



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

LIFE OF CHRIST: THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

TOPIC: THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

Sacred Scripture

EZ 37:12-14;
JN 20:21-23; ACTS 2

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH NOS. 726, 731-32

CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos.	nos.	nos.	nos.
484-511, 667, 683-747, 963-75	1076-1112, 1226, 1286-89	1697, 1699-1715, 1810-32, 1987-2029	2615, 2677-19, 2623, 2670-82

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Ice Breaker
- Balloons, Tape for floor
- Pentecost Coloring Sheets can be used anytime during the lesson ([Option 1](#), [Option 2](#))
- Crayons or colored pencils
- *Tongues of Fire Wearable Headband Craft* (for younger children)
 - [Flame shapes](#), Stock paper or cardboard, Paint or glue, red & oranges tissue, paper, Paper strips for headbands, Stapler
- *Holy Spirit Fire Lantern Craft*
 - Empty clear, plastic or glass jar, Colored tissue paper (red, orange, yellow), Modge Podge (type of glue & sealant), Scissors, Electric votive light
- ([Additional Lesson Ideas](#))

OPENING PRAYER

*This month we suggest doing the Ice Breaker before the Opening Prayer.

Lord God,
Fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may go out and share Jesus' love and light with others like the disciples did.

(Family Faith Formation, Archdiocese of Adelaide)

GOALS

- Families will continue learning about the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.
- Families will reflect on and discuss the third mystery, *The Descent (or Coming) of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost*.
- Families will discuss why being a disciple of Jesus is important to them today.
- Families will learn about and create their own *Holy Spirit Fire Lantern Craft* to be placed on their home altars for prayer during family prayer.

ICE BREAKER

- Mark out a short race course with tape and pass out inflated balloons to all of the family members.
- **Explain:** *In the Bible we read that Jesus breathed on his followers to give them the Holy Spirit. We also read that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the upper room on the day of Pentecost like a strong driving wind. For this game, we are going to use our breath to create wind to move the balloons across the finish line. No one can use any part of their body to move the balloon; they can only use their breath.* (Hint: If you have small children, pair up an adult and a small child into a team. The adult can blow up the balloons, while the small child can race the balloon.)
- Family members place their balloons on the start line and blow their balloons toward the finish line.
- After the race, read John 20:19-24. Stress John 20:23 when Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. End the game with the Opening Prayer to the Holy Spirit.



REVIEW

Ask: Does anyone remember what Jesus told his disciples to do right before He ascended into Heaven? (Encourage everyone to open their bibles to [Matthew 28:18-20](#))

Answer: Jesus told the disciples that, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Explain: Today we are going to learn about the Third Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which is called *The Descent of the Holy Spirit*. It was at that great event called Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them the power and courage to do just what Jesus had told them to do right before He ascended to the Father.

TEACH

1. Hook/Question

Kid Bible Story: Pentecost

Watch:



2. Introduce Topic

Invite everyone to open their bibles to [Acts 2:1-11](#) and read along with the video below.

Watch: *Pentecost Sunday – What is Pentecost?*
(Catholic Kids Media) Stop at 1:29 min



3. CONTENT

Explain: Then Peter stood up and preached to the people explaining that the miracle of the disciples speaking in different languages was a gift from the Holy Spirit. He told them the disciples had received the Holy Spirit so they could spread the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus’ saving Passion, Death, Resurrection from the dead, and Glorious Ascension into Heaven as the King of kings, to everyone in the whole world! Peter said that the people had not recognized that Jesus was the Son of God, and that they had had Him killed.

CONTENT CONTINUED

Read: Acts 2:36

“Therefore, let the whole house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Explain: The people were extremely upset that they had crucified God’s Son.

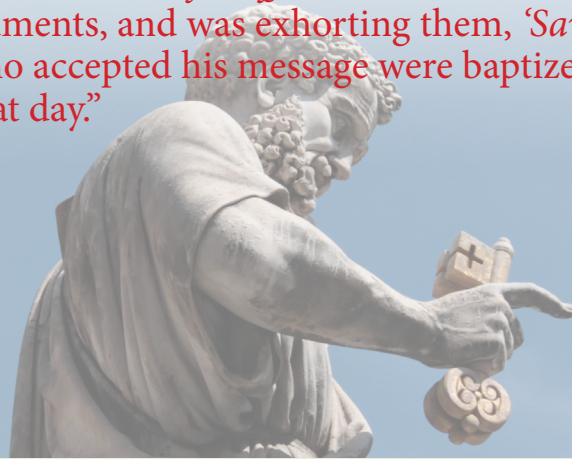
Read: Acts 2:37

“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and asked Peter and the other apostles, ‘What are we to do, my brothers?’”

