

2025 | **PENTECOST OFFERING ACTIVITIES**

APRIL 21-JUNE 8

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Parachute Activity: Under the Spirit's Covering (Older Children)

Scripture Focus:

- Acts 2:17 — “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”
- Joel 2:28 — “I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 — “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them all.”

Materials Needed:

- Large parachute

Activity Instructions:

1. Introduction

Ask:

- “What do you think it means when the Bible says that God’s Spirit is poured out on everyone?”
- “Can you think of something we all share, no matter who we are?”

Explain:

“God’s Spirit is like a big covering of love, peace, and power that is poured out on all of us. No one is left out! We’re going to use this parachute to help us think about how the Spirit surrounds us and brings us together.”

2. The Parachute Movement

Step 1: Lift and Cover

- Have all the children and leaders grab the edge of the parachute.
- Say: “When we lift the parachute up, it’s like God’s Spirit being poured out from above.”
- Together, lift the parachute high above your heads.

Step 2: Dunk Under and Sit

- As the parachute floats down, have everyone step under it and sit on the edge while the parachute covers them like a tent.

- **Say:** “Now we’re all under the parachute — just like how God’s Spirit covers everyone. No one is left out!”

3. Reflection and Discussion

- While sitting under the parachute, ask:
 - “How does it feel to be covered and surrounded like this?”
 - “What does it mean to know God’s Spirit is with all of us?”
 - “How can we share God’s love and Spirit with others around us?”
- **Emphasize Unity and Inclusion:**
We’re all different, but God’s Spirit brings us together. Each one of us is important, and we can use our gifts to help and love others.

Parachute Activity: God’s Spirit Covers Us (Younger Children)

Scripture Focus:

- Acts 2:17 — “I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”
- Joel 2:28 — “I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.”

Materials Needed:

- Large parachute (or a big blanket if you don’t have a parachute)

Activity Instructions

1. Introduction

Say:

- “God’s Spirit is like a big blanket of love that covers everyone! No one is left out. We’re going to use this parachute to help us see how God’s Spirit surrounds us.”
- Ask: “Have you ever felt a big hug or sat under a cozy blanket? That’s kind of what God’s Spirit is like — covering us with love!”

2. The Parachute Game

Step 1: Lift and Float

- Have all the children hold onto the parachute.
- Say: “Let’s lift it up high — this is like God pouring out God’s Spirit on all of us!”
- As the parachute floats down, let them watch it gently fall.

Step 2: Under the Tent

- When the parachute is up high, say: “Now let’s dunk under the parachute and sit down! We’re all under God’s Spirit together!”

- Help them sit on the edge of the parachute while it forms a tent around them.

Step 3: Quiet Reflection

- While under the parachute, say: “Look around! We’re all here together, just like God’s Spirit is with all of us. No one is left out!”

3. Wrap-Up Discussion

Ask:

- “How did it feel to be under the parachute together?”
- “Did you know God’s Spirit is always with you, even when you can’t see it?”

Say:

“God loves us so much that God gives God’s Spirit to everyone. That means we’re never alone — God is always with us!”

Parachute Activity: Gifts of the Spirit (Younger Children)

Scripture Focus:

- **Isaiah 11:2** — “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** — “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.”

Materials Needed:

- Parachute or large blanket
- Small plastic balls or mini beach balls
- Marker to write gifts of the Spirit (examples below) on the balls:
 - Wisdom
 - Kindness
 - Knowledge
 - Helping
 - Patience
 - Joy
 - Faith
 - Love

Activity Instructions:

1. Introduction (Keep it Short)

- **Say:** “Did you know that God gives us all special gifts? These gifts are different for each of us, but they are all from God’s Spirit to help us spread love and kindness!”

- **Explain the Game:**

“We’re going to play with the parachute and pretend these balls are gifts from God. Each one has a special gift written on it — like kindness, wisdom, and joy. We’ll shake the parachute to see how the Spirit spreads these gifts to everyone!”

