

Pentecost

Grade 1-7

Aim: To teach the children that Holy Spirit gives us power.

Bible: Luke 24:45-53 John 14:16-17 Acts 1:6-11 Acts 2:1-21

Connect



Need:
Large piece
of paper
Ladder
picture

Do: This game is based on 'Hangman'. Before the time, print the pictures of the ladder, cell phone and a glass of water. Colour the glass in blue, as if it has water in it. Cut them out and place the ladder above the glass and the cell phone above the ladder. For every wrong answer, move the cell phone one step down the ladder, closer to the water. Prepare a large piece of paper or a whiteboard, and draw 5 lines next to each other. The lines are for the letters P O W E R. Make sure there is space on the whiteboard/paper to write down all the incorrect letters that they guess.

Say: What happens when a cell phone gets wet? Can it still work?

We are going to play a game. You need to make sure that this cell phone (point to picture) does not land up in this water (point to picture).

I am thinking of a word that has five letters. If you guess a letter that is correct, I will write it on one of these lines. If the letter that you guess is not correct, then the cell phone moves one step closer to the water. You need to guess all five letters before the cell phone hits the water.

Answer: POWER.

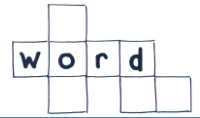
Well done everyone! Today we are going to be talking about power. What does the word power mean?

Electricity – most of us know what it feels like when the power goes off! We have to use batteries or gas. That is one kind of power.

Muscles – having a powerful body that can push or lift heavy things is another sort of power,

Influence – when you are in charge of something or someone you have power – your parents or principal can tell you what to do and you have to obey them.

Today we are going to talk about God's power.



Need:
Noise maker
to get
children's
attention

Do: Use the noise maker to get the children's attention when necessary.

Say: Today is a special day for Christians. It is the day that we remember when God sent Holy Spirit to live with people for the first time. It is called Pentecost. It is celebrated 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

It was ten days since Jesus had left on a cloud to go to Heaven. The disciples were waiting together in Jerusalem, just as Jesus had told them to. They were praying and singing. All of a sudden they heard something that sounded like a strong, powerful wind. It filled the place where they were sitting.

For younger children:

I want everyone to get up as quickly as you can and pretend to be the strong, powerful wind. Run around the room as if you were that wind. Make wind sounds as you run. When you hear me clap/blow the whistle/play the tambourine I want you to come and sit in your place again.

For older children:

How do you think the disciples felt when they heard the sound? How would you have felt?

Then Holy Spirit's power made it look like bits of fire were hovering over each person's head.

For younger children:

Find a friend as quickly as you can. Use your hands to make a 'flame' over your friend's head.

For older children:

If you had been one of the disciples, what would be going through your head right now? How would you have felt?

Then Holy Spirit filled each one of them and gave them the power to speak in languages that they had never been taught or even spoken before.

For younger and older children:

Can you say any words in a different language?

When or why do you have to be able to speak a different language? When there are people from a different country, or people who speak a different language to you.

In Jerusalem, where the disciples were, there were people from

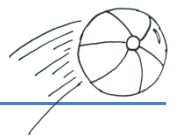
many different places, who spoke many different languages. They were there to worship in the temple for a special Jewish festival.

The disciples must have been making quite a big noise, speaking in all the different languages, because the people in the street went to see what was going on. They realised that they could understand what the disciples were saying, because they were speaking in their own language. Lots of different disciples were speaking, all in a different language. They were speaking about the great things that God had done.

Then Holy Spirit gave Peter power and he started speaking to the crowd, and telling them about how Jesus died to take away their sins. He told them that they needed to change their hearts, say sorry for their sins, and follow Jesus. Then they would also get the gift of Holy Spirit to be with them.

Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to share the good news about Jesus. The Bible says that on that day over 3 000 people started following Jesus.

Move



Do: Designate four corners of your room and point to them as you speak.

Say: We are going to play a game. I am going to ask a question, and then give you four possible answers. As I say the different answers, I will point to different places in the room. You need to decide which answer is correct, and then stand in that place in the room. (For older children who don't want to move around, figure out four different hand positions or body positions that they can do. You could even hold up 1-4 fingers)

1) The disciples were all together:

A: at the beach; B: in a room; C: watching TV; D: playing rugby

2) All of a sudden they heard the sound of a powerful:

A: wind; B: thunder crack; C: drill; D: sound system

3) The thing on top of the disciples' heads:

A: feathers; B: rocks; C: fire; D: perfume

4) Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to:

A: lift up heavy things; B: make people obey them; C: float;
D: speak in different languages

5) The disciples were speaking about:

A: How to follow Jesus; B: God's ten commandments; C: What to get for lunch; D: What the loud noise was.



