



I Will Pour Out My Spirit On All People

Acts 2:1-21

Welcome to 'Together, Apart', free intergenerational resources to help us be church together while we're keeping each other safe.

All the sections explore the same Bible passage in a range of creative ways. Choose whichever parts work best for you.

You can find lots more free resources like this at www.reflectionary.org

Here is what you will find in each resource pack:



A Word in Your Ear

A Bible passage that we can all learn from together, whatever our age.



Food for Thought

Aimed at adults and teens, some thoughts and questions on the passage.



Inner Space

A blank space for you to record your thoughts, whether that is worries, dreams or a shopping list.



Looking Closer

A creative and interactive look at the Bible passage. Great for older children and anyone who likes a creative approach.



I Wonder...

An imaginative style of Bible study, perfect for younger children and those who like to immerse themselves in the Bible world.



Take a Break

A chill-out zone, with meditative colouring for adults and children, and links to audio recordings of the passage so that you can listen while resting your eyes.



Creation Station

A craft for children (or young-at-heart adults!)



All Together Now

Suggestions for activities throughout the week that link with the Bible passage.



High 5

Suggestions for spending time with God.



A Word in Your Ear

Take your time reading this extract from our Bible passage. Ask God to help you hear. You can decorate the space around the words if you like.

Acts 2:1-4, 17, 21

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw something like flames of fire that were separated and stood over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages by the power the Holy Spirit was giving them.

'God says: In the last days
I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young men will see visions,
and your old men will dream dreams.
Then anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved.' "

(NCV)



Food for Thought

Check out these bonus resources from my blog, [The Reflectionary](#):

- [Reflection on Acts 2 and spiritual gifts](#)
- [Reflection on Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#) – including fun game about passing on the message
- [Reflection of Ezekiel's valley of dry bones and Pentecost](#)

Have you ever wondered about weird stuff at Pentecost? Why the wind, why the flames, why the different languages? There's a lot of symbolism going on, and the disciples and those around them would have spotted it. Let's dig in.

First, the wind. It had more meanings to the first readers than we might catch. The Greek word in verse 2, πνοή (*pnoe*) also means breath, so we can read it as 'there came from heaven a sound like a mighty blowing'. It's also used later in Acts, where it speaks of God who give us 'life and breath and everything'. (Acts 17:25) The other word for wind or breath, πνεῦμα (*pneuma*), appears in verse 4 and in the quote from Joel, where it is translated Spirit.

Q: Where else in the New Testament and Old Testament do we hear of God's breath? What do we lose in English by having separate words for wind, breath and spirit?

Fire. Fire is a strange thing: neither animal, vegetable nor mineral, yet seemingly alive. It moves, it feeds, it reproduces. It changes everything it touches. In a world before antibiotics and disinfectants, fire was the one reliable way to purify things.

For the gathered disciples, the sight of fire would have reminded them of the burning bush which made holy the ground around it, the pillar of fire that guided the Israelites from Egypt, the fire that descended when Solomon dedicated the temple, and many other instances.

Q: Where else do we find fire representing the presence of God, and what aspects of fire make it an appropriate symbol for God's presence? What is the significance of the fire separating and resting on each person at Pentecost?

The sudden ability to speak foreign languages seems a strange gift for the Holy Spirit to give. People thought the disciples were drunk! And what was the point? Sure, the people gathered in Jerusalem spoke a dozen different languages – just like modern London or Cambridge on a sunny Saturday – but they would all have understood Greek. (Today, English is the international language, then it was Greek. That's why it was used for The New Testament.) So why bother? The disciples could have just spoken Greek to everyone.

Q: What do you think, why did God bother? How does this link with Genesis 11? What would be today's equivalent of speaking everyone's language?



Inner Space

What's going round your head? Here is a space for you to put your thoughts on paper. You can write, draw ... whatever you like. What will you put here?



Looking Closer

Imagine you are part of that group of disciples. You are all waiting for the helper that Jesus has promised he would send to you.

Jesus said he would send someone to help you with the job of telling everyone about him. Phew! Glad about that. It's a massive job, and there's no way you disciples can do that on your own. You need this helper!

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What do you think the disciples were expecting the helper to be like? Write or draw your answer here.

