

In this unit, pupils will find out about the events of Pentecost found in the Bible, considering which events would be needed to retell the story for someone else. They will begin to consider what the events found in Acts 2 might have meant for the first Christians and what they mean for Christians today. They will make links between the description of the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God. Pupils will learn how Christians today show their beliefs about the Holy Spirit in worship and the way that they live their lives.

Key Vocabulary

- Pentecost
- Holy Spirit
- Disciples
- Lord's Prayer
- Baptised
- Tongues
- Acts
- Trinity
- Apostles



Lesson 1: What do you already know about Pentecost?

STEP 1: Introduce the big question for the unit to pupils. Ask what they already know about Pentecost and what they might like to find out.

Explain that many Christians often call Pentecost the 'birthday of the church' as this was the time when the Bible says thousands of people from Jesus' time first became believers in his teachings, got baptised and began to live as a community, following Jesus.

Recap the story of Easter with pupils, ask pupils why Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'. Discuss the events of the Easter story and remind pupils that Christians believe that Jesus came to forgive their sins so that they could have a good relationship with God again. Explain that in the Bible, after Jesus rose again, he was on the earth and spent time with people. During this time, he told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem and then went back to heaven to be with God. Tell pupils that after Jesus had left, the disciples followed Jesus' instructions and stayed in Jerusalem waiting for the help that Jesus had promised. Ask pupils how they think the disciples would have felt when they were waiting.

STEP 2: Give pupils copies of Acts 2:1-15, Acts 2: 22 and Acts 2: 37-41 (this is easily downloadable from Bible Gateway – try to use a child friendly version). Talk through the main events of the text and unpick any unfamiliar vocabulary.

As you work through the text, encourage pupils to make notes and highlight key information on the text sheet that you have given them.

STEP 3: As a class, discuss the emotions that the disciples might have been feeling throughout the events of Pentecost.

Give pupils Understanding Christianity 2A.6 Kingdom of God Resource Sheet 1 (Resurrection-Pentecost emotion graph) encourage them to plot the emotions of the disciples for each key event within the story. Once pupils have done this, encourage them to annotate each point with reasons as to why they think the disciples were feeling this way.

Lesson 2: What does the Bible say about Pentecost?

STEP 1: Recap last week's lesson with pupils. What were the main events within the story? How might the disciples have been feeling at each stage of the story? Read back through the text with pupils and ask them what they find interesting, confusing, exciting and worrying. Show pupils a video version of the story*. Ask pupils if the video includes all the key events or if anything was left out. Ask for reasons why it might be important to return to the original text for meaning and vocabulary.

STEP 2: Give pupils the text research sheet. Explain that today they are going to be looking at the text in more detail, researching the key events and considering their own thoughts on the key events. Give pupils time to independently work through the texts, filling out the research sheet and answering the questions.

STEP 3: Show pupils two different pieces of religious artwork that have been created to show the Pentecost story. Ask: Which picture do you think best shows the meaning and events of the text? Which do you think would be the most helpful for Christians today reflecting on the story and why? Which do you think might need editing to show the story a little more accurately? Check whether pupils can link the images to the text.

* You might like to use <https://youtu.be/OMQKy1Mx49M>

Lesson 3: How have artists depicted the events of Pentecost?

STEP 1: With pupils, recap the main events from the Pentecost story. Discuss pupils' ideas on which events are important to know to ensure that the story is fully understood. Ask pupils the following questions about the text:

- How did the Holy Spirit appear in the story?
- What did the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do?
- Why was it important for the disciples to be able to speak in other languages?
- What did the people assume had happened to the disciples?
- For many Christians, why is it so significant that so many people were baptised that day?

STEP 2: Show pupils a range of religious artwork (both modern and traditional) that depicts the events from the story of Pentecost. Discuss which events can pupils see and which of the images they think would help someone to understand the importance of the story of Pentecost (ask pupils to justify their decisions here). Ask pupils if they were to draw pictures to represent this story, what would they draw? Explain that today we are going to be designing images to share the story of Pentecost with someone who has never heard it before. Give pupils reflection and discussion time to decide upon which images they would include and what sort of commentary they would include to share the meaning of their picture with someone else.

STEP 3: Give pupils A4 art paper to create their Pentecost images on. When they have finished drawing, encourage them to write a paragraph saying what they have drawn and why it would help someone to understand the story of the first Pentecost.

Lesson 4: For Christians what is the impact of the gift of the Holy Spirit?

