

Pentecost

Church For All: a variety of voices and gifts

'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.' (Acts 2:4)

You'll need:

- Copies of the reading/bibles if inviting others to read.
- Bubble mixture if using the bubble prayer idea.



Opening words*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

ALL: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Reflection

At Pentecost the early church was given the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower them to participate in the amazing diversity of God's mission in the world.

On that day, the power of God's Spirit was revealed in tongues of flame, a powerful wind and a cacophony of many different languages; it brought about great change and transformation in the lives of the first disciples – to the world



Scripture Reading: Acts 2: 1- 21



IDEA!

Find out if anyone in your group speaks a different language. Ask them to read the scripture, or a section of the scripture, in their home language.

around them and the communities of which they were a part.



This diversity of languages speaks to God's desire to include everyone in his transforming love. Diversity in our community might not be found in different dialects – it might be found in age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, resource – and we are called to speak of and to show the love of God in every context.

continued over >>

Pentecost (continued)

Reflection (continued)

As the Holy Spirit transforms us, so we are given the gifts - and the courage - to make the world a better place. The Holy Spirit equips us to challenge injustice, to respond to need with loving service, and to create community by

including people of all cultures, backgrounds and languages. In the power of the Holy Spirit we are sent out as missionary disciples to share the good news of God's all-embracing kingdom.

Questions for reflection (as a group or for individual reflection)



- How well do you know your local community?
- How does diversity bring strength and life to your community? Where might there be challenges?
- How are you responding to the diversity in your community? Is it reflected in the church's ministry and mission?

Spend some time praying for your community

IDEA!



Bring some bubble mixture for children (and adults) to blow during the prayer. As the bubbles are carried away by the wind, pray that God's Spirit would breathe life into your community.

Finish your time of prayer and reflection by moving outside for this prayer of blessing*



LEADER:

As we wait in silence,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER:

As we listen to your word,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER:

As we worship you in majesty,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER:

As we long for your refreshing,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER:

As we long for your renewing,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER:

As we long for your equipping,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

LEADER:

As we long for your empowering,

PEOPLE:

fill us with your Spirit.

ALL:

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live
and work to your praise and glory. Amen