Review, Relate, Reveal

Need:
Media player
Downloaded
video

Do: Before the time, download the video called Kid Bible Story by Crossroads Kids, ready to play.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vuUK6REOWuE>

Say: Well done to those of you who got all the answers correct!

Some of those answers were a bit tricky.

Let's watch this video. It's a bunch of children your age telling the story in a different way.

Play video

In today's story it was the first time the Holy Spirit gave a whole lot of people power, all at once. Before that Holy Spirit had given only a few certain people power, for specific jobs, but He wasn't with them all the time. But all that changed after Jesus went to Heaven. The Bible says that when we decide to follow Jesus, as soon as we ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins and help us to follow Him, Holy Spirit, who is part of God, comes to live with us, inside of us. He is our helper, our teacher, the one who comforts us. He gives us power to follow Jesus in every part of our life, even when it is difficult.



God Time

Need:
Journals or
paper for
each child
Something
to write with
Quiet
instrumental
music

Do: Think of a story that you can share with the children about a time where you had chose to do what Holy Spirit was telling you to do, instead of what you felt like doing. Speak about how Holy Spirit gave you the POWER to do what He was telling you to do, even though you didn't feel like doing it, or perhaps think you could do it.

Say: It is not always easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes you just want to do what you feel like doing, instead of what you know Jesus would like you to do. (Share a story of a time when you had to choose to do what Holy Spirit was telling you to do, instead of what you wanted to do.)

We are going to spend some time with Jesus now. I want you to fetch your journal and something to write with, and find a space where you can be alone with God and away from anybody who

may distract you. *(Give the children a few minutes to settle.)* I am going to play some music. I want you to listen to the music and calm your body and your mind. Take a deep breath in, and breathe out slowly. Close your eyes and listen to my voice. *(Pause)*

If you have decided to follow Jesus, it means that Holy Spirit lives inside of you. He gives you the power to follow Jesus and do what Jesus would do.

I want you to think of a part of your life where it is difficult for you to follow Jesus. Maybe you struggle to tell the truth. Maybe you struggle to be kind to people who are unkind to you. Maybe you struggle to be self-controlled. Maybe you struggle to respect your parents. *(Pause)*.

I want you to tell Jesus what you are struggling with. *(Pause)*

Now I want you to ask Holy Spirit to give you His power in the area that you are struggling in. Ask Holy Spirit to give you a picture of how He is filling you with His power. *(Pause)*
Draw the picture or write down what He says in your journal.

Let's pray: "Holy Spirit, thank You that You are always with us. Thank You that You give us power to follow Jesus and do the things that He would do. Thank You that even when it is difficult, You are with us. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Extend



Say: When you wake up in the morning, ask Holy Spirit to fill you with His power to do the things that He is asking you to do that day. Remember the things that you did and come and tell us next week.

Make and Do



Need for each child:

A small round piece of card
Two pieces of string or elastic
Pencil
Crayons
Scissors
Hole punch

(Original idea from Ministry-to-children.com)

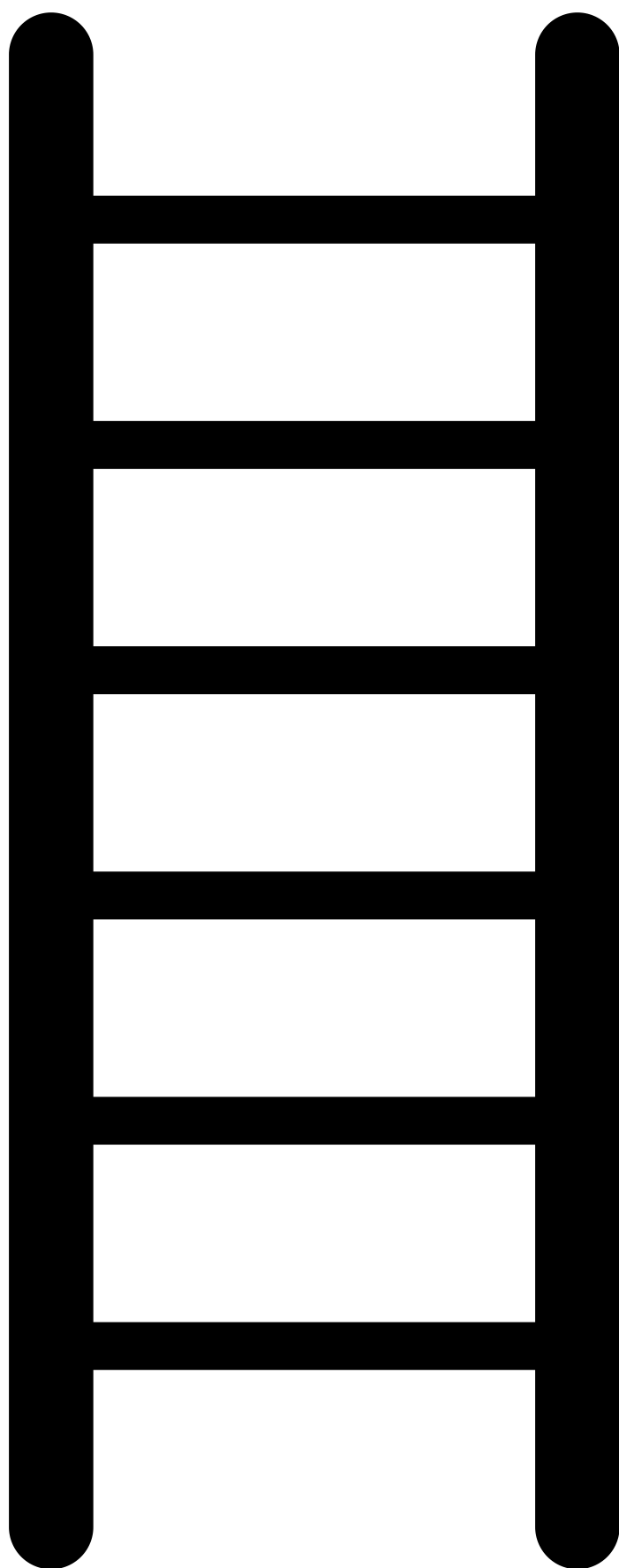
Do: The children are going to make a Thaumatrope. You can see how to make it on YouTube.