2. Playing the Game

- **Round 1: Shake and Spread**

- Place all the balls on the parachute.
- Shake the parachute gently at first, then faster, saying:
“Look how God’s gifts are being spread to all of us!”

- **Round 2: Catch a Gift**

- Stop shaking and ask each child to grab a ball.
- Ask: “What’s written on your ball? How can we use that gift to help others?”
(Help younger kids understand — if they have “Kindness,” you might say, “You can be kind by sharing with your friends.”)

- **Round 3: Pass the Gift** (Optional)

- Sit in a circle and pass one ball around while you say together:
“Thank you, God, for giving us special gifts!”

Wrap-Up Discussion

- **Say:** “God’s Spirit gives each of us special gifts. Some of us are good at helping, some at learning new things, and others at showing kindness or joy. No matter what gift you have, it’s important and can help share God’s love with others.”

Parachute Activity: Discovering and Sharing the Gifts of the Spirit (Older Children)

Scripture Focus:

- **Isaiah 11:2** — “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and fear of the Lord.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:4–11** — “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit works through them all to help others.”

Materials Needed:

- Parachute or large blanket
- Small plastic balls or mini beach balls
- Permanent marker to write gifts of the Spirit on the balls:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Courage
- Kindness
- Patience
- Faith
- Generosity
- Leadership
- Healing

Activity Instructions

1. Introduction and Scripture Reflection (5 Minutes)

Ask:

- “What does it mean to have a gift from God’s Spirit?”
- “Have you ever felt like you were really good at something that helped others?”

Explain:

“The Bible tells us that God’s Spirit gives us special gifts. These gifts are different for each person and help us share God’s love with others. Today, we’re going to explore those gifts and think about how we can use them in our lives.”

2. Game Time

Round 1: Shake and Spread

- Place all the balls with different gifts written on them onto the parachute.
- Have the group shake the parachute, making the balls bounce around.
- **Say:** “These balls represent the different gifts that God gives us. Let’s see how the Spirit spreads these gifts around!”

Round 2: Gift Grab

- Stop the parachute. Each child grabs a ball.
- **Ask:** “What’s written on your ball? How do you think someone could use that gift to help others?”
 - For example, if a child has “Leadership,” they might say: “I could lead a project to help my community.”
 - Help guide their responses if needed.

Round 3: Pass the Gift

- Sit in a circle and pass a ball around. Whoever holds it shares how they’ve seen that gift in action — either in their life or someone else’s.

- **Example:** “I’ve seen generosity when my friend shared their lunch with someone who didn’t have one.”

3. Discussion and Reflection

- Ask:
 - “Why do you think God gives us different gifts?”
 - “How can we use these gifts to help our church and community?”
- Emphasize that every gift is important, and we are all called to use our gifts together to make a difference.

Pentecost Offering Poster Scavenger Hunt (Older Children)

Preparation

1. **Print and Cut:** Print the Pentecost Offering poster and cut out elements of the poster. Ensure each piece has something meaningful (images, words, or parts of the mission statement).
2. **Hide the Pieces:** Place the pieces around the room in places that are accessible but provide a bit of a challenge to find.
3. **Display the Poster:** Hang the Pentecost Offering poster in a visible spot where children can gather around it.

Activity Instructions

1. Introduction

- Gather the children near the poster. Ask:
 - “What do you see in this poster?”
 - “What do you think the message is about?”
- Explain that the poster represents how Presbyterians unite to support young people — helping them share their faith, ideas, and gifts with the Church and the world.

2. The Hunt

- Tell the children: “I’ve hidden pieces of this poster all around the room. Your mission is to find them and bring them back here!”
- Depending on the age group, you can set a time limit or encourage them to work together.

3. Reconstruction

- Once all pieces are found, work together to reassemble the poster.
- As you reconstruct it, point out key parts of the mission statement: **faith, ideas, gifts, support, unity, and sharing.**

4. Discussion

- After completing the poster, ask:
 - “Why do you think it’s important to share our faith and gifts with others?”

“How can we support other young people in doing this?”

- Emphasize how they can live out the mission in their daily lives — through kindness, creativity, and being part of the church community.

