

Read

Acts 2

It must have felt strange for the disciples as they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Jesus had returned to heaven and they had a lot to think about. They had decided to replace Judas with Matthias and now all they could do was watch and pray.

Held 50 days after the feast of Passover, Pentecost—the Festival of Weeks—was a thanksgiving for the harvested crops. Jews from all nations would have gathered in Jerusalem to give thanks to God for the harvest. When the disciples gathered, something strange started to happen and God started to reveal his presence with a strong wind and tongues of fire. As the Holy Spirit filled each of them with God's amazing power, they started to speak the languages of the different people out celebrating in the city.

God's Spirit not only gave them the courage to share the good news about Jesus, He also gave them the right words to say. The Holy Spirit inspired Peter to preach an amazing sermon that helped people to understand that Jesus was God's promised rescue plan. That day 3000 people heard and understood what God was saying to them through Peter. They decided to change their ways and become a follower of Jesus.

It was the start of something amazing—the church. Followers of Jesus gathered together to pray, learn and worship. As they did so, they shared everything they had and cared for those in need.

Pentecost @ Home



Wonder

- I wonder what it felt like to experience God as wind and fire
- I wonder what the people thought when they heard the disciples from Galilee talking in their own languages
- I wonder what it means to share *everything* you have

Say

Lord Jesus

You promised your disciples that you would send your Spirit as a comforter. Thank you that, as we celebrate Pentecost, we can remember how you keep your promises.

Your Spirit gave your friends hope and confidence to tell others about you. Thank you that you are always with us.

Help us to be like your first followers, committed to being your friend, sharing what we have, and helping those in need.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us we pray.

Amen

Do

- Do the Pentecost, Pentecost clapping rhyme together (see below)
- Print and cut out the large flames, or make some of your own from thin paper. Make sure everyone in the family has one and, if possible, a straw. Line them up on a table or smooth floor surface. Agree a finishing line and then see who can get their flame to the finishing line using only their breath. No hands!
- Make a Pentecost mobile. You can use the flame pictures below, or make your own with colour paper. Larger flames could be strung together to make bunting, or smaller ones can have a hole punched in the top and be tied to an old coat hanger or CD with coloured wool or thread to make a mobile.
- Make a pinwheel windmill with paper and a straw. [See this simple youtube tutorial](#). When you are praying at the end of each sentence blow on your windmill to represent God's Spirit hearing your prayer and answering it.
- The Bible says that God's Spirit grows good things in us like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (See Galations (5:22-23). These are called the fruit of the Spirit. Decide which real fruits you think represent the fruit of the spirit, label them on the sheet and colour them in.
- Play 'human fruit machine' making sure every player has a set of 3-5 pieces or pictures of fruit. Either have the fruit in a bag, or turn your back. On 3 everybody must show their choice of fruit. The more matches the more points. So if you pull out an apple and two other people have an apple, you get three points. If you pull out a banana and nobody else does you get one point. Tot up the scores and talk about the randomness of the game. God's Spirit is never random but only works if we allow it to. Talk about what fruit we would like God to grow in us.
- Sit in a circle with your eyes closed and listen for the wind. Imagine you are in the room with the disciples. What are you thinking and feeling? Take it in turns to name another member of your family and ask God to bless them with his Holy Spirit. Imagine the flames dancing on their heads. If you have done the fruit of the Spirit exercise, ask God to grow his fruit in the person you have named.

Pentecost, Pentecost - clapping rhyme

Chorus: Pentecost, Pentecost
Wonderful and strange
Pentecost, Pentecost
Time for a change

The wind is a blowing and fire falls like rain
It's dancing on their heads, but they feel no pain

Chorus

God's Spirit is with them, filling to the brim
With hope and confidence that only comes from Him

Chorus

They can share the good news of Jesus the King
Living it out by loving and sharing

Chorus

God's Spirit's is for now, not just for the past
He fills us up too, whenever we ask

Actions

Pent—clap left hand on left thigh

E—clap right hand on right thigh

Cost—clap both hands together.

