

# Lesson: The Birth of the Church on Pentecost

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Written by Kelly Henderson Last updated March 15, 2019 Leave a  
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2010

Use this Sunday School lesson to teach children about the birth of the Christian church as told in Acts 2. This lesson plan was first prepared for an older elementary Sunday School class, but you could easily modify it for younger children or kids church. In the present form the estimated length is about 60 minutes. We've included links to other free activities related to this story at the end of this page.

**Bible Story:** The Birth of the Church

**Scripture:** Acts 2:22-47

**Target Age Group:** Age 9 – 11 (U.S. 3rd – 5th Grade)

**Learning Context:** 4th Grade Sunday School

**Printer Friendly Bible Lesson:** [[print\\_link](#)] this lesson plan

**You Can Help:** Please leave your feedback and suggestions for this lesson plan. Others will benefit from your ideas. [Click here to respond](#)

**Supply List:** Birthday decorations, balloons, cake/cupcakes and calendar

**Learning Goal:** Students will learn that believing in Jesus gives them a new birthday and they become a part of the Church (Body of Christ).

**Learning Indicator:** Students will be able to identify key characters and events by answering review questions. They will also participate in discovering truths as they read the verses from their own Bible during the Bible lesson.

**Learning Activity #1:** As students arrive have them mark their date of birth on a calendar. The calendar will be used during the lesson to talk about the Second Birth. This calendar can be kept up during the year for students who are born again and would like to write the date of their second birth on the calendar. You can let them place a small sticker by their name if they want.

**Learning Activity #2:** (Memory Verse Activity) Write words/phrases on the balloons from Acts 2:42 with a permanent marker. Read the verse together and have students put the balloons in order according to the verse. After the verse is put together have the students stand in a circle and try to bat their balloons in the air and keep them in the air as they recite the verse together.

**Memory Verse:**

Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

**Learning Activity #3:** Following the lesson/review celebrate the birth of the New Testament Church by having a birthday cake for the students to eat.

**Test:** Students will play a review game to answer questions from the Bible lesson.

## Bible Lesson: The Birth of the Church

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(Give Bibles to any student who did not bring their own.)

(The following is a guide to a possible way to present Acts 2:22-47 to your class. It can be simplified for younger students and could also be used for Childrens' Church.)

Review facts previously learned from Acts. Who wrote Acts? (Luke) Who did Jesus tell the apostles to wait for? (The Holy Spirit) What happened when the Holy Spirit filled the believers? (Loud wind, tongues of fire and the ability to speak other languages) Which prophet did Peter quote who said God would send His Holy Spirit? (Joel)

(Show calendar)

We use a calendar to remind us of important events. Earlier we used this calendar to mark each of our birthdays. The day each of us was born is a very important day. God created us in our mother's womb and made each of us for a purpose. (Psalm 139:13-16) Birthdays celebrate the day God brought us into this world.

In our story today we are going to hear about another birthday. Let's turn in our Bibles to Acts 2:22-24.

Last week we ended our story with Peter filled with the Holy Spirit speaking to the crowd of Jewish people who were confused about hearing the wonderful works of God being declared in their own language.

Today Peter is still speaking to the crowd and we are going to hear what else he told the people on the Day of Pentecost.

Let's read Acts 2:22-24 and find out what Peter said. Allow students to volunteer to read each verse.

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as he spoke these words to the crowd. He shared the Good News that Jesus died on the cross and that God raised Him from the dead.

The people in the audience were Jewish people. They had a great love for King David written about in the Old Testament. As Peter preached to this crowd he explained to them that the things that David spoke about many years ago were pointing to the time when the Lord Jesus would be raised from the dead. (Read verse [2:27](#) and [2:31-33](#))

The next words that Peter spoke to the crowd would not have been easy to say on his own. Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and was able to tell the crowd that they crucified Jesus the Savior God sent.

Have students volunteer to read [Acts 2:37](#). If your students have different versions have them read what the verse in their version says. (Teacher you are listening for different ways the version says 'cut to the heart' (NIV) 'pricked in their heart (KJV)) Explain that the different phrases refer to being convicted. Ask them if they know what convicted means. To be convicted is to have a strong sense of guilt.

In this circumstance the audience felt convicted that they were responsible for the death of God's Son Jesus. As the Holy Spirit convicted the audience of their sin they wanted to know what they needed to do next.

In [Acts 2:38](#) Peter tells them what they need to do. Peter told them that they needed to repent. They needed to turn away from their sin and turn to Jesus who died for their sins. By believing in Jesus their sins would be forgiven. Peter told them they needed to be baptized. When they were baptized they would be telling others that they had placed their faith in Jesus to be saved. Peter said that once they believed in the Lord Jesus they would receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

After Peter explained what the people needed to do many of them believed in the Lord Jesus and were saved. Let's find out how many were saved on that day. ([Acts 2:41](#))

On this Day of Pentecost about 3,000 people had a new date to add to their calendars. They could mark on their calendars their second birthday. It was their second birthday because many people in the crowd that heard Peter's message believed in Jesus and were born again. They were born again because even though they were living they were dead in their sins. They could not have eternal life without being born again. ([John 3:3](#) and [3:7](#)) Those who believed that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, was buried and rose again were born again on that day.

Not only was this a day of celebrating being born again, it was also the day that the very first church was born. A church is not a building but it is made up of people that believe in the Lord Jesus. Each and every person that believed in Jesus that day were part of the very first group of people who heard the Good News taught to them and they believed.

The new believers gathered together regularly to hear the apostles teach about Jesus. Let's read verse 42 to find out what else they did. (They fellowshiped, celebrated the Lord's

Supper and prayed together.) We can see that the believers served and helped each other and praised God together. As the believers lived a life filled with the Holy Spirit God continued to save people on a daily basis causing the church to continue to grow. (Acts 2:44-47)

Although what we read from our Bibles happened a long time ago the same message is true for us today. Jesus is the Savior God promised to send. Even though we were not physically there crying "Crucify Him!" my sins and your sins nailed Him to the cross. He was buried and 3 days later God raised Him from the dead. Anyone who calls upon the Lord Jesus and believes in Him can be saved and have eternal life. What is your response to this message? If you have never been saved you can turn to Jesus today. If you have any questions we can show you from the Bible how you can be saved.

If you have been saved does your life look like those of the believers in Acts 2? Do you listen carefully to the pastor as he preaches God's Word? Do you spend time alone reading your Bible each day? Do you pray daily? Are you spending time with other believers so you can encourage them and be encouraged by them to live for Jesus? Finally, are you sharing the Good News so others can be saved and added to the family of God?

We started our lesson talking about our birthday. Every one of us has a birthday. The question is do we have a time in our life that we were born again. We can celebrate a second birthday if we have been born again. On the day a believer is born again he/she becomes a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The second birthday is a very important day that should be on each or our calendars. If we only have one birthday we cannot be a part of God's family and enjoy eternal life with Him.

Teacher: show on the calendar the date of your second birthday and share a brief testimony of when you were saved. Allow students who have a second birthday to mark the calendar when they were saved. Keep the calendar in the classroom so as others become believers they can add their second birthday to the calendar as well.

Close in prayer.

### **Review Questions:**

For a review game have a piece of paper with an outline of a church on it. Have boy/girl cutouts. Divide the class into teams and each time they answer correctly they can add a person to the church outline. As the students place the person on the church talk make brief statements or ask questions about what the church is and is not. (Believers, not a building, the Body of Christ etc.)

1. Who was preaching in our story today? (Peter)
2. What message did Peter share with the crowd of people? (The Good News)
3. What person from the Old Testament did Peter say spoke about Jesus' resurrection?

(David)

4. Who did Peter say crucified the Lord Jesus? (The Jews)
5. What happened when the people heard Peter say they crucified Jesus? (They were cut to the heart)
6. What did Peter tell the people they could do? (Repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins)
7. How many were saved that day? (3,000)
8. What are some things the new believers did? (listened to the apostles teach, fellowshiped, Lord's Supper, prayed, served/helped each other, and praised God together)
9. Who can you share the Good News with this week?

for your class.

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# “Pentecost: The Spirit Comes”

Children’s Sermon from 2:1-21

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Pentecost...Tongues, Wind, Fire...and Happy Birthday to the church!!!

**Main Objective:** The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is an exciting and important story to share with all ages. Through this message, children should understand how the disciples received the Holy Spirit and were able to begin sharing the good news of Jesus with everyone. Our job is also to share Gospel joy with others!

**Law/Gospel Theme:** The story of Pentecost propels the church year into a new season. Easter is the culmination of the Gospel story, the fulfillment of all that the prophets spoke about the Messiah. With Pentecost, the third person of the Trinity is given to carry the church into its next phase. The Holy Spirit enables God’s people to spread the Gospel and to establish the church.

**Optional Materials:** Candles, lighter, blow dryer or air blower, noise makers, gift bag or wrapped box, balloons.

**Bonus Ideas:** More free resources to help you plan your children’s sermon.

- Watch our [example video teaching](#) for this message on Pentecost.
- Compare all our [Sunday School lessons and activities](#) about Pentecost
- Watch a different [children’s sermon](#) on this passage from DSkidsermons.com
- Compare [A New Wind Blowing](#) and [Pentecostal Power](#) from Sermons 4 Kids

**Note:** All elements are open to adjustment. Cater to the needs and ages of your group Greet and welcome children, carrying a large box or gift bag with a label.

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# Children's Sermon on Pentecost

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Hello! So, you might notice that I have an interesting package here...is it someone's birthday? Well, in a way it is, and we'll talk about whose birthday it is. What are some things you enjoy doing for birthdays? (*Take responses: have cake! Sing! Play games...*)

Well, today we are going to hear about the church's birthday!

Do you remember how last week we talked about how Jesus promised to send the disciples a special present that would help them share about the news of the Gospel. Well, the disciples were waiting for this present, and they were hanging out in a room in Jerusalem. There were actually a lot of people in town at the time, because they were having a special celebration called the Feast of Weeks, or the Feast of Tabernacles.

This was an important time that all Jewish people had to honor, and they would come to Jerusalem to celebrate it. So there were people from all over the place there, and the disciples were patiently waiting. Then, all of a sudden, there was a big sound like a rushing wind!

*(If using, bring the blow dryer out and create a "wind" of a sort for your audience)*

And then, there were little bits of fire that appeared! *(If using the lighter, flick the lighter, and/or show the candles to everyone. You might be able to have kids hold a candle above their heads, if they are responsible enough).*

This was a special fire that did not burn up or catch their hair and clothes into flames, but showed that God's spirit was present. A lot of times in the Bible, God appears as fire (think Elijah, burning bush with Moses, etc.).

Here was the Holy Spirit! Now, the Holy Spirit is sort of a special go-between...it is the spirit that makes all things possible. Sometimes we don't know what to say or

how to pray...the Holy Spirit comes in to help. Well, the Holy Spirit came to these disciples and appeared as flames above their heads!

And then another amazing thing happened. The disciples started speaking in other languages. There were people in Jerusalem that spoke a lot of languages, but the disciples didn't have their dictionaries and translators with them...yet they were able to just talk automatically in other languages!

And they started eagerly sharing the story of Jesus. Some people criticized them, but Peter assured everyone that they were not drunk or crazy. They were full of God's love! And with that, they all continued talking about the story of Jesus and sharing the amazing things He had done. A lot of people came to believe, and after that, the disciples began meeting together regularly. They shared everything with other believers, and continued meeting and sharing and caring for one another.

So at Pentecost we get to celebrate the birthday of the church! It was the start of an amazing way that God allows us to serve and love each other. And that is the truly exciting thing... Once we are "on fire" and have received the light of Jesus, we can take that to other people and "light up" their lives as well. God wants us to share His story and His love with the whole world. It only takes a spark or a single candle to get others going. Let's celebrate, and let's share with one another! Shall we thank God for that?

**Prayer:** Offer thanks for Jesus, and ask for joy in sharing the Gospel news with everyone: (Have kids repeat each line, if desired)

Dear God,  
Thank you for your Word the Bible  
Thank you for your church!  
I'm glad I am part of your family  
Help me to share your love  
And tell others about Jesus  
I love you, God! Thanks for loving me  
In Jesus' name, amen



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# Acts 2:1-21 NIV

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When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? <sup>9</sup> Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" <sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. <sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

We hope you enjoy this free resource.

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I'm Tony Kummer - I started this website in 2007, but God is using it beyond my imagination. The mission is simple.

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I'd love to hear your feedback on this download. [Tony@ministry-to-children.com](mailto:Tony@ministry-to-children.com)

May God bless you and continue to bless your ministry!

# Holy Spirit “Pinwheel” Craft for Sunday School

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 [ministry-to-children.com/spirit-pinwheel-craft](http://ministry-to-children.com/spirit-pinwheel-craft)

Written by Amy Brown Last updated May 16, 2016 1 Comment

May 17, 2011

This craft activity is great for a windy, spring day. It's would be a great Pentecost Sunday School craft. The children will make a pinwheel to teach them about how God is a spirit. A lesson can be taught, followed by making the craft and the children will finish by playing with their pinwheels outside. [Click here](#) to leave your comments or suggestions about this craft idea.



**Target Age:** 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade

**Key Verse:** John 3:8 “The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

**Time Needed:** 20 minutes for the craft only (The children may spend a long time decorating their pinwheel. The length of craft depends on how detailed your children will want to decorate. You know your children best and can judge how long this craft will take.)

**Materials Needed:**

- One square piece of heavy construction paper per child
- One pair of scissors per child
- One thumb tack per child
- One pencil (with an eraser) per child, preferably brand new
- Crayons, colored pencils, and stickers for decorating the pinwheels



**Procedure:**

1. Fold the construction paper on the diagonal from corner to corner. Open the paper up and fold on the second diagonal across the other two corners. When the paper is opened flat, the folds make an “X” across the square.
2. Make one cut along each fold beginning at the corner and cutting toward the center. The cut should stop about halfway toward the center. The cut **should not** go all the way to the center of the square.
3. Decorate each section of the square on both sides of the heavy construction paper using the materials provided.

4. Take every other corner, one at a time and gently pull it up to the center of the square.
5. When all four corners meet at the center, take the thumb tack and push it through all four corners through the center of the square.
6. Push the thumb tack through the eraser of the pencil.
7. Blow on the pinwheel and watch it spin!

Use this craft to teach the children about how we can hear and feel the wind, but we cannot see it. We can see the results of the wind, but we cannot see the wind itself. Relate this to God. We can hear His voice through His Word and feel His peace, comfort, joy, etc. We cannot see Him, but we can see the results of His work.

If you are using this for your Pentecost Craft in Sunday School, be sure to see our other resources to help you [explain Pentecost for children](#).



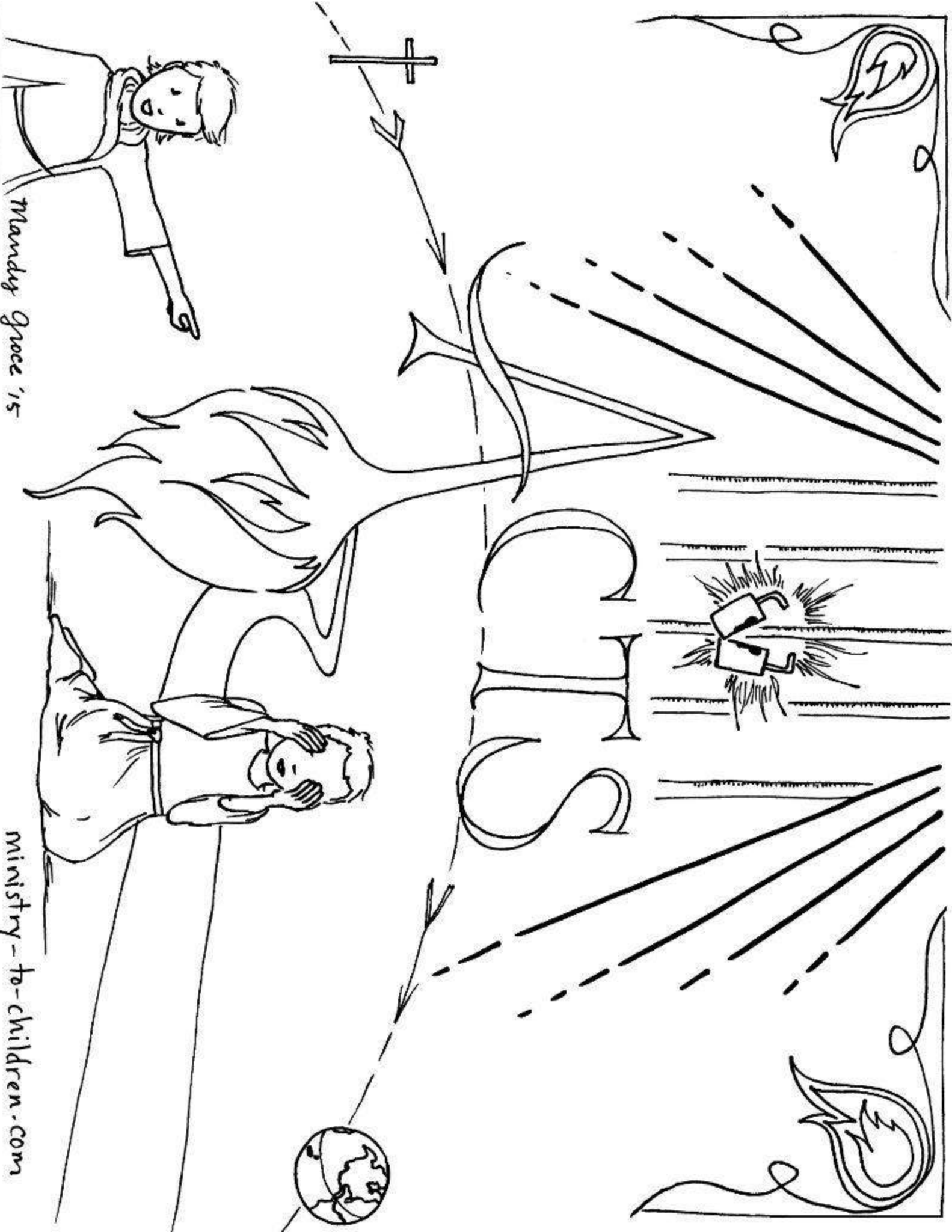
**Tips:**

- I recommend using a square which is 6 inches or smaller in diameter. You want the length from one corner to the center of the square to be shorter than the pencil.
- The thicker the paper you choose to use, the more sturdy the pinwheel will be. Thick paper will better withstand to the wind and blowing by a child.
- Do not push the thumb tack all the way through the pencil eraser causing the pinwheel to attach tightly to the pencil. If pushed in too tightly the pinwheel will not turn.
- Here is another website we found with [helpful illustrations](#) of folding the pinwheel.









Mandy Grace '15

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