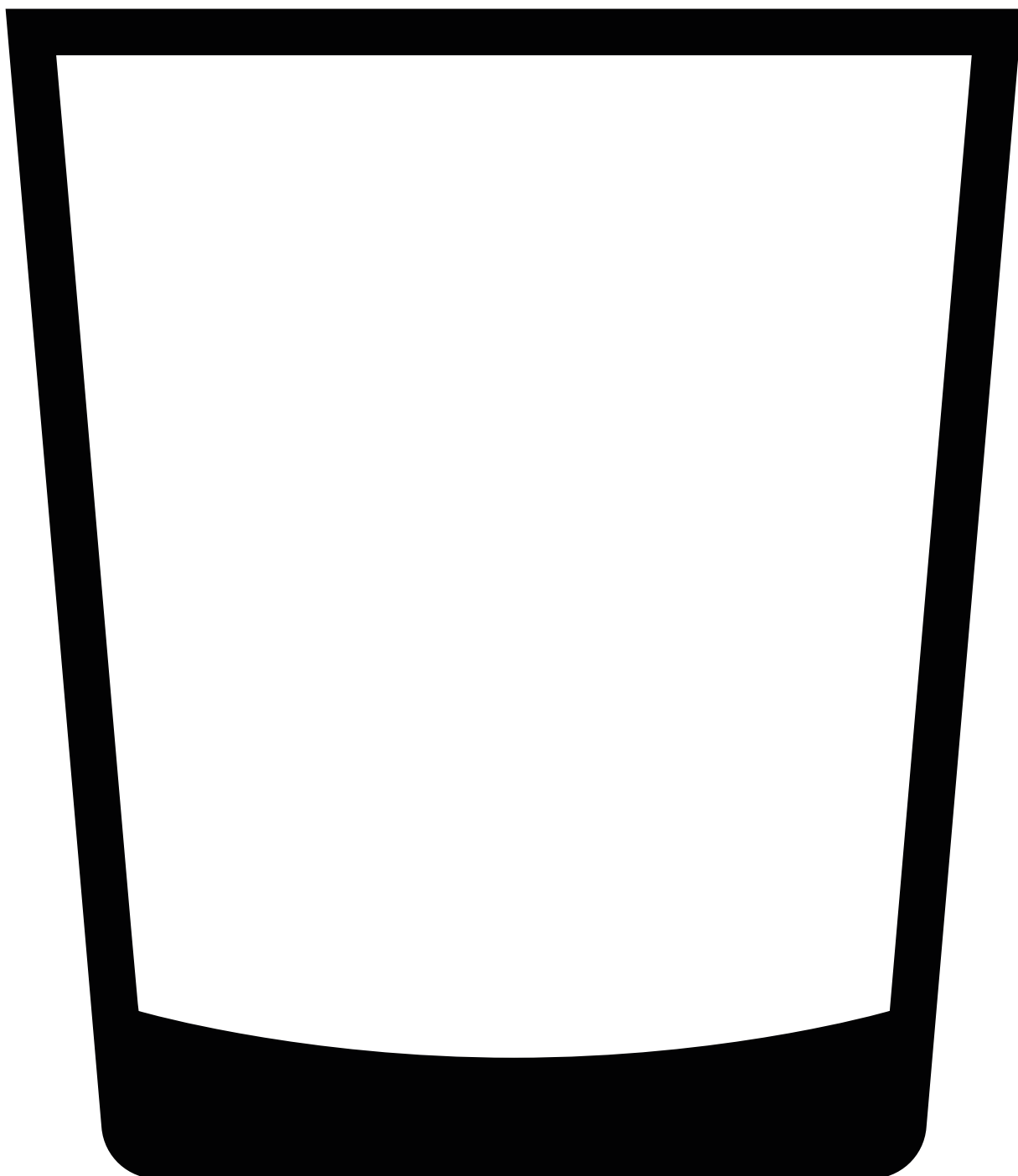
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YDrcVgKGp_0

