



**BIG IDEA**

We are the church together.

COMMUNITY | WEEK 1 OF 5

# Pentecost

## GOD STORY

Pentecost

Acts 2:1–4

## KEY VERSE

Encourage each other and  
build each other up.

1 Thessalonians 5:11a (NLT)

## LEADER TIP

If one of your group's  
regular leaders is away, take  
the time to help anyone who  
fills in become familiar with  
your usual routines.

## Life Story

### 1 | PENTECOST PUZZLE (Free play)

Work on a puzzle that introduces today's Bible story.

### 2 | BLOW LIKE THE WIND (Free play)

Get the children thinking about windstorms as you play with a fan.

### 3 | FREEZE DANCE (Large group)

Get everyone moving and highlight the Big Idea for this series.

## God Story (Circle Time)

### 4 | MUSIC (Large group)

Sing and move along to "We Are the Church" (*The Meeting House Kids Music*) and "Love One Another" (*Little Praise Party: Happy Day Everyday*).

### 5 | BIBLE STORY (Large group)

Read "Early one morning" in *The Big Bible Storybook* (p. 221).

### 6 | KEY VERSE ACTIVITY (Large group or free play)

Follow a fun path and introduce the Key Verse.

## My Story

### 7 | CRAFT (Large group)

Use dabber markers to decorate a scene from the Bible story.

### 8 | IF TIME PERMITS: PARACHUTE (Large group)

Play with a parachute and focus on the wind in the Holy Spirit's arrival.

## Our Story

### 9 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents. Remember to give them take-home cards!



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## Life Story

### 1 | Pentecost Puzzle

**SUPPLIES**

- Puzzle

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Place the puzzle pieces on a table before the children arrive.

**LEADER TIP**

- Repeat free-play activities as long as they engage the children. Then invite a new group to do them.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. During free play, invite one or two children at a time to join you at the table with the puzzle.
- b. Guide them to put together the puzzle pieces. Provide help as needed.
- c. As the children work on the puzzle, tell them that it's a scene from today's Bible story. It's about God sending the Holy Spirit to be with us.
- d. When the puzzle is complete, explain that in the story there are flames that don't burn or smoke!



### 2 | Blow Like the Wind

**SUPPLIES**

- Fans

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Invite a few children to join you during free-play time.
- b. Show them a fan and demonstrate how it works.
- c. Use the fan to move around the air and create a pretend windstorm.
- d. Chat with the children about experiences they've had being outdoors when it was very windy.
- e. Point out that windstorms can make a lot of noise!
- f. Lead everyone in making wind noises together.



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## Life Story

### 3 | Freeze Dance

**SUPPLIES**

- Media player

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Cue up a fun song that your group enjoys.

**LEADER TIPS**

- Make sure the children know what it means to freeze. Model how to be still and quiet.
- It may be helpful to have one leader play and pause the music while another leader guides the children during this activity.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather everyone in an open area.
- Explain that when the song is playing, the children should join you in dancing and moving around. Whenever the music stops, they should freeze. Then you will all shout the Big Idea together.
- Play the music.
- Lead everyone to have fun dancing and moving around your group's space.
- Pause the music.
- Direct the children to freeze.
- Prompt them to shout the Big Idea: **We are the church together!**
- Repeat until the song ends.

## God Story (Circle Time)

**SUPPLIES**

- Media player
- Tidy up and/or circle time songs

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Make sure the media player is easy to access.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the following activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

### 4 | Music

**SUPPLIES**

- Song lyrics
- Wall-safe tape
- Media player
- "We Are the Church" (*The Meeting House Kids Music*)
- "Love One Another" (*Little Praise Party: Happy Day Everyday*)
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Place the lyrics where leaders can see them.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather everyone together during circle time.
- (Optional) Give each child a scarf or instrument.
- Mix it up each week! Play the music and:
  - do a fun freeze-style dance.
  - wave around the scarves.
  - use the musical instruments.
  - make up fun actions that go with the songs.
- To wrap up, guide the children to return any supplies to the bin.



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## God Story (Circle Time)

### 5 | Bible Story

**SUPPLIES**

- “Early one morning” (from John 14:15–16; Acts 2:1–4) in *The Big Bible Storybook* (p. 221)

**LEADER TIP**

- This story is the core of the lesson. Build up to it and refer to it in the other activities.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. During circle time, gather the children to sit on the floor with you.
- b. Explain that today’s story is from the Bible.
- c. Read the story out loud. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- d. Pray, “Dear God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to help us! Amen.”

### 6 | Key Verse Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Masking tape
- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Use masking tape to create a fun zigzag line on the floor that goes all around your group’s space.
- Place the Key Verse sign at the end of the path on the floor or on a nearby wall or play panel.

**LEADER TIP**

- This activity could be done as a large group or with a few children at a time. Mix it up each week (e.g., do it as the children arrive, on the way to sitting down to read the story, etc.).

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Gather everyone at the start of the taped path.
- b. Lead the children to walk or hop along the line. Have fun with it!
- c. When everyone arrives at the Key Verse sign, prompt the children to say 1 Thessalonians 5:11a together.



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## My Story

### 7 | Craft

**SUPPLIES**

- Pentecost activity pages
- Dabber markers

**LEADER TIPS**

- Depending on your group, you may want to do this craft with just a few children at a time.
- Help them roll up their sleeves before they use the dabbers.
- Make sure everyone's names are on their crafts.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Gather the children to sit at a table.
- b. Give each child an activity page and a dabber.
- c. Guide everyone to dab gently on their page to colour it. Help them hand-over-hand if needed.
- d. Encourage the children to share their dabbers to get different colours.
- e. Review the story of Pentecost as the children work on their crafts.
- f. Highlight the Big Idea: **We are the church together.**

### 8 | If Time Permits: Parachute

**SUPPLIES**

- Parachute

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Spread out the parachute on the floor in an open area of your group's space.

**LEADER TIPS**

- Arrange the leaders around the parachute to help the children as needed.
- Having trouble keeping everyone focused during this activity? Try doing it sitting down.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Gather everyone to sit or stand around the outside of the parachute.
- b. Explain your expectations for how the children will listen to you and handle the parachute.
- c. Direct them to hold onto its edges.
- d. Raise and lower the parachute together. Help the children as needed.
- e. Remind them that Jesus' friends were together in a room when they heard a noise like a strong wind—and then flames rested on each of them. The Holy Spirit's arrival was exciting!
- f. Challenge everyone to create wind with the parachute.
- g. Lead the children to make wind noises.
- h. Emphasize working together and the Big Idea: **We are the church together!**



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## Our Story

### 9 | Dismissal

**SUPPLIES**

- Children's crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

**BEFORE DISMISSAL**

- Place any take-home materials where everyone can access them easily.

**LEADER TIP**

- Take a moment to share with parents about their children's experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- b. Give everyone take-home cards and colouring pages.
- c. Remind them to take any crafts.
- d. Make sure the children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave.