Immaculate Mary,” as each family processes to the altar and places their flowers in the vase(s).

Pray: After the crowning, gather around the altar and pray the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.

[Adapted from Catholic Culture](#)

CONCLUDE

Since we have learned about Pentecost, the Birthday/Baptism of the Church, conclude the *Families Forming Disciples* year by thanking God for the gift of faith and celebrating with birthday cake!

