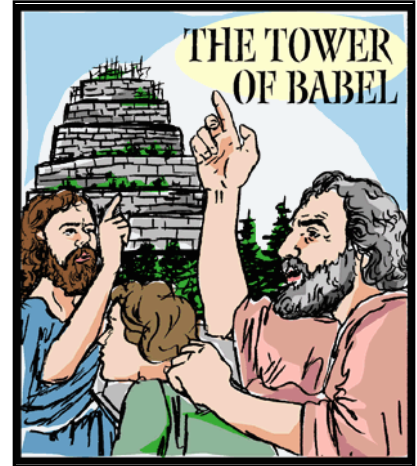


Drama Workshop:

*Written by Kathy for Augustana Lutheran Church, St. James, MN, 2009.
Adapted and updated for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia, WA, by Beth Tobin in 2010, and 2015.*

Bible Text: Genesis 11:1-9 NIV, and Acts 2:1-42

Memory Verse: *“I will pour out my Spirit on all people.”
Joel 2:28 NIV*



Overview: Students learn about the connections between the Tower of Babel and Pentecost and present a short choral reading to tell what happened on Pentecost. Then celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church with cup cakes!

Objectives:

The children will learn:

- The relationship between the Babel and Pentecost stories
- The Babel people were prideful and Jesus' disciples were meek until Pentecost
- The importance of language in communicating
- Pentecost is the birthday of the Church
- Disunity occurred at the tower, but unity occurs by the power of the Holy Spirit

Preparation:

- Read the scripture passages and Bible Background
- Watch the Video Bible Study: www.GloriaDeiKids.org
- Familiarize yourself with the lesson and choral reading and how you will direct it
- This is much to cover in this lesson, be prepared to keep moving and to get started on time.

Supplies:

- Bibles
- ARCH Book The Coming of the Holy Spirit (Kathy Eiden)
- Copy of script “A Choral Reading for Pentecost” for each student
- Sign, with words, “And they all began to speak in other languages, as the spirit gave them power.” to be put on wall for them to recite together.
- Picture of The Tower of Babel
- Triangle (musical rhythm instrument)
- Sound of rushing wind (large fan behind a curtain, taped sound effects of hurricane, tornado, wind are possible suggestions. Maybe just blowing into a live microphone would work)
- Tongues of fire (little flashlights)
- Birthday cake or cup cakes, one piece per child.

Opening:

Welcome the children as they arrive.

SAY: We have an unusual story for you today.
In fact we are going to have two stories today.
Both stories have language as an important part of the message.
But before we hear the two different stories let's begin with a word of prayer.

Dear God, we are glad to be in church today. Thank you for the opportunity to learn about the Bible and all of God's people. No matter what language we speak, we know that we can pray to you and you will understand us. Thank you for listening to our prayers. Amen.

Read the Stories:

Help children find Genesis 11:1-9.

SAY: After God saved Noah and his three sons and daughter's-in-law from the flood, his family grew rapidly. Soon the earth was full of people again. Read story verses 1-9.

Also show them a picture of what the Tower of Babel probably looked like. Other people in those days (Babylonians, Sumerians) built these towers to use in the worship of their gods. Their towers were called ziggurats and a ramp or staircase wound around them on the outside. They were usually a square or rectangular pile of clay bricks, seven stories high. In the book of Genesis, however, the Tower of Babel is a symbol of man's desire to become God's equal.

ASK: What do you think about the idea to try to build a tower up to heaven? Accept responses. Guide the discussion to cover some of the following: Is it possible? Was it prideful? Did they think that they were as good as God?

ASK: How do you think God felt about the idea of a tower up to heaven? Why do you think He felt this way? What did God do about it?

What happens when you can't understand what people are saying?

NOW READ THE STORY: THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT from ARCH Books

ASK: Why do you think we have combined learning about the story of the Tower of Babel and Pentecost today? (Both have a language connection. In the first story language caused confusion and disunity. In the second story language brought unity and understanding.)

SAY: Pente means 50. Pentecost is 50 days after Easter.

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven. (40 days after Easter) He told the disciples, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So the disciples waited and prayed in the upper room. When God sent the Holy Spirit they were empowered and ready to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Over 3000 people repented of their sins and were baptized that day! 3,000 people in one day!

Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Christian church. We could have a birthday party! But before we do, we are going to present a short choral reading that will tell what happened on the day; but also at the end, it will sound a little like the Tower of Babel when everyone was very confused. Let's get started!

ASSIGN PARTS:

Triangle player

Male voice

Female voice

All (everyone)

Voice 1

Voice 2

Voice 3

Voice 4

You may have to double up on parts, try to have Voices 1,2,3,4 be covered by all the students so that they are all reciting the line at the end, if you can. If the last part gets too difficult for them to figure out, just have the voices start at a different time and keep repeating the line until you direct them to stop by holding your hand up in the air or whatever you have decided is the cue for them to stop. And they stop no matter where they are in the sentence. The line they keep repeating is:

And they all began to speak in other languages, as the spirit gave them power.

It should be posted on a wall in front of them. You may want them to practice this line, saying it at different times. At the end they say Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia together. You're going to have to be very creative if you only have 2 or 3 students that day. I suggest you just alternate the lines with the teacher taking a part, also.

Practice and then repeat as a final performance.

Journaling: Have them draw a Tower of Babel or Tongues of Fire if there is time.

Closing:

Dear God, we know that you are a mighty God. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit to us so that we, too, can boldly share the Good News about Jesus with our friends and family. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Enjoy cupcakes or cake!

Resources: The Coming of the Holy Spirit, ARCH Book, 2004, Concordia Publishing House
ISBN 13: 978-0-7586-0636-5

(The Choral Reading is printed on a separate sheet for students.)

A CHORAL READING FOR PENTECOST SUNDAY: (Acts 2:1-4)

Male Voice: WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD COME....

Triangle: X X X X X X etc. (the triangle continues playing throughout the reading)

All: THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE.

Girls: AND SUDDENLY A SOUND CAME FROM HEAVEN LIKE THE...

All: RUSH OF A MIGHTY WIND, AND IT FILLED ALL THE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE SITTING. (play taped sound effects or turn on fan)

Female Voice: AND THERE APPEARED TO THEM TONGUES AS OF FIRE

All: (quietly) AND RESTING ON EACH ONE OF THEM. (hold small flashlights over heads)

All: (quietly) AND THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT,

Voice 1: AND THEY ALL BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM POWER. AND THEY ALL BEGAN TO ...(keep speaking the line)

Voice 2:AND THEY ALL BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM POWER (keep speaking the line)

Voice 3:AND THEY ALL BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM POWER, AND THEY ALL BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER (keep speaking the line)

Voice 4:
.....AND THEY ALL BEGAN TO SPEAK IN OTHER LANGUAGES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM POWER. AND THEY ALL BEGAN (keep speaking the line)

(All voices start speaking the line softly and get a little louder each time they repeat it. Watch for the leader to cut you off together, no matter where you are in the sentence. Be sure that everyone is joining in the talking at this point.)

All: (pause, leader directs together) ALLELUIA...X...ALLELUIA...X...
ALLELUIA...X...

X = triangle