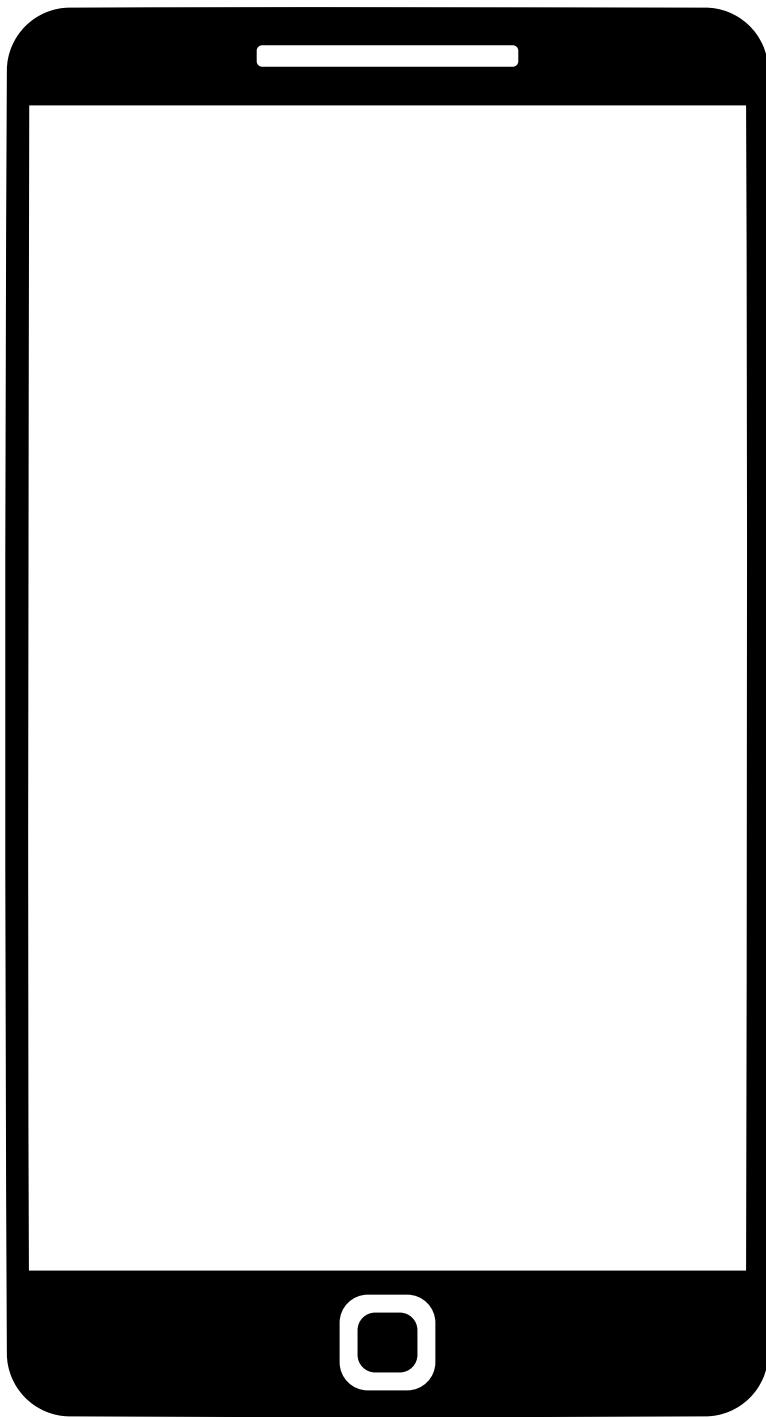
Make one before the time so that you have an example to show the children. Print the circles worksheet and give each child one.

Say: We are going to make a Thaumatrope. I am going to give you a piece of card with a circle on in. Cut out the circle carefully. On

one side of the circle you are going to draw a picture of a disciple. On the other side of the circle you are going to draw a flame. I am going to help you make a hole on either side of your picture. Then I want you to tie an elastic/piece of string in each hole. Twirl the elastic between your fingers so that the pictures flip quickly. It will look as if the flame is on the disciples' head.







Make and Do

