



Lesson 9

Pentecost

Acts 2:1–47

Memory Verse

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place”
(Acts 2:1)

Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

1. **Define** what Pentecost means in Greek
2. **Locate** where in the Bible the New Testament church receives the outpouring of God’s spirit
3. **Describe** what Pentecost was originally called and why
4. **Express** in their own words the significance of the day

Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific activities

Teacher’s Bible Study

Pentecost is the anniversary of the founding of the New Testament church. It initiates God’s plan of salvation for the world. Just as Pentecost marked the spring or first harvest, so Pentecost symbolizes the first small harvest of individuals through God’s church. In the salvation of the individual, Pentecost represents his receiving of the Holy Spirit after baptism. This Holy Spirit enables him to do what he could not do before, just as the disciples were able to go forward in spreading the gospel in a way totally impossible before the Holy Spirit came. An example is Peter’s boldness in proclaiming the gospel so soon after clear cowardice when Jesus was betrayed. (A late Jewish tradition holds that ancient Israel received the Law from God at Mount Sinai on Pentecost. This would make sense, since only through God’s Holy Spirit can a person keep God’s law in its true spiritual intent.)

Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) took its name from the manner in which it was determined. Rather than being celebrated on a particular calendar day, it was counted seven weeks or fifty days from the Wave Sheaf Day—hence the term “Feast of Weeks” in the Old Testament (Leviticus 23:9–14) and “Pentecost” (Greek, *fiftieth*) in the time of the New Testament. It marked the end of the spring harvest. The basic instructions for determining the date of Pentecost are clear in Leviticus 23:15–16 which reads as follows according to the Hebrew text: “You shall count beginning with the day after the Sabbath, the day on which you brought the wave sheaf (seven Sabbaths shall be completed), to the day after the seventh Sabbath; you shall count fifty days.” In other words, one begins and ends counting with a Sunday, hence a Sunday is the day of Pentecost.

Under the New Covenant the Holy Spirit of the Father has been made available in a universal way, as was explained by Peter on the day of Pentecost when the church began (Acts 2:17–18). Before His death, Christ promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit, which then worked with them, should be given to them and should actually be in them (John 14:17). This “Comforter” should teach the disciples all things and remind them of all that Christ had said to them (John 14:26).

This same Spirit which was given to the disciples on the day of Pentecost is available to all whom God calls. Upon true repentance granted by God and upon true belief in Jesus Christ, one may be baptized and then receive God’s Spirit through the laying-on-of-hands ceremony performed by God’s ministers (Acts 2:38; 8:12–17). God further states that He gives His Holy Spirit only to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).

Provide copies of Activity Page for each age group, and enough for all your students. Make copies of flames. Have on hand construction paper, scissors, colors, glue, yarn.

Presenting the Bible Story

Acts 2:2 6

Many had gathered in Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Pentecost. Read Acts 2:1, 5,9 11. The disciples of Jesus had gathered as well in Jerusalem. Read Acts 1:4,5; 2:1.

Acts 2:7 12

After Jesus had been resurrected, He left instructions to His disciples that they should wait for the promise of the Father, which meant the outpouring of the Holy Spirit of God on the very first Pentecost. Approximately 120 people were gathered with the disciples on this day. This great and joyous celebration commemorates that stupendous miraculous day when each of the twelve apostles appeared as if they were wearing crowns of flaming fire.

Acts 2:13

This event drew a great crowd of all those who had come to Jerusalem. They were amazed and perplexed that the disciples were able to speak in the languages of the land that they had come from. They questioned what all this meant.

Acts 2:14 21

In every crowd, there are always those that will scoff and ridicule what takes place. This event in history was no different. This crowd thought the disciples were drunk.

Acts 2:22 36

Peter set the crowd straight. He told them that the event taking place had been prophesied by the prophet Joel. Read Joel 2:28,29. That promised gift of God was now being poured out.

Acts 2:37 40

Peter had been empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak powerfully of the life, works, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This was no longer just a festival for Israel, but for all people. For the non believer there were two concrete proofs of the resurrection. The tomb of Jesus was empty, and many people saw Jesus during the forty days He was on earth prior to ascending to God the Father.