Explain: This is when the disciples began to do what Jesus had told them to do right before He ascended into Heaven. They made the people Jesus’ disciples and baptized them!

Read: Acts: 2:38-41

“Peter said to them, *‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call.’* He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, *‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’* Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day.”



FAMILY CONVERSATION

- If you had been there at the first Pentecost, do you think you would have believed Peter and the disciples?
- What do you believe is the difference between an admirer of Jesus and a disciple of Jesus?
- How does being a person who has been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit affect your life, how you see God and yourself?

FAMILY ACTIVITY

There are two family activities to choose from, the *Tongues of Fire Wearable Craft* for younger children, or the *Holy Spirit Fire Lantern Craft*. Links for both of these activities as well as many other options can be found [here](#).

Tongues of Fire Wearable Headband Craft

by everythingisgodsgift.blogspot.com

1. Use card stock paper or cardboard to cut out flame shapes
2. Have the children paint them with water colors or glue red and orange pieces of tissue paper on it to make it look like flames.
3. Use a strip of paper for the headband, fitting it to each child's head and using a stapler to secure the headband.
4. Attach the flames to the headband using the stapler as well. (See Materials List above)



OR

Holy Spirit Fire Lantern Craft

1. Cut pieces of colored tissue paper in the shape of flames.
2. Paint the outside of the entire jar with Modge Podge.
3. Layer paper flames on the outside of the jar.
4. Cover the outside of the jar with a thin layer of Modge Podge.
5. Allow jar to dry completely.
6. Turn on the votive light and place inside the lantern and put the lid on the jar.
7. When you want to turn off the light, just open the jar and take the votive out to switch it off.
8. Families place their *Holy Spirit Fire Lanterns* on their home altars to light during Family Prayer Time.



5. MISSION

1

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Introduce Mission Activity to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

2

Second, Explain Activity

Your Family At-Home Mission is to watch together as a family the videos that are appropriate for your children's age level. Then place your Holy Spirit Fire Lantern on your family's home altar and pray together a decade of the Rosary meditating on the Third Glorious Mystery, *The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost*. Lastly, please complete the Families Forming Disciples [Family Survey](#).

3

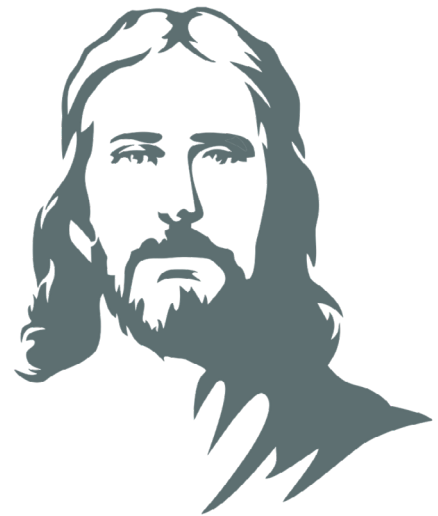
Last, Model for Families

Model for the families by sharing your own *Holy Spirit Fire Lantern* or *Tongues of Fire Headband* that you have placed on your own home altar and used for your family prayer.

6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.

Amen.



REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.



SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 731-32:

On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ's Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance.

On that day, the Holy Trinity is fully revealed. Since that day, the Kingdom announced by Christ has been open to those who believe in him: in the humility of the flesh and in faith, they already share in the communion of the Holy Trinity. By his coming, which never ceases, the Holy Spirit causes the world to enter into the "last days," the time of the Church, the Kingdom already inherited though not yet consummated.

We have seen the true Light, we have received the heavenly Spirit, we have found the true faith: we adore the indivisible Trinity, who has saved us.

Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium* (1964), no. 68:

... Just as the Mother of Jesus, glorified in body and soul in heaven, is the image and beginning of the Church as it is to be perfected in the world to come, so too does she shine forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, as a sign of sure hope and solace to the people of God during its sojourn on earth.

