

# Let Your Light So Shine



## Unit 4

## Pentecost

### Lesson – 25 min

Before reading the Bible verses of the day, provide some background on Pentecost. Say: “Pentecost is a Jewish feast that occurs 50 days after Passover. Passover celebrates when the Israelites escaped slavery in Egypt with Moses. Pentecost celebrates when Moses was given the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. Christ’s resurrection took place during Passover and became our Pascha. 50 days after Christ’s resurrection, the Apostles were gathered together. This is where our Bible story begins.”

Read Acts 2:1-6.

Explain the reading: “As the disciples were gathered, the Holy Spirit filled them. While they could not see the Holy Spirit they could see its effects—the wind, the tongues of flame, and their ability to speak many languages. This is considered the birthday of the Church because now the disciples were able to tell others about the risen Christ.”

Make and staple the flame headbands and place them on the students. After this is completed, ask them that if they had a real flame on their heads if they would burn? To which, they should say yes. Ask them if a flame would burn a \$10 bill. Explain that God is all powerful and can protect us, and while the Holy Spirit can be overpowering, God protected the disciples and allowed it to fill them without overpowering them.

Play the video connection of the bill burning and the Holy Spirit spreading to the Apostles but remaining unharmed.

After the video, explain that much like this bill was protected; the tongues of flame did not harm the disciples. Explain that the Holy Spirit filling the disciples allowed them to minister to others and preach God’s word. They were then able to travel to other places and talk about the story of Jesus.

### Video Connection:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vUSvcioarO>



## Lesson Activity

Supplies needed:

black strips of paper two inches wide cut long enough to encircle the student’s head, flame shapes cut out of red, orange, and yellow paper, stapler, small LED light, tape

Have students staple the flame shape on to the center of the black paper strip. Tape the LED light behind the flame. Encircle the students head with the black strip of paper to determine what size they need, and then staple the ends together so it fits on their heads like a hat.



## Games

### Holy Spirit Tag – 15 min

Supplies Needed: yellow or orange post-its

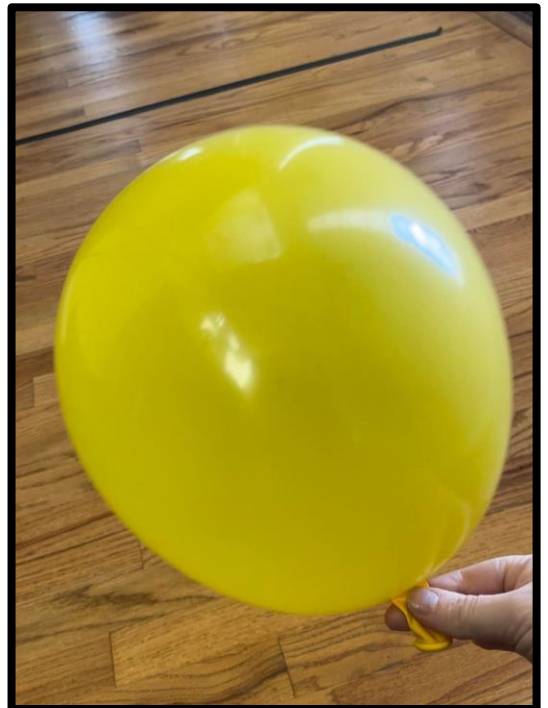
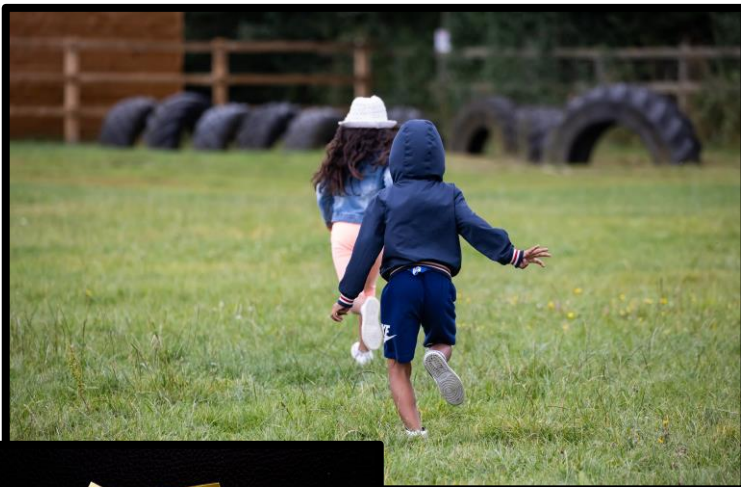
Explain that you are going to play Holy Spirit tag. The person who is “it” will be the Holy Spirit. They are given the post-its, and their job is to stick a post-it on another player. Once they have tagged a fellow player with the post-it that player becomes an Apostle, grabs a pad of post-its, and helps spread the Holy Spirit. Play continues until all players have been tagged and have become Apostles.

Explain that just like the Apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and then went out to spread God’s Word, we can spread God’s love similarly. Ask for suggestions on how we can do this. Examples could be: invite someone to church, tell them about a Bible story or life of a Saint, wear your cross, hang an icon in your car or home.

### Holy Spirit Balloon Launch – 10 min

Supplies Needed: deflated balloons, a line of tape on the floor, balloon pump if desired

Explain that at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down to the disciples. Ask students if they have ever seen the Holy Spirit. Some may mention icons or a dove in an icon but specify never in person. Ask students if they can see the air around them. Some may mention leaves on trees moving or the effects of wind but specify that you do not actually see the wind. Grab a balloon and inflate it with air—explain that the air you are putting in the balloon is like the Holy Spirit in that you cannot see it, but it is affecting the balloon much like the Holy Spirit can do to us. Give each student a balloon and have them try to inflate it and let it go so that it goes over the line of tape on the floor.



## Troparion of Pentecost – Tone 8

Blessed are You O Christ our God / You have revealed the fisherman as most wise / by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit / through them You drew the world into Your net/ O Lover of Man, glory to You!

## Craft & Snack

### Dove Kites – 25 min

Supplies Needed: bulk plastic kite kits—these can be found on amazon from multiple sellers; cardstock doves (link below); dot markers; tape

\*If kite kits cannot be purchased you could use cardstock and streamers to make a less expensive version.

<https://www.coloringall.com/coloring-pages/dove/easy-flying-dove/>

Gently tape the cardstock dove in the center of the kite. Using the dot markers place concentrated dots around the dove and fading outward. Once all coloring is done, gently remove the cardstock dove. Finally, attach the kite tail.

If done early, students can move outside or to a larger space to try to fly their kites.



### Tongues of Flame Snack – 25 min

Supplies Needed: pretzel sticks, mini marshmallows, cheese cubes, fruit by the foot

Students can assemble “torches of fire” with pretzel sticks and cheese cubes or mini marshmallows on the end.

Fruit by the foot “tongue of flame” relay race—each student opens their fruit by the foot. One end is placed in their mouth while the other hangs down. When the teacher says “go,” the students try to eat their “tongue of flame” as fast as they can using only their mouths. Be sure to video this silly event!

If done early, students can color the Pentecost icon found at the link below.

<http://orthodoxeducation.blogspot.com/2015/06/pentecost-coloring-icon.html>

Show the icon of the feast of Pentecost. Ask students when we celebrate Pentecost in our church (50 days after Pascha).

### Ending – 5 min

This is a great day to grab a group picture of all the students with their “tongues of flame” headband on.