Acts 2:41 47

The hearts of the people listening to Peter were moved. They asked Peter what they must do. Peter told them to turn away from sin and be baptized.

Three thousand people were baptized on the day of Pentecost. That was the beginning, the birthday of the New Testament church.

Art and Activities

Teaching Activities

Young Children

Cut out pattern of flames to be colored. Provide construction paper to make a strip that fits around each student's head. Students color the pattern flame and then glue the flame to the construction paper headpiece. This will make their crown of flames.

Make copies of the word search Pentecost puzzle. Prior to doing the puzzle, discuss the meaning of the words they are finding in the puzzle.

Older Children

Make copies for your students of the Pentecost Comes at Harvest Time. Cut 17-20 pieces of yellow yarn 7-8" long (for the stalks of grain). Glue them on to the pattern vertically. Cut a piece of brown yarn 4" long (this is the horizontal band across the grain) and glue it horizontally on yellow yarn stalks. Take 17-20 small pieces of the tissue paper and roll them between your fingers to form small balls. Glue them on the pattern at the top of each piece of yellow yarn (this becomes the heads of grain). Color the background.

Explore with your students the following questions

Do the Fill in the Blanks page about Pentecost. Encourage discussion while the students work individually or as a group.

Explore the Subject

1. What does Pentecost mean?
2. How was the Holy Spirit received this day?
3. What does Wave Sheaf mean?

Always close your class with prayer

Respond and Reinforce

1. Write a brief paragraph of what this day means to you.
2. Discuss the memory verse.

Activity Page

Harvested Grain

Materials Needed:

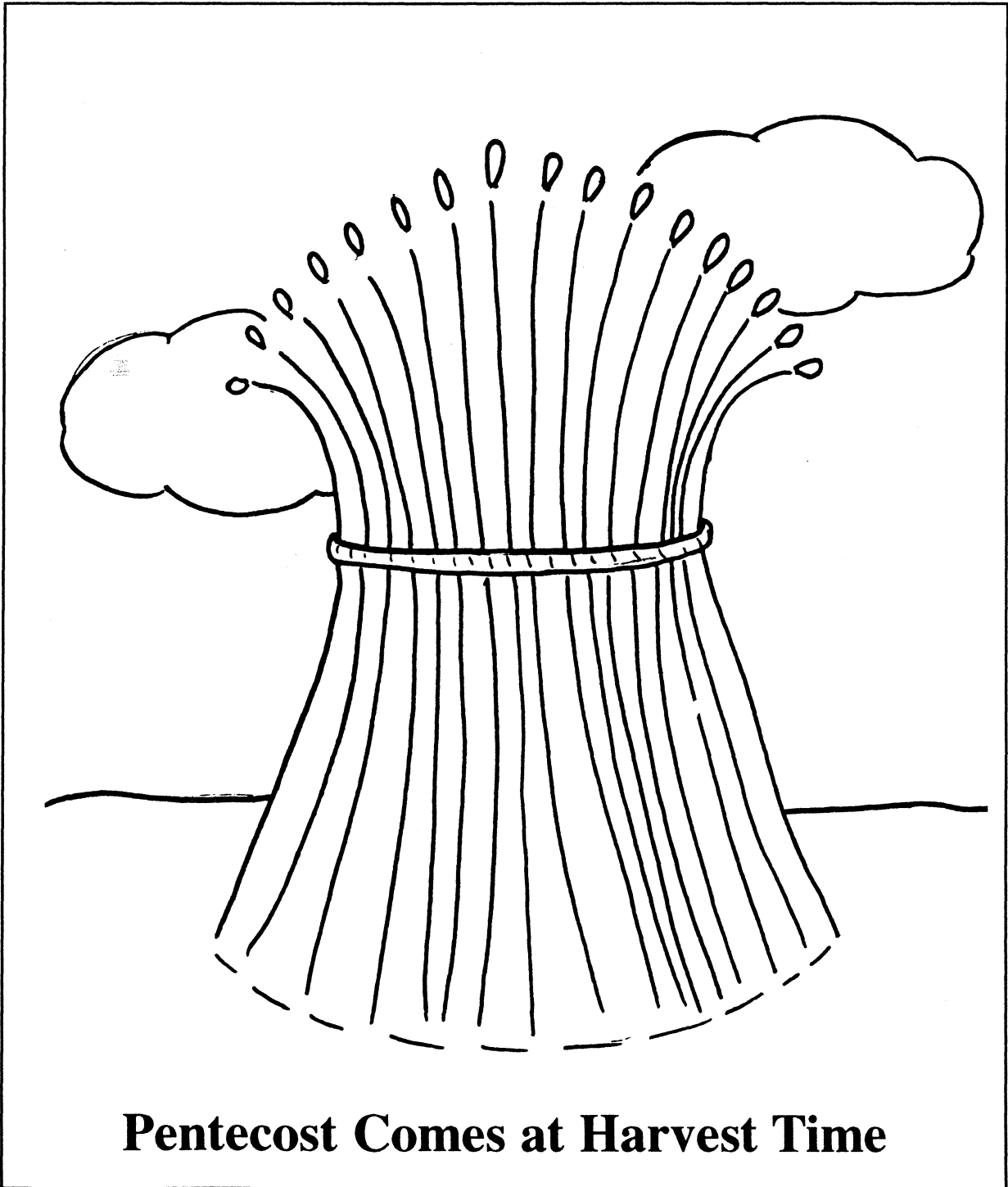
Yellow yarn

Brown yarn

Yellow tissue paper

Crayons

Glue



Pentecost Comes at Harvest Time

Activity Page

The Day of Pentecost

Leviticus 23:15–22; Acts 2:1–41; Romans 8:23

1. The people were told to count _____ Sabbaths from the day after the Sabbath (Leviticus 23:15).
2. That would make _____ days to count until offering a new meat offering (Leviticus 23:16).
3. The people were to bring two _____ loafs (Leviticus 23:17).
4. These were to be the _____ unto the Lord (Leviticus 23:17).
5. They were to leave the corners of the fields for the _____ (Leviticus 23:22).
6. When the Day of _____ was fully come, they were gathered together (Acts 2:1).
7. Suddenly a sound like a rushing _____ filled the house (Acts 2:2).
8. Cloven tongues of _____ sat on each of them (Acts 2:3).
9. They were filled with the Holy _____ (Acts 2:4).
10. They spoke with other _____ guided by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4).
11. Men of every nation heard them speak in their own _____ (Acts 2:6).
12. The people were amazed because the apostles were _____ (Acts 2:7).
13. They all heard the wonderful _____ of God in their own language (Acts 2:11).
14. Some said they were full of new _____ (Acts 2:13).
15. Then _____ said they were not drunk, it was the prophesy of Joel (Acts 2:14–16).
16. God said He would pour out His _____ and the people would prophesy (Acts 2:18).
17. He told them of _____ whom they had crucified and God had raised (Acts 2:22–24).
18. Peter told them how God had made the same Jesus, the one they had _____, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36).
19. Hearing this, they were cut to the _____ and asked “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37).
20. Peter told them to repent and be _____ in the name of Jesus Christ and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
21. That day those who gladly received his word and were baptized, were about _____ thousand men (Acts 2:41).
22. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the _____ of our body (Romans 8:23).

Activity Page

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-47

Pentecost is the anniversary of the founding of the New Testament church. Pentecost begins God's plan of salvation for the world. In the Old Testament, Pentecost marked the spring, or first harvest. Pentecost today symbolizes the first small harvest of individuals through God's church. Find the words hidden in the puzzle below.