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a double-line border, intended for students to write or draw their answers to the question above.A large, empty rounded rectangle with a double-line border, intended for students to write or draw their answers to the question below.

The disciples hear the sound of loud blowing, and see little flames dancing above their heads. It's kinda weird, but no-one is frightened. Instead they feel empowered, and they turn out from their huddle to the crowds around and start talking about God!

Amazingly, everyone can understand them, even though the crowds are from all over the world! God's Holy Spirit helps the disciples to speak to the crowd in each person's own languages.

God knows your language too. How do you think the people in the crowd felt, hearing God speak their language? Draw or write it here.

Then Peter has a lightbulb moment. This is what God had promised long ago! Peter remembers part of the Old Testament talking about God's promise that he would pour out his Holy Spirit on all people. (It's in Joel 2:28-32, and quoted in our passage).

In the past, God's spirit had rested on only certain people for a short time, for a job they had to do, for example.

But now God says that all his children will be full of his Spirit, like a glove is full of a hand, or a balloon is full of air.

What do you think it means to be full of God's Holy Spirit?

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a double-line border, intended for students to write or draw their answers to the question above.



I Wonder...

Read or listen to the passage and let it sit in your mind for a while.

Which words, phrases or ideas jump out? What rings a bell or what have you noticed for the first time? Why do you think that might be?

I wonder what is the most important part.

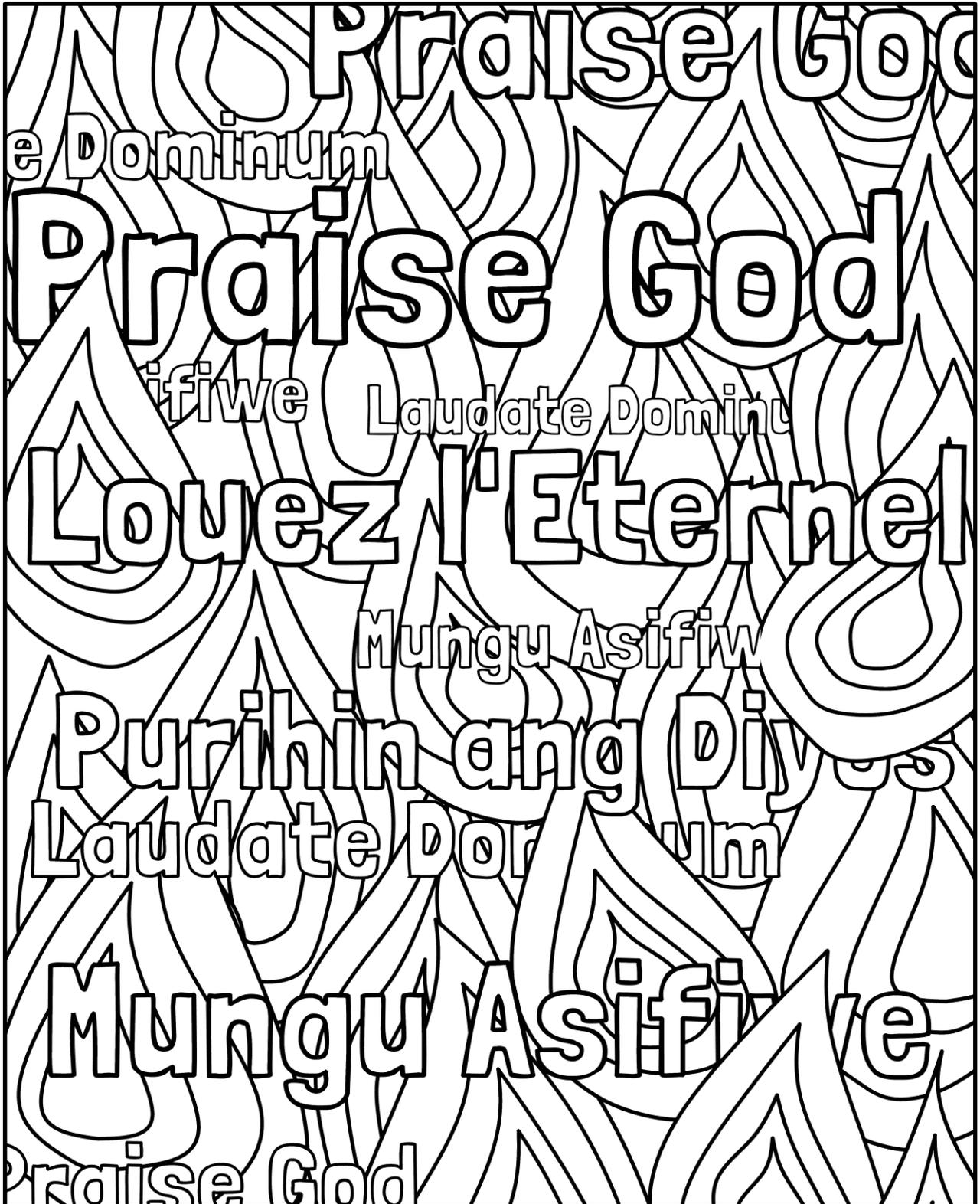
I wonder what God is saying to you today.



Take a Break

Put on some music, or listen to the passage being read out while you simply sit and be. You can colour the picture below, or fill it with zentangles, or you can just spend the time breathing.

Acts 1 on Bible Gateway audio [ESV](#) – [Message](#) – [NIV \(Dramatised\)](#) – [NIV \(Suchet\)](#)





Creation Station – Gyrocopters!

Add some fun to your Pentecost celebrations and praise God in all the languages from A to Z with these awesome gyrocopters!

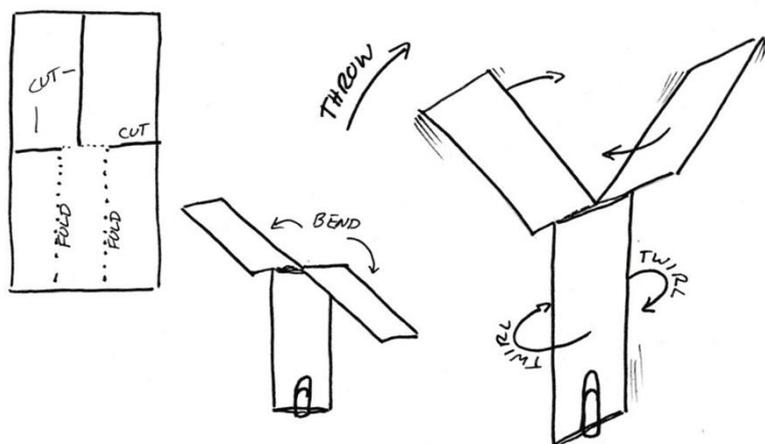
You will need:

- Paper – you can make three gyrocopters from a sheet of A4
- Scissors
- Paper clips
- Pens in flame colours for decoration
- Languages crib sheets (pages 8 & 9)



What to do:

1. Cut an A4 sheet into thirds, about 20cm x 10cm.
2. Snip the sides at the halfway mark, about one-third of the way in.
3. Snip the upper edge down the middle, to level with the first snips.
4. Fold the lower section into thirds to make a thick body and clip the layers together.
5. Decorate the wings of the gyrocopter with flames on both sides.
6. Decorate the body with words praising God in whatever different language you might know (Look on the cheat-sheets for lots of different languages.)
7. Bend the two wings out at right angles, one to each side.
8. Drop your gyrocopter from a high place or throw it in the air and watch it spiral down.
9. When everyone has finished making gyrocopters, throw them all into the air together and catch whichever one lands near you. Then everyone can shout aloud the praises of God in all the languages together – your own mini-Pentecost!



Arabic

فَلْيُسَبِّحِ اللَّهُ كُلُّ مَا يَتَنَفَّسُ!

(faliusabbih allh kull ma yatanaffasu!)

Bulgarian

Всичко што диша нека хвали Господа

(Vsichko shto disha neka khvali Gospoda)

Czech

Všechno, co dýchá, ať chválí Hospodina!

Danish

alt hvad der ånder, pris Herren!

English

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

French

Que tout ce qui respire loue l'Eternel!

Greek

Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν κύριον

(megalynei hey psyche mou ton kyrion)

Hebrew

כָּל הַנְּשָׁמָה תְּהַלֵּל יְיָ

(kol haneshama tehalal adonai)

Irish

Moladh a nuile anál an Tighearna.

Japanese

生きているものはみな、主に賛美の声を上げなさい。

(Ikite iru mono wa mina, omo ni sanbi no koe o age nasai)

Korean

살아 있는 모든 피조물들아, 여호와를 찬양하라!

(sal-a issneun modeun pijomuldeul-a, yeohowaleul chan-yanghala!)

Latin

Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum!

Maori

E nga mea katoa e whai manawa ana, whakamoemititia a Ihowa.

Norwegian

Alt som har ånde, love Herren!

Oriya

ନିଶ୍ୱାସପ୍ରଶ୍ୱାସଧାରୀ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ପ୍ରାଣୀ ସଦାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କର ପ୍ରଶଂସା କର!

(niśwāsapraśwāsadhārī pratyēka prāṇī sadāprabhuṅkara praśansā kara!)

Polish

Niech wszystko, co oddycha, chwali Pana.

Quechua

Mandaj Diostaca, ñuca almahuanmi alli nicuni.

Russian

Все дышащее да славит Господа!

(Vse dyshashcheye da slavit Gospoda!)

Spanish

¡Que todo lo que respira alabe al Señor!

Turkish

Nefes alan her canlı Yah'ı yüceltsin

Urdu

ہر ایک جاندار خداوند کی حمد کرے!

(har aik jandaar khudawand ki hamd kere)

Vietnamese

Hỡi mọi loài sinh vật hãy ca ngợi Chúa.

Welsh

Pob perchen anadl, molianned yr Arglwydd.

Xhosa

Vumela konke okuphefumulayo ukuba kudumise iNkosi!

Yiddish

לאָזן אלץ וואָס האָט אָטעם לויבן די האַר

(lozn alts vos hot otem loybn di har)

Zhongwen (Chinese)

凡有气息的都要赞美耶和华!

(Fán yǒu qì xī de dōu yào zànměi yēhéhuá)

I confess that I do not speak all these languages, so if you have any corrections or improvements, please let me know.



All Together Now

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people”

Here are some ideas for activities you could try during the week.

- Colour both sides of a paper plate with red, orange and yellow, then cut wavy lines from the centre to the rim, leaving the edge uncut. Bend the wavy triangles upwards and you have a flame hat! You can add gold glitter if you want more mess.



- Learn a new language. You could ask someone you know from another country, or check out the crib sheets on pages 8 & 9, even if you only learn how to say ‘Praise God’, or ‘could I have a cup of tea please?’
- Pentecost is the birthday of the church. Why not organise a birthday party? Jelly and ice cream for me please! You could wear your flame hats and throw gyrocopters.
- At Pentecost, the disciples found that, with the Holy Spirit’s help, they could do things they would never have thought they could. If you knew that you could not fail, what would you step out to do for God? Chat with God about that.
- Go fly a kite! (You could even make it first.)
- Eat some flame food. Can you make a meal just of red, yellow and orange food? Arrange it on your plate so that it looks like flames.

What else can you think of?

My ideas:

Which will you do this week?



High 5

Spend five minutes talking and listening with God. Here is one way:

SPIRIT Prayers

S is for Sorry

Dear God,

I am sorry for the times when I have let you down: when I did things I knew were wrong, but did them anyway; when I said things I knew would make you sad, but said them anyway; when I let my thoughts wander from the right path; but let them wander anyway.

Dear Lord, forgive me and make me new.

Amen.

P is for Please

Dear God,

Please look after people who are hurting and sad, especially

Please put your arms around them and help them to know that you are with them in whatever troubles they are going through, and that you care.

Amen.

I is for Imagine

Dear God,

It is wonderful to imagine how splendid and glorious you are. You are all good, all powerful, all loving and all wise. You are better than the best thing I can imagine, and it is wonderful to think that you know me, you love me, and you call me your child.

Amen.

R is for Rejoice

Dear God,

Today is the birthday of your church, it's time to celebrate! We rejoice with all of your children, all over the world and all through time. We are one family together and we all praise your name in the languages of our hearts.

Amen.

I is for Me (you know what I mean)

Dear God,

Please help me to listen to your Holy Spirit guiding me today and every day. Please help me to become more like Jesus and to spread your light and love to people around me.

Amen.

T is for Thank You

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be my guide and comforter. Thank you for sending Jesus and for all that he did on earth. Thank you that Jesus is praying for me in heaven.

Thank you also for

Amen.