Pentecost Offering Scavenger Hunt Activity (Preschool to First Grade)

Preparation

1. **Print and Cut:** Use large, colorful images from the Pentecost Offering poster. Keep pieces simple — limit text (e.g., “Faith,” “Gifts,” “Love,” “Church”) or focus on images (e.g., dove, images of people, Scripture).
2. **Hide the Pieces:** Hide the pieces in easy-to-find places, making sure they’re accessible for little ones (e.g., under chairs, on a table, behind a book).
3. **Display the Poster:** Place the main poster at their eye level.

Activity Instructions

1. Introduction

- **Gather the children** near the poster and ask:
 - “What do you see in this picture?”
 - “Who do you think this is about?”
- **Simple Explanation:**

“This picture reminds us that we can help and share with other kids. We can share our love, ideas, and gifts with the church and the world!”

2. The Hunt

- **Set the Scene:** “I’ve hidden pieces of this picture around the room. Your job is to be great detectives and find all the hidden pieces!”
- **Give Simple Rules:**
 - Walk while searching (no running).
 - Bring the pieces back to the front when you find them.

3. Putting the Poster Together

- Sit in a circle and help the children put the pieces together on the floor or on a board.
- As you add each piece, say something like:
 - “This piece reminds us to share love.”
 - “This piece is about using our gifts.”
- Keep it short and interactive.

4. Wrap-Up Discussion

- **Ask:**
 - “What are some ways you can share love with others?”
 - “What gifts do you have that you can share?” (Help them if needed — examples could be singing, drawing, being kind, helping friends.)
- **Affirm Their Ideas:** “Yes! God gave you all special gifts to share with the world!”

Words of Encouragement Cards Activity

Objective:

Children will create handmade cards with messages of encouragement and love to be given to youth in need or others in the community who need uplifting. This activity connects to the Pentecost Offering’s mission to help at-risk youth and reminds children that their words can bring hope and kindness to others.

Materials Needed:

- Blank card stock or pre-folded cards
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Stickers, stamps, and decorative materials
- Optional: Bible verse printouts or encouraging phrases

Instructions:

1. Introduction

Explain:

“The Pentecost Offering helps young people who might be going through hard times. One way we can share God’s love is by creating cards with kind words to encourage people. These cards will remind them that they are loved and not alone.”

2. Card Creation

- Give each child 2-3 blank cards to decorate.
- **For younger children (Preschool to First Grade):**
 - Encourage them to draw happy pictures (hearts, rainbows, sunshine, etc.).
 - Help them write short, simple messages like “*God loves you,*” “*You are special,*” or “*You are not alone.*”
- **For older children (Third to Fifth Grade):**
 - Encourage them to write longer, thoughtful messages such as:
 - “*You are strong and brave. God is always with you.*”
 - “*Even on hard days, remember you are loved.*”
 - They can also include Bible verses (e.g., Jeremiah 29:11, Philippians 4:13).

3. Share and Bless the Cards

- Once the cards are finished, gather the children and say a short blessing over the cards:
“God, we ask that these cards bring hope, joy, and love to everyone who receives them.
May they remind people that they are never alone. Amen.”

4. Deliver the Cards

- Arrange to deliver the cards to a local shelter, youth program, or place in the community where they will reach those in need of encouragement.

Pentecost Offering Poster Coloring Sheet

Objective: Help children connect visually with the Pentecost Offering mission while encouraging creativity.

Preparation:

- Provide copies of the Pentecost Offering poster as a coloring sheet.
- Set up a coloring station with crayons, markers, and colored pencils.

Instructions:

- Encourage the children to color the sheet and talk about what they see in the images.
- **Ask:**
 - “What do you think is happening in the picture?”
 - “How do you think we can help others like the people in this picture?”

Optional Extension:

- Display their colored posters around the classroom or church.
- Turn it into a mini art show where children explain what they drew or colored.

Pentecost Offering Word Search (PDF): click on PDF to download.

Pentecost Offering Crossword Puzzle (PDF): click on PDF to download.



QUESTIONS?

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