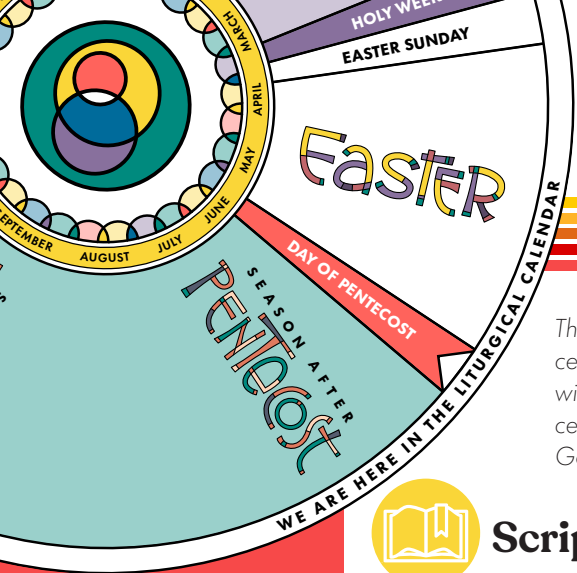


Acts 2:1-12

Day of Pentecost



The Day of Pentecost is when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is also when we typically celebrate the birthday of the church. Its liturgical color is red. The Day of Pentecost was filled with rushing wind, tongues of fire, and people speaking different languages. Pentecost is a celebration of the beautiful diversity found in the church and the world, and a reminder that God's love is for all, no exceptions.



Scripture

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"



Questions

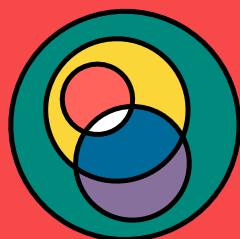
- On this very special, holy day, we recognize a wonderful gift God gave to us. What was the gift? Who received it in the story?
- Summarize what the people in the crowd experienced—what they saw and heard. If you were in the crowd, how might you have felt?
- The writer tells us people spoke many different languages. This created a chance for the Holy Spirit to perform a miracle—everyone heard the disciples speaking in their own language! Why might God have chosen a diverse group of people to see the Holy Spirit?
- When the crowd saw the miracle, they asked, "What does this mean?" If you were a disciple, what would you tell them?
- What does the coming of the Holy Spirit mean for us?

Look it Up!



God is creative—God didn't make everyone look, act, and sound the same. Out of God's creativity comes diversity. One form of diversity is language. Look up how many languages there are in the world and learn about them.

mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Paper
Coloring utensils

Balls or balloons

It can feel overwhelming and scary to cross dividing barriers and share and accept God's love. It's hard to know how to start. This activity will strengthen our social bravery by practicing the first step: starting a conversation.

As a group, talk about everyone's identities. What makes you, **you**? Then discuss some barriers that can divide us: age, race, gender, language, religion, income, etc.

Give participants blank paper and coloring utensils. Draw three big circles on your paper. In one circle, draw a picture of yourself using words or images to describe who you are and what makes you, **you**. In the other two circles, write or draw spaces where you regularly interact with people who look, think, or talk differently than you. It could be school, church, extracurriculars, playground, etc. Come back together as a group and share some of those spaces.

Now, imagine you are in one of those spaces, and a new friend walks into the room. As a group, brainstorm a list of things you can do/say to the new friend to help them feel welcome.

- Do you want to play with me?
- Do you have any pets?
- Hi my name is _____. What's your name?

After this, split into groups of two and give each pair a small ball or inflated balloon. Then, give all participants a simple, conversation-starting question:

- How are you?
- How was your weekend?
- What do you like to do during recess?

One participant within each pair will start with the ball/balloon and toss it to their partner as they ask the question. Their partner then responds to the question and asks another question as they toss the ball/balloon back. Continue this conversational catch until you run out of things to say and ask. Repeat the game with different questions or partners, or see which pair can last the longest!

Alternate Activity

Materials:

Pipe cleaners
Pony beads

Letter beads

The good news is that God's love is for everyone—no matter the clothes they wear, the language they speak, or the part of the world they're from. God welcomes everyone. We can help share God's love with the world by welcoming the people around us. We can do this many different ways, but one of the easiest ways is to smile and say "hello."

Saying hello to someone, even if we've never met them before, is one way to say, "I see you!" And saying hello with a smile adds, "I'm so glad you are in the world!"

How many places can you think of where you can smile and say "hello!" to someone?

Look up the different languages spoken in your community. Can you say, "hello," in your neighbor's language?

Create hello bracelets using pipe cleaners, letter beads, and pony beads. Spell out "hello" in your language and/or a language in your community, and use whichever color beads make you feel happy and loved. Wear your bracelet as a reminder to share God's love with a friendly greeting to the people around you.



Micropractice

Pentecost brought people together who were very different from each other. This week, be mindful of the differences you encounter—differences in skin tone, language, dress, ability, age, sexuality, gender, and culture. Thank God for our differences.



