



Children's story



for the 2020 Pentecost Offering of the Church of the Brethren

1. Share the story of Pentecost from *Shine On: A Story Bible*, found on page 280. This setting focuses on Acts 2:1 – 41, so you will need to highlight the parts related to the gift of the Spirit.
2. Read (all or parts of) *The Day When God Made Church: A Child's First Book About Pentecost* by Rebekah McLeod Hutto. *The Day When God Made the Church* is the story of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit shaped, and continues to shape, who we are as God's Church. Children will learn the story of Pentecost: the sights, sounds, and events of that miraculous day described in the Book of Acts. They will also discover who the Holy Spirit is and how God calls each of us to follow Jesus. At the end, parents, educators, ministers will discover fresh ways to celebrate Pentecost with children in their own churches and families." This setting also focuses on the Acts passage, so consider how to bring the idea of the gift of the Spirit to the forefront.
3. Gather the kids and remind them/tell them that we are celebrating the birthday of the church today, which we also call "Pentecost." Remind them of the scripture for today which says Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples. Ask them what they think it would feel like to have Jesus breath the Holy Spirit into them. Would it tickle? Would it feel warm? Would it be scary? After they have wondered a little bit, bring out a fan that is plugged in. Turn it on high. Have them put their faces in front of the fan, open their mouths, and take a breath. Try to imagine that the fan's wind is Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit into them. They will probably laugh and have all sorts of comments. Close by reminding them that Jesus wants us to invite others to learn to know God and practice taking care of each other like God wants us to—which is what it means to be a "church." Offer a simple prayer, asking Jesus to give the gift of the Spirit to each child present.

Written by Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
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