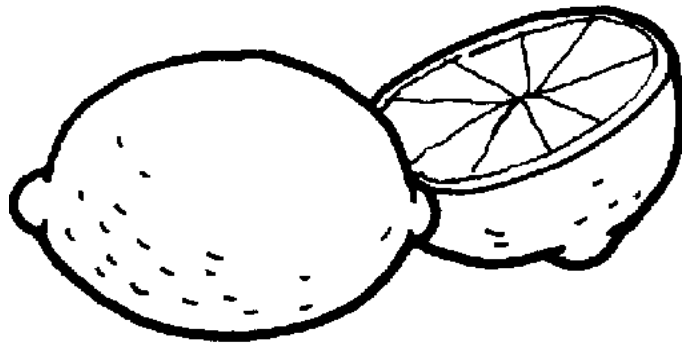
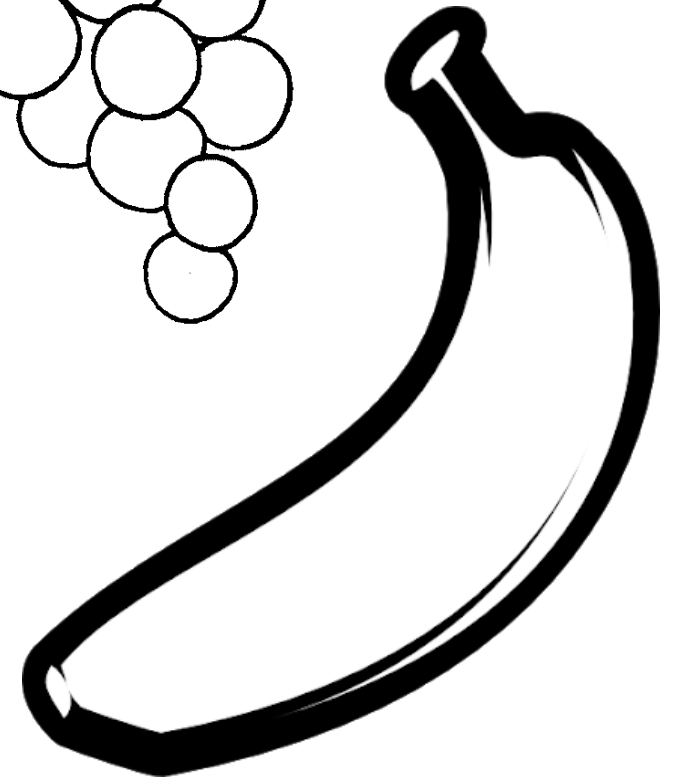
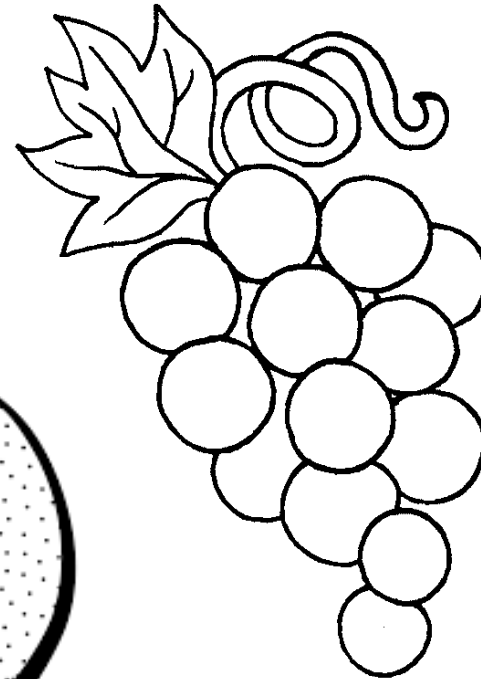
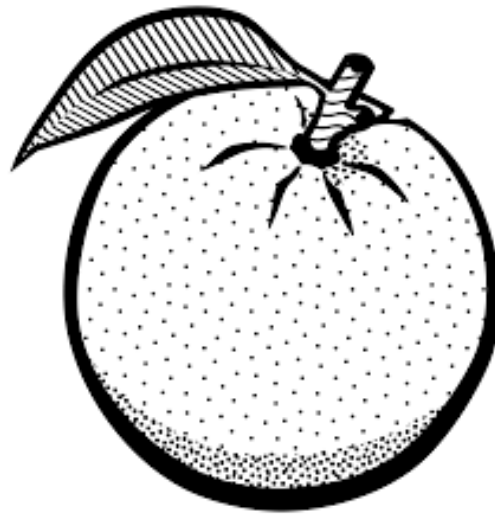
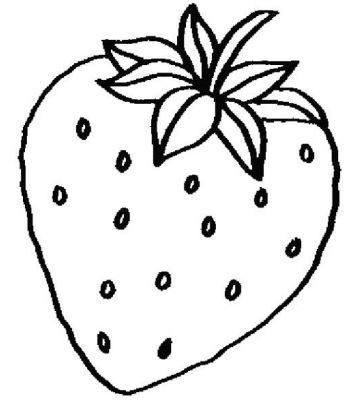
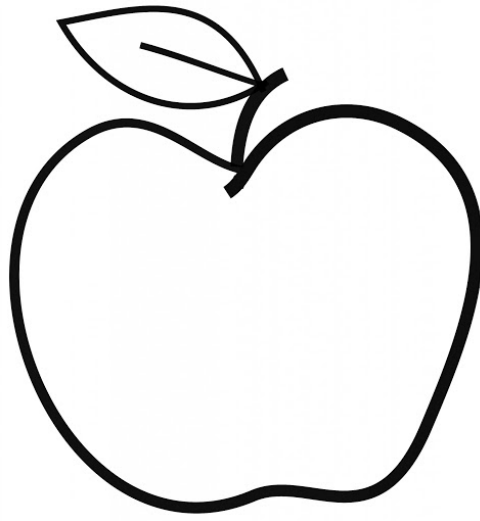
Wonderful and strange—wave fingers in the air like tongues of fire

Pent—clap right hand on left thigh

E—clap right hand on right thigh

Time for a change—raise fist like a winner

When you have said the rhyme a couple of times, encourage everyone to make up actions for the verses



Which fruits do you think could be a symbol for the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control?





Cut out the flames (you can double side them by sticking reverse images back to back. If you are very clever you can try folding this page in half and sticking the two sides together that way)

Use wool or thread to join them together as a garland,



or hang them from an old coat-hanger or CD as a mobile

