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# Pentecost Bible Lesson (Acts 2:1-21)

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As always, how you choose to experience the story will vary according to the ages and abilities of your children (and how many are participating). You may wish to share video clips, children's versions, or other methods to communicate the story of Pentecost.

*When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested<sup>[a]</sup> on each one of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. -Acts 2:1-4*

**Ask:** The Holy Spirit entered in this event, just as Jesus had promised to send His presence. How do we know that God is always present? (This could be a tricky question! Consider elements of prayer, knowing all we have comes from Him, and the Bible.)

Amazing things were happening here. Tongues of fire and rushing wind? Speaking other languages? Of course, we don't experience these things on a daily basis. This was a remarkable and special event in the life of the church. We may not see this all the time, but it's still amazing and exciting to learn about in order to consider how Christ still can and does work through us today.

*Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, <sup>11</sup>both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." <sup>12</sup>And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine." -Acts 2:4-13*

Sometimes people don't understand what God is doing in our lives. They might criticize or critique what confuses them. The disciples were filled with power to do amazing and



remarkable things, like speak in other languages. A lot of people believed the things that they shared, but there are always some who will be skeptical or grumpy. Explain to kids that even in this experience, God gave the disciples wise words to help them explain what was happening.

*But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.[b] 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:*

*17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams;*

*18 even on my male servants and female servants  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.*

*19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;*

*20 the sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,*

*before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.*

*21 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ -Acts 2:14-21*

Peter uses Scripture prophecies to remind the onlookers that God had promised what was happening would happen. The Holy Spirit enabled it, and that was only the beginning of the growth of the church.

**\*Ask:** The disciples were excited to tell everyone who would listen about Jesus. Who do you tell about Him?

Remind kids that all of us are called to celebrate what God has done. The church is not just one place, but is the way Jesus uses us and our love to continue spreading the joy and love of Christ everywhere. We can tell people about God, and we can also live as His people by demonstrating genuine care for one another. Everyone, everywhere is our mission field!

**Crafts:** “Spirit Wind” Pinwheel; party noisemaker shaker, tongue of fire headband, blown painting.



# Easter to Pentecost



## Where does "Easter" come from?

Pascha is the Greek term for Easter. It comes from the Hebrew word for Passover, *pesach*.

## Where does "Pentecost" come from?

The term Pentecost comes from the Greek Πεντηκοστή (Pentēkostē) meaning fiftieth.

## When is Easter?

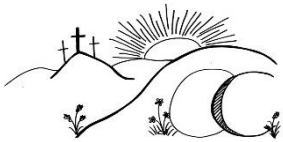
Easter follows immediately after Lent and the Triduum. It begins with the Easter Vigil and goes for fifty days, until Pentecost.



## How long is the Easter Season?

Fifty days: from Easter to Pentecost.

## What is the purpose of Easter?



We celebrate Christ's Resurrection! "The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or

better as one 'great Sunday.' These above all others are the days for the singing of the Alleluia." (GNLY, 22)

## Are any Precepts tied to Easter?

Yes! You are required to receive the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season (CCC 2042). You should be without mortal sin when receiving the Eucharist. You should receive the Sacrament of Penance prior to receiving the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Lord, Jesus Christ. "You shall confess your sins at least once a year." (CCC 2042)

## What are some Easter symbols?

Easter is a season of joy. Some symbols are the empty tomb, the Paschal Candle, the lamb, Lilies, etc.

## What are some Easter traditions?

Joyful celebrations! Easter is also a time when many children receive their first Eucharist. It is also when we break our Lenten fasts. The most beautiful Easter tradition is the return of the Alleluia to Mass.

## What colors are Easter and Pentecost?

The Easter season is white. Red is used for Pentecost.

## What is the Easter Vigil?

"The Easter Vigil, during the holy night when the Lord rose from the dead, ranks as the 'mother of all holy vigils.' Keeping watch, the Church awaits Christ's resurrection and celebrates it in the sacraments. Accordingly, the entire celebration of this vigil should take place at night, that is, it should either begin after nightfall or end before the dawn of Sunday." (GNLY, 21)

During the Easter Vigil, those who were preparing to enter the Church (catechumens) are welcomed. If needed, they receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They also receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

## What is an "octave"?

Octave comes from Latin *octava* (eighth).



## What is the Octave of Easter?

"The first eight days of the season of Easter make up the octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities of the Lord." Since these days are elevated to solemnities, the Friday during the Octave of Easter "lifts" the Friday obligation to do some sort of penance, as determined by the conferences of bishops.

## When is the Ascension of the Lord?



"On the fortieth day after Easter the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated, except in places where...it has been transferred to the Seventh Sunday of Easter. The weekdays after the

Ascension of the Lord until the Saturday before Pentecost inclusive are a preparation for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete." (GNLY, 25 and 26)

## When is Pentecost?

Fifty days after Easter. It is known as the Church's birthday, when we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and followers of Christ.

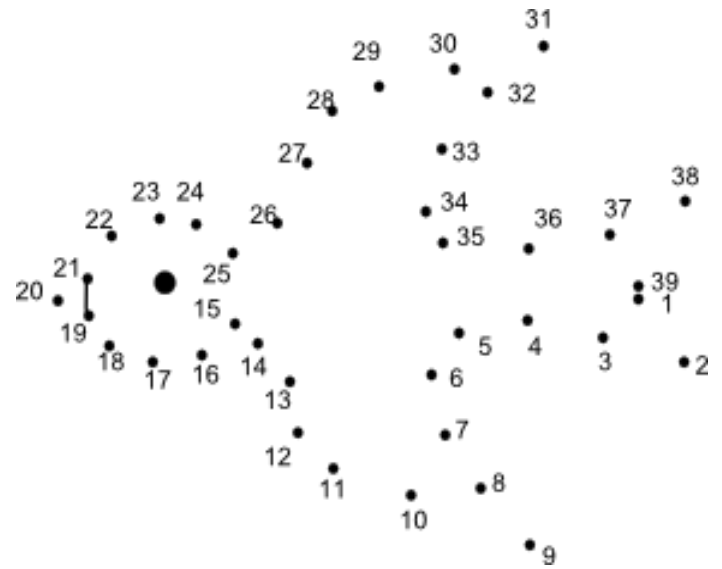
# Learn About The Holy Spirit

## The Trinity

God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three persons who are all the same person – God. This is called the Trinity (Trinity means three).

When we think of God living inside us, in our hearts, and speaking to us each day, this is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit lives inside every person who has become a Christian.

Work the puzzle to see a dove, a symbol of the Holy Spirit.



## The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Before Jesus came, the Holy Spirit did not live inside every person.

God sent the Holy Spirit into a person when he had a special job for the person to do.

Read each verse, and write the name of the person who received the Holy Spirit.

**Genesis 41:38**

\_\_\_\_\_

who interpreted dreams and advised the Pharaoh of Egypt

**Exodus 31:2-4**

\_\_\_\_\_

who made beautiful things from gold, silver, and bronze

**Judges 6:34**

\_\_\_\_\_

a judge who led the people of Israel

**2 Samuel 23:1-2**

\_\_\_\_\_

who was the king of Israel and wrote beautiful songs

**Daniel 4:8**


\_\_\_\_\_

who advised the king of Babylon and interpreted dreams


## What Jesus Said

When Jesus was on earth, he spent time with his friends. He told them that after he was gone, God would send the Holy Spirit to be with them.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would:

 come after                                                        went back to                                                       

↓   +   ⇨   ▲   ⇨                      ✨   +   \*   ▼   +   →

 give them                                                        to                                                                  

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                                                                              them when they were sad




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Code:

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A	C	E	F	H	I	J	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W


## When the Holy Spirit Came

Use the picture clues to read the story of how the Holy Spirit came to all believers.

 told his  to wait for the  to come to them. One day the  of


 were all together. A strong wind brought . The  gave the  to

each person. They were able to   about  in different languages. About 3000 people

heard them and believed in  that day! Now the Holy Spirit lives inside each person who believes


in .

 Jesus

 Holy Spirit

  talk

 friends

 tongues of fire

# Learn About The Church

## Jesus Started the Church

When Jesus said, "I will build my church," he was talking about the church of all Christians.

If you are a Christian, you belong to Jesus' church.



## Local Churches

After Jesus went back to heaven, Paul and other Christians traveled around, telling people about Jesus and starting local churches in the towns they visited. A local church is a group of Christians that live in the same area and meet together to worship and do God's work.

Look up the verses, read them, and complete the statements about churches.

Ephesians 1:16

Paul \_\_\_\_\_ for the churches he had started.

Acts 15:36

Paul went back and \_\_\_\_\_ the churches he had started.

Hebrews 10:25

Don't forget to \_\_\_\_\_ together as a church.

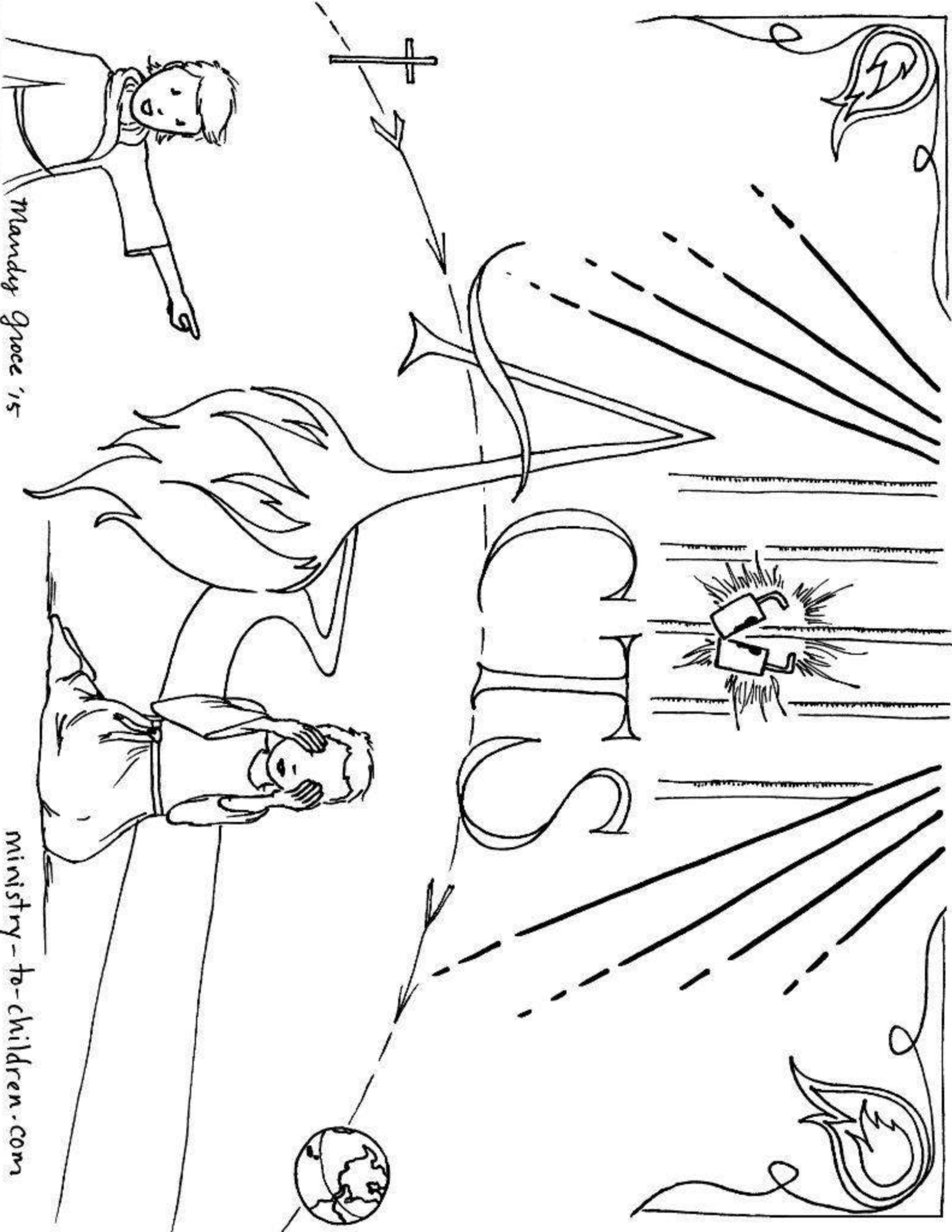
1 Corinthians 16:2

Give an offering of \_\_\_\_\_ each Sunday.

Acts 14:23

Each church had church \_\_\_\_\_.

Word List: leaders, meet, money, prayed, visited

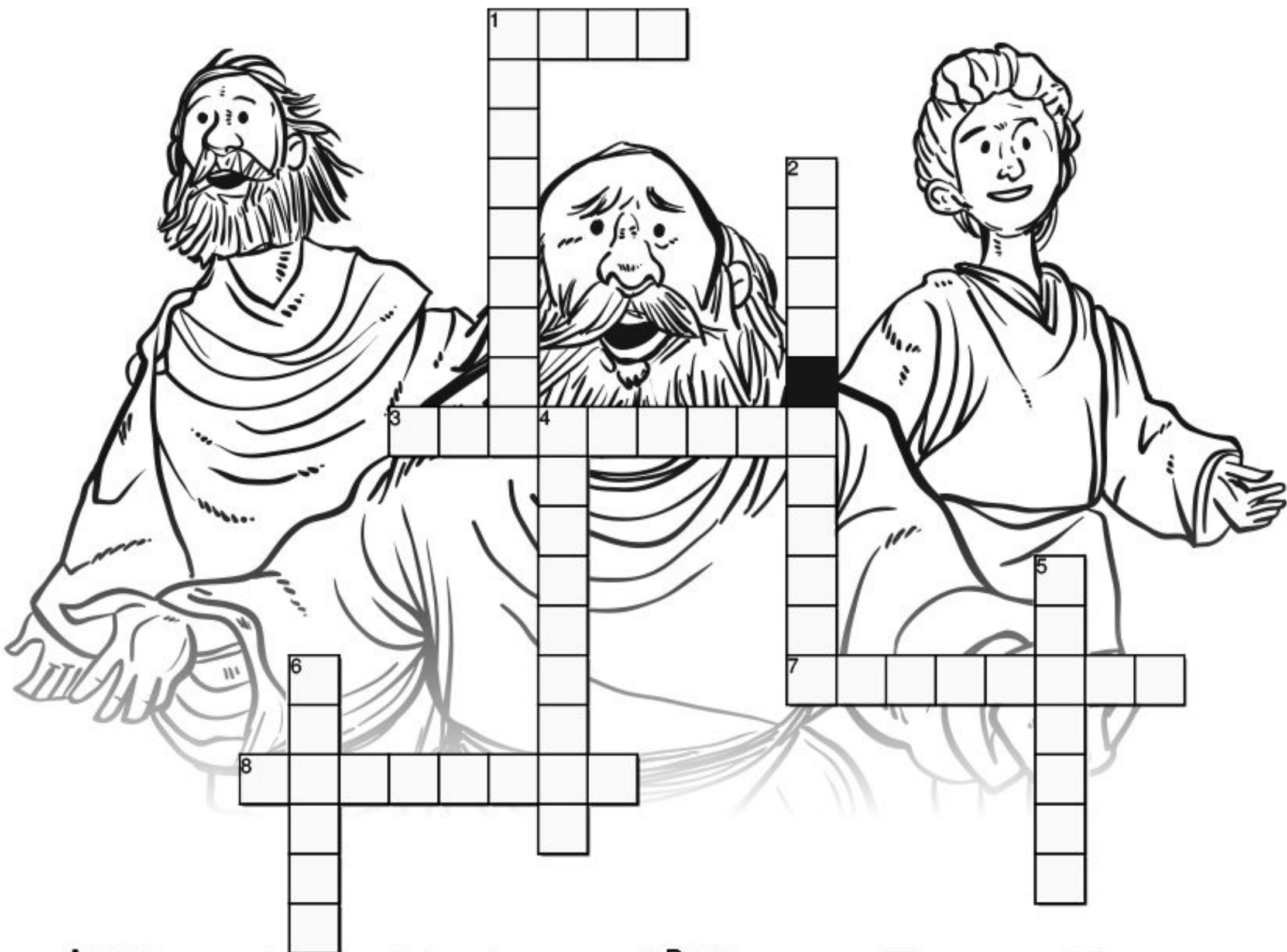


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# THE ASCENSION AND PENTECOST

## Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1-2



### Across

1. The disciples had the big job of spreading the good news of Jesus's \_\_\_\_\_, death and resurrection to the world.
3. Jesus said, "Go and make \_\_\_\_\_ of all nations."
7. That day, three \_\_\_\_\_ people were brought into God's family.
8. Peter ran out into the crowded streets and told everyone in their own language to "Repent and be \_\_\_\_\_!"

### Down

1. When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they could speak new \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Who did Jesus say was coming after he left?
4. What was another name Jesus gave to the Holy Spirit?
5. After a final lesson, the \_\_\_\_\_ opened and Jesus rose up into the sky.
6. What appeared on the disciples' heads?