STEP 1: Recap last week's lesson with pupils. Discuss some of the images that they drew to represent Pentecost and how they feel these images would teach someone else something about the first Pentecost. Read Acts 2:41-47 with pupils. Talk about what the disciples did after the events of Pentecost. Ask pupils to focus on Acts 2:42 and think, pair share what the disciples were doing. Elicit that this means the disciples spent time learning about God together, meeting together, dining together and praying. Explain that many Christians today feel that this is the example that they should be following. Tell pupils that many Christians today believe that the Holy Spirit comes to live in them and helps them to do God's work.

STEP 2: Watch a film* or speak to a Christian visitor about the impact of the gift of the Holy Spirit on Christians today and on the first Christians, then discuss what pupils have seen and heard. Show pupils an image of a battery, explain that just as a battery powers toys to do things, many Christians believe that the Holy Spirit powers them up to do God's work and spread his good news of forgiveness.

STEP 3: Give pupils a mobile phone outline. Encourage pupils to write a text to somebody who wants to know more about what Christians believe about the Holy Spirit. The text should share who the Holy Spirit is to Christians and what it enables them to do. Explain that you are looking for texts that are to the point, so must fit onto one phone screen, therefore pupils might want to edit their texts on whiteboards or another appropriate place and then write them up in best.

*You might like to use <http://request.org.uk/issues/ultimate-questions/big-questions-what-are-the-gifts-of-the-spirit/#>

If you use this, please remember to explain to the pupils that the presenters are Christians and sharing their Christian points of view.

Lesson 5: For Christians, what was the impact of the Holy Spirit?

STEP 1: Recap last week's lesson with pupils and discuss the work of the Holy Spirit. Ask pupils:

- In the book of Acts, how did the Holy Spirit appear at Pentecost?
- In the Bible, what did the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do?
- What do many Christians today believe the Holy Spirit enables them to do?

STEP 2: Tell pupils that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity. Ask whether pupils can explain what the Trinity is. Show pupils a picture of a triangle. Explain that the triangle is 1 shape but that it has 3 vertices. Ask pupils if the triangle would still be a triangle if 1 of these vertices was removed.

Explain that Christians believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Show pupils an image of a Twix bar, and ask how they think it could be used to explain the concept of the trinity (the biscuit, chocolate and caramel are all different things, but work together to make 1 Twix - take 1 away and you no longer have a proper Twix).

Link this to pupil's learning in Year 3 on the Trinity, remind them of their learning and the artworks that they saw linked to this concept. Explain to pupils that there are many different ways that people have tried to describe or show the Trinity – triangle and Twix are just two of them. Give pupils Post it notes and encourage them to write down their own explanations of the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. Once they have finished, bring the class back together and encourage pupils to share their ideas with other members of the class. Are there any edits that they might make?

STEP 3: Tell pupils that since Pentecost, Christians have been trying to make the world more like the Kingdom of God. Explain that this means that many Christians try to be like Jesus and share the good news of salvation with others, just as the disciples did. Show pupils a copy of the Lord's Prayer, read it through together and discuss unfamiliar vocabulary. Tell pupils that this is a prayer that Christians believe Jesus taught his followers to pray. Ask pupils what the world would be like if everything in the Lord's prayer came to be. Some pupils may be able to discuss their views on whether this links to the Christian view of heaven.

STEP 4: Give pupils a copy of the Lord's prayer with a key question added to it. Encourage pupils to spend time reading the prayer and answering the research question. When pupils have finished, bring the class back together and discuss how Christians today might spread the good news that they believe Jesus brings. Share the work of missionaries who move around the world sharing this news. Ask: whose example are they following?

Lesson 6: What can you tell me about the Trinity?

STEP 1: Recap last week's lesson with pupils. Check what they can tell you about the Holy Spirit and the Trinity. Ask: How do many Christians today try to share what they see as God's good news? What motivates them to do this? Share 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 and explain that Christians believe that this is part of a letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the people of Corinth. Ask pupils:

- Why might the people of Corinth have needed this message?
- What is the main message that a Christian today might get from this text?
- What might have been going on in Corinth for Paul to write his letter?

Explain that many Christians today refer to themselves as the body of Christ and feel that they are called to love and support one another in life's journey. Explain that they believe that they are all given different gifts from God (different things that they are good at) but they shouldn't be jealous of each other because all these gifts are needed within the Christian family.

STEP 2: Go back through the sticky knowledge quiz slides and ask pupils to complete the assessment sheets.

Learning Outcomes

- Make clear links between the story of Pentecost and Christian beliefs about the 'Kingdom of God' on earth.
- Offer informed suggestions about what the events of Pentecost in Acts 2 might mean
- Give examples of what Pentecost means to some Christians now
- Make simple links between the description of Pentecost in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit, the Kingdom of God, and how Christians live now.
- Describe how Christians show their beliefs about the Holy Spirit in worship
- Make links between ideas about the Kingdom of God in the Bible and what people believe about following God today, giving good reasons for their ideas