

Reflection:

In the Gospels, Peter is keen but often incompetent and cowardly. In Acts he is transformed. He is fearless, he is able to perform powerful miracles. He has overcome his previous 'foot in mouth disease' and become a powerful speaker. What had happened to this man?

Luke's answer is that he had been filled with the Spirit. One of the main emphases of Acts is that the Holy Spirit empowers people to live the Christian life, and particularly to be witnesses of Jesus.

But What About Us...?

Incredible stuff! Acts shows just how much God can do through ordinary people like us, if we let Him have His way.

Mettle Series – 'Guide to the Bible'
Youth for Christ Publication with CWR

Roman 8 v 14 – 16 (NLT)

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call Him "Abba Father". For His Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

All Age Worship

<http://www.allageworshipresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ShortAAW011-The-Holy-Spirit-comes-in-power.pdf>

<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/Childrenswork-Past-issues/2014/June-July-2014/All-Age-Service-Pentecost>

The opening activities and the telling of the story are particularly powerful.

<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/Childrenswork-Past-issues/2016/April-May-2016/All-Age-Service-Pentecost>

The opening activity and the reflection on the story of Pentecost are particularly effective.



Cheap curtain rings with red/orange/yellow ribbon (for fire) blue/white for water or wind) would be great props for children.

How amazing would it be to walk into a church/school prayer space/Messy Church full of these helium balloons?! I would suggest encouraging prayers to be written on the doves.



Could be a good look for everyone?!

Craft

1. Blowing fire

You will need: *yellow, orange and red paint, water, thick paper or card, drinking straws, paint brushes*

Water down the paint until it is about the consistency of runny glue. Use paintbrushes to drop splashes of paint onto the paper and then use drinking straws to blow the paint across the page in all directions. Use different colours to see the effects of colours merging with each other. This is a great activity to remember the 'wind' and 'fire' parts of the Pentecost story and to help children to reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit to move and create.



2. Fizzy paintings (**especially suitable for under-fives**)

You will need: *bicarbonate of soda, white vinegar, droppers (e.g. eye droppers readily available and cheap from chemist shops), thick paper or paper plates, food colouring*

This is great for either individual pieces or as a group piece. There is a lot of liquid involved so it might take some time to dry. Pour some of the vinegar into individual cups and add a different food colouring to each cup. Mix well to make the 'paint.' Scatter some bicarbonate of soda so that there is a thin layer over the surface of the paper and then use droppers to drop the vinegar 'paint' on top. Give the children time to experiment and watch the fizzy eruptions! This is a great craft to help children reflect on the power of the Spirit welling up inside the disciples and spilling over into their lives. Let the children share their own responses about what is happening and how it might relate to the story.



3. Melted crayon art (**especially suitable for teenagers**)

You will need: *canvas, strong glue (eg from a glue gun or superglue), wax crayons with paper wrappers removed, hairdryer, a protective sheet*

This activity is exciting and helps, in a visual way, to illustrate the power of the Holy Spirit. Please ensure that there is adult supervision at all times as the hot wax can splatter. Glue the crayons to the top of the canvas and wait until the glue has set firmly. Prop the canvas up against a wall and cover the floor with a protective cloth. It's a good idea to do this activity outside if you have an extension cable for the hairdryer! Set the hairdryer to the highest level and heat the bottom ends of the crayons until they start to melt (this takes a while). When they have begun to melt, switch the heat down a notch and move the hairdryer over the crayons as they drip down the canvas. The children absolutely love this process and really seem to enjoy taking it in turns to hold the hairdryer and decide where to direct the heat to produce different effects. This craft is very helpful in stimulating discussion about the powerful gifts the Spirit can release inside us, mirroring the release of colour from the crayons through the power of the heat. Let the children reflect and let them lead the direction of the discussion.

Discussion Material / Scripture Study / Sunday School

<https://www.youthandchildrens.work/>

A series called 'Growing Together' have some excellent resources. In particular, a resource called 'The Early Church' would be a great lesson for older teenagers/young adults.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtokHQOmFu0>

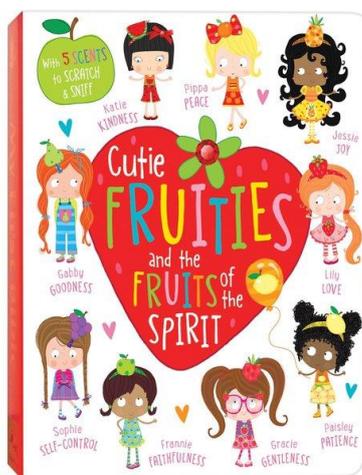
What is Pentecost? This is a short clip explaining the Biblical story with some useful information and knowledge for children.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/pentecost-sunday-school-lesson/>

This lesson has a great way of introducing the story of Pentecost which could also be used in other environments such as Messy Church.

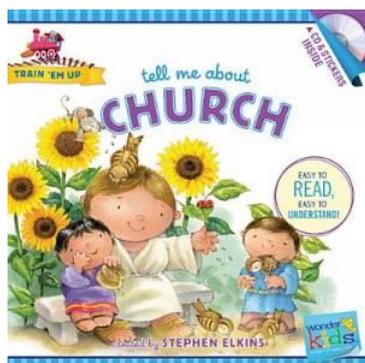
NB: Many of the resources suggested have been taken from Premier Youth & Children's Work and require registration to fully access. I would highly recommend subscription to the website for amazing resources across all age ranges!

Specific resources for use with under 5's



'Cutie Fruities and the Fruits of the Spirit' Rosie Greening

A fun way to learn about God's gifts through the nine different characters. The extra fun element of this book is the five different fruit scents 'scratch and sniff' pads within the book, which are actually quite realistic!

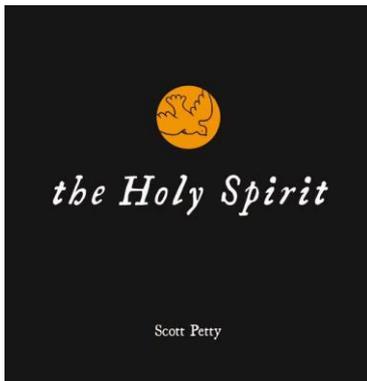


'Tell me about Church' Train 'em up series created by Stephen Elkins

A really lovely simple book exploring the principles of what Church is, being a 'special body of believers'. Picks up on the differences between religion and relationship and the need for the Church to be Spirit-Filled'.

The book also includes fun stickers and a CD with additional resources such as songs. This is an interactive resource which would be easy for parents and children's workers to use.

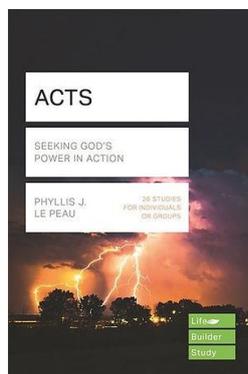
Specific resources for teen's and older:



'The Holy Spirit' Little Black Book Series by Scott Petty

In five easy to read chapters, this short book clearly outlines the Holy Spirit, introducing what the Holy Spirit is, the connection with Jesus, the involvement with mission and our Christian lives, and finishing with the gifts the Holy Spirit provides.

An easy going book which can easily be given to young people for personal reading or using to facilitate group exploration.

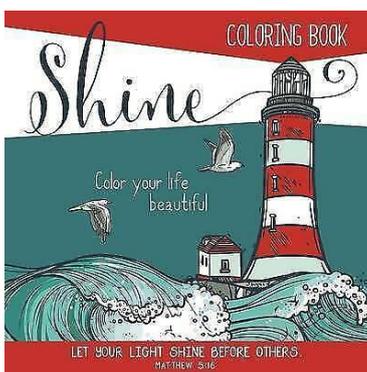


Additional Bible Study resources exploring the Holy Spirit and the book of Acts, good for adult team development and growth in preparation for delivering sessions to children's and youth groups.

Cover to Cover series 'The Holy Spirit' Selwyn Hughes

Life Builder Study series 'Acts' Phyllis J. Le Peau

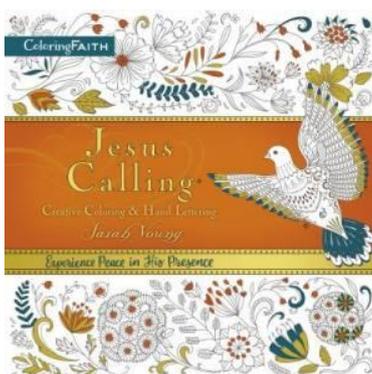
Alternative resources for Junior school age through to adults:



Colouring Book – 'Shine, Colour your life Beautiful'

A book packed full of 'tear-out' colouring pages to copy and use with groups or use and frame personally.

Some include Biblical references for encouragement or focus. A great resource to help remind us that we are not alone but have Christ with us through the Holy Spirit.



Colouring Faith – 'Jesus Calling, Creative colouring & Hand Lettering' Sarah Young

Another book packed full of 'tear-out' colouring pages to copy and use with groups or use and frame personally.

Likewise, as above, some include Biblical references for encouragement or focus, helping us and others experience peace in His presence. In addition, this resource includes pages for tracing lettering which would lean more towards an older individual.