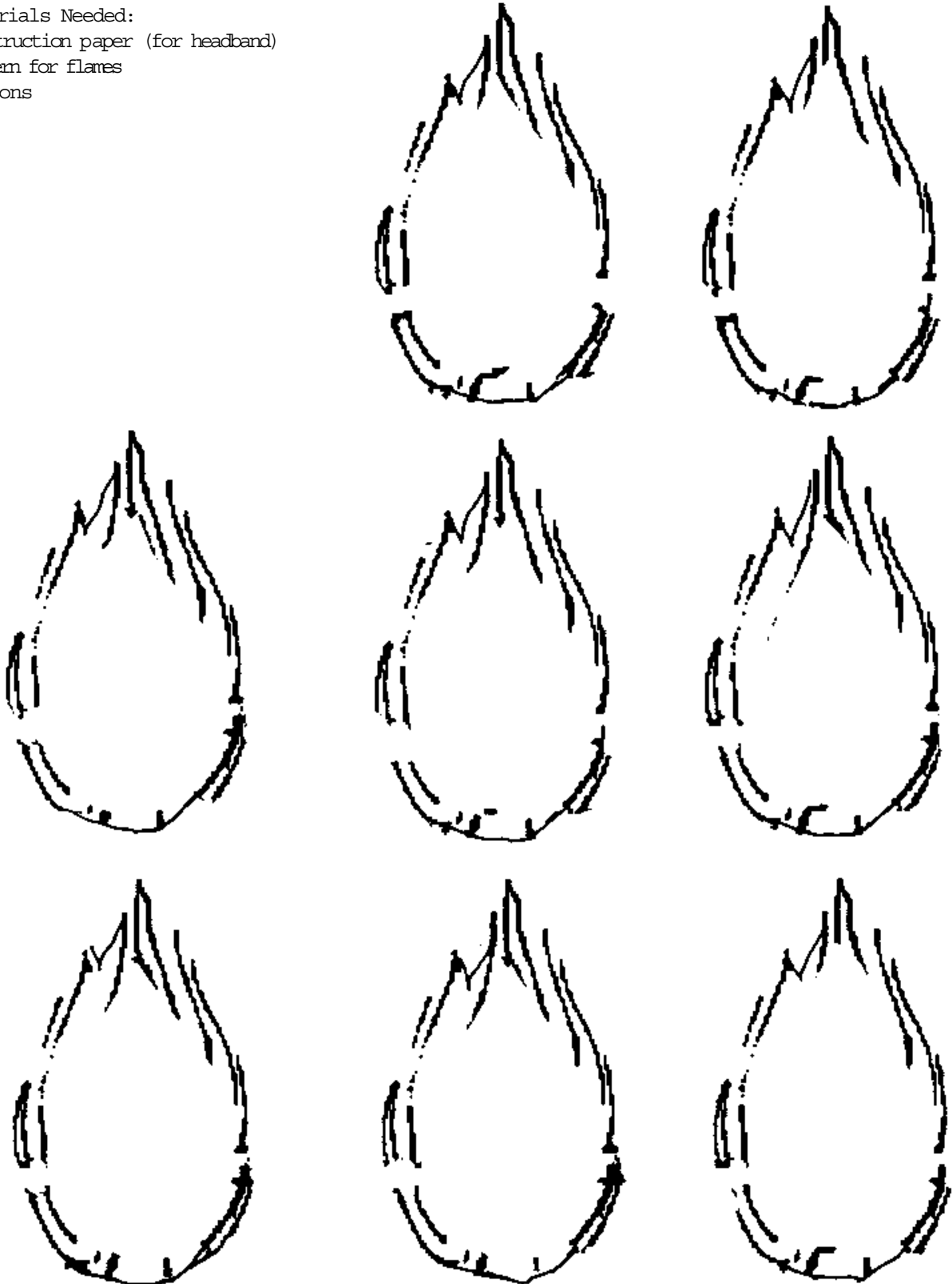
S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	X	E	Y	C	A	B
K	R	M	G	U	X	O	F	P	R	T	H	N	A	C
E	A	O	R	N	U	A	X	J	F	U	N	P	O	R
E	F	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	M	W	U
W	P	I	D	P	F	L	F	C	V	I	F	Y	N	C
F	L	H	R	I	F	E	H	E	S	O	N	E	T	I
O	A	P	R	S	T	A	R	M	R	I	V	B	J	F
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|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| Anniversary | Feast of Weeks | Holy Spirit | Peter | WaveSheaf |
| Baptism | Fifty | Language | Poor | Wind |
| Church | Fire | New Testament | Salvation | Works |
| Comforter | Firstfruits | Obey | Seven | |
| Crucified | Harvest | Pentecost | Tongues | |

Art Activity

Materials Needed:
Construction paper (for headband)
Pattern for flames
Crayons
Glue

Flames of Fire



Art Activity

- Materials
- Copy of marker pattern
- Scissors
- Colored paper
- Glue
- Crayons or colored pens

Book Marker

This marker belongs to:

