

## **Youth Group Lesson on Pentecost**

**Bible:** Acts 2:1-13

### **Pentecost Devotional:**

We all know that playing with fire can be a very dangerous thing.

Can you remember the first time that you realized just how quickly fire could spread?

Fire can be very scary, but it is also the one thing that can save you when you are trying to survive. You know – like watching Survivor when they are left with no food and fending for themselves: fire is critical.

Today, we are going to be talking about fire, but a different kind of fire.

The word Pentecost literally means “fifty”. In the Bible, we read about a time when the Jews were gathered in Jerusalem fifty days after the Passover for the Festival of Weeks.

The English word “Pentecost” is a transliteration of the Greek word *pentekostos*, which means “fifty.” It comes from the ancient Christian expression *pentekoste hemera*, which means “fiftieth day.”

But Christians did not invent the phrase “fiftieth day.” Rather, they borrowed it from Greek-speaking Jews who used the phrase to refer to a Jewish holiday. This holiday was known as the Festival of Weeks, or, more simply, Weeks (*Shavuot* in Hebrew). This name comes from an expression in Leviticus 23:16, which instructs people to count seven weeks or “fifty days” from the end of Passover to the beginning of the next holiday (*pentekonta hemeras* in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew Scripture).

*Shavuot* was the second great feast in Israel’s yearly cycle of holy days. It was originally a harvest festival (Exod 23:16), but, in time, turned into a day to commemorate the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai. This day became especially significant for Christians because, seven weeks after the resurrection of Jesus, during the Jewish celebration of Shavuot/Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon his first followers, thus empowering them for their mission and gathering them together as a church.

## **Read Acts 2:1-13.**

Pentecost by many is called the “Birthday of the Church” because the Holy Spirit came on the apostles and all of those gathered from many different places.

Why would it be a big deal that these different places were gathered?

Up until this point, the good news of Jesus had been kept really close.

But at this time, all of these people were gathered from all over in Jerusalem.

Just imagine when you left this place after the Holy Spirit literally coming over you like fire.

You go back home. Nothing is the same because you are not the same.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, wrote in his journal these words “In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther’s preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

The Holy Spirit is the very spirit of Jesus, and Jesus promised that his Spirit would come and is available to all of us. And when this Spirit comes, amazing things happen. People are changed.

Just think about Peter. Remember the one who denied Jesus three times and then the rooster crowed? The one who walked out to Jesus on the water, but then got scared and began to sink.

## **Read Acts 2:14-31**

Close your devotional time with a prayer:

“Jesus, Fill me with your spirit. Empower me to be changed.

To be on fire for you. Amen.”

## **LESSON QUESTIONS**

How was Peter changed from before Jesus' death to now at Pentecost in his amazing speech?

How do you think your life would have changed if you had been there?

## **LESSON ACTIVITY**

Choose a color of construction paper, cut out a flame, and use a sharpie to write out a prayer for the Holy Spirit to come. It could be a simple prayer such as "Come Holy Spirit"

Tape up your flame in your room as a visible reminder that the Holy Spirit is at work.

## **PENTECOST WORD SEARCH**

## **PENTECOST CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



# Pentecost

## Acts 2



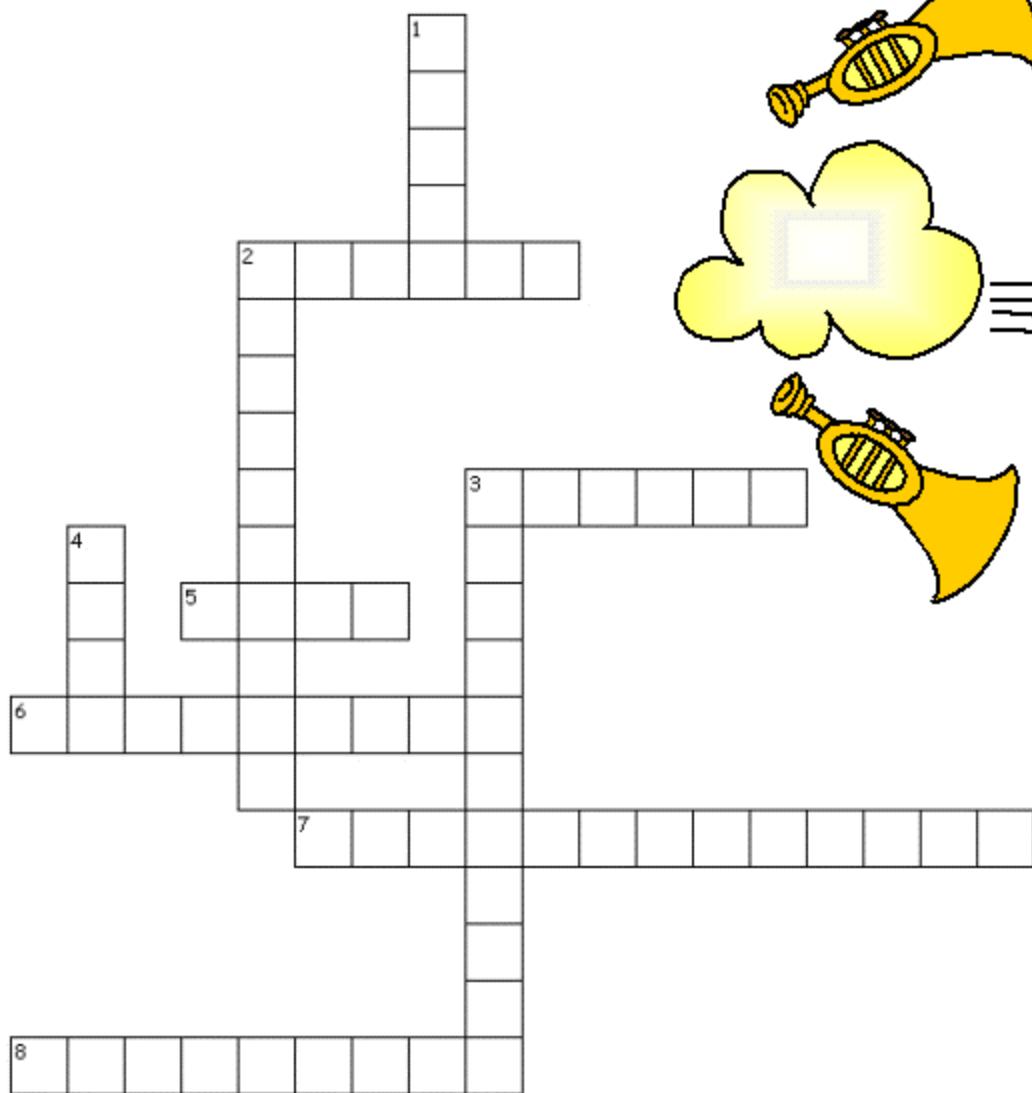
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 C B W H R C A O R R W D I S Y A D L X F  
 U B P S W W B P W U Z D H R N D B C P Z

JESUS  
 DAYS  
 SPIRIT  
 TONGUES

RESURRECTION  
 FEAST  
 PETER  
 FIRE

FIFTY  
 HOLY  
 JERUSALEM  
 CHURCH

# Pentecost Crossword



## Across

2. This Pentecost was special because the Holy \_\_\_\_ filled the disciples.
3. Only after they were \_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit did the disciples speak in tongues.
5. A violent \_\_\_\_ from heaven suddenly came into the house where they were gathered.
6. This is the Greek word for fiftieth (the fiftieth day after Easter).
7. The day of Pentecost was a very special day, not ordinary but \_\_\_\_.
8. All of the disciples began speaking in different \_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. Because of the Holy Spirit now the believers had this to be witnesses to everyone.
2. The fire from Heaven \_\_\_\_ the new power and presence of the Holy Spirit in them.
3. Pentecost was also called the day of this, when the people brought an offering.
4. It looked like tongues of this separated and came to rest on each of the disciples.