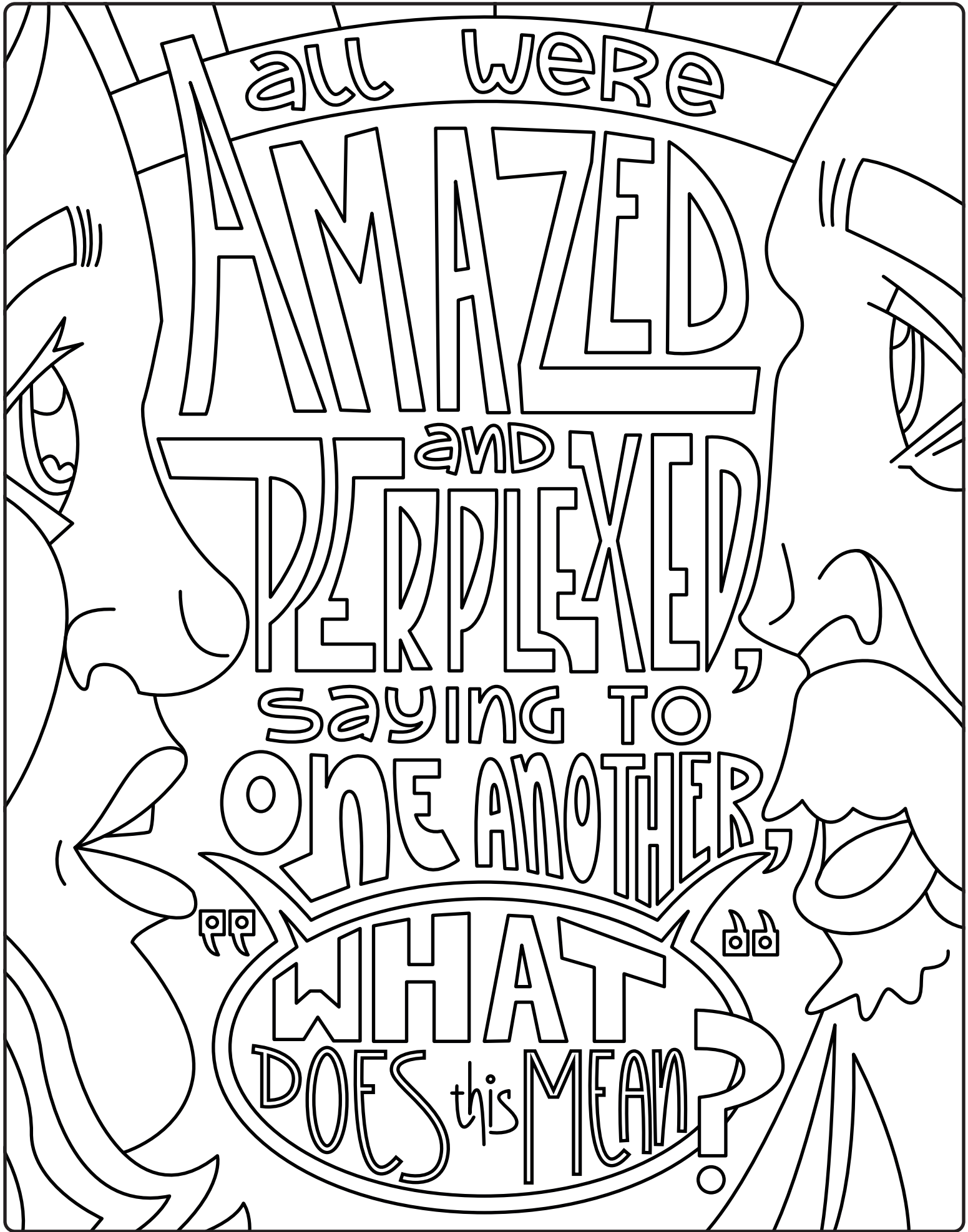
Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here:

illstrtdm.in/minirevCPentecost



Prayer

Creator God, you filled this world with all kinds of plants, animals, and people. How beautiful! Thanks for the gift of diversity. May we be gentle, brave, and kind as we learn to share your love with the world. Amen.



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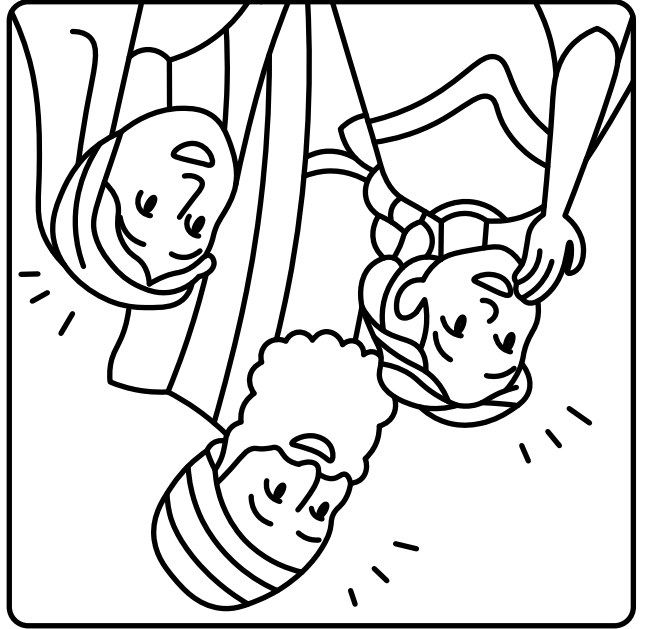
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WHAT
DOES this MEAN?

4. A crowd gathered to hear, and they were amazed because each person heard the disciples speaking in their own language! The people wondered at the miracle, "How can this happen? What does this mean?"



3. Jewish people from every nation were in Jerusalem. It was a wonderful, diverse celebration, with people who spoke many different languages. Finally, the disciples ran out of the house and began to tell Jesus' story on the street.

1. This is the story of the first Pentecost. All the disciples gathered together and talked about what to do now that Jesus had ascended into heaven. They were afraid and didn't know what to do next.



2. Suddenly they heard a rushing wind and saw something like flames of fire above each person's head! The gift Jesus said would come arrived! This was the Holy Spirit. They knew what to do—they had to tell the message of Jesus' love!