

God's Plan Shown by the Holy Days

The Day of Pentecost

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The purpose of the “Making God Real” series is to help families develop a more personal relationship with God. Understanding God’s Holy Days helps to see the depth of God’s love and how He wants each of us to be a part of His Family!

This lesson is not intended to be an in-depth study of the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. More information can be found under “Resources” below. Our purpose is to help make God real by exploring how these two Holy Days show God’s love and care for the humans He created.

Memory Scripture:

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Objectives:

- Define the meaning of the word “Pentecost.”
- Compare and contrast the Old Testament and New Testament Pentecost.
- Describe what Pentecost pictures and how it fits into God’s plan of salvation.
- Explain why we need God’s Holy Spirit and identify the benefits of this special gift.
- Explain why Pentecost affects the way we live our lives—including our relationships with God and people.

Briefly review God’s Plan.

What does God want? He wants a family!

- To bring many sons to glory (*Hebrews 2:9-11*)
- We are children of God (*Romans. 8:15-17*)

What steps does God provide for us to understand His plan and how we can become a part of His family?

- The Feasts of the Lord, the Holy Days (*Leviticus 23*)
- His Law—The 10 Commandments (*Exodus 20:1-17*)

The Day of Pentecost

What does Pentecost mean?

Pentecost comes from the Greek word “*pentekoste*” which means fiftieth. Pentecost is sometimes called The Feast of Weeks or The Feast of First Fruits.

Why would Pentecost be called the Feast of Weeks? (*Exodus 34:22*)

We are told this: “And you shall count to you from the morrow after the sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven sabbaths (7 weeks) shall be complete: 16 Even to the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days....” (*Leviticus 23:15-16*)

Why would Pentecost be called the Feast of Fruit Fruits?

God uses the physical to help us understand the spiritual. God's Holy Days, His plan of salvation, enters on the physical harvest seasons.

What is a harvest? How many harvest seasons are there? When are they?

In the land of Palestine where the ancient Israelites lived, there were two harvest seasons, one that was early and one that was later in the year.

The early harvest was a small harvest compared to the later harvest. It represented the first fruits, the first of what was to come later.

What does the Day of Pentecost picture?

- Pentecost pictures those God is calling to be a part of His family now. God is “harvesting” people for eternal life in His Kingdom.
- Those God is calling now are called first fruits because they are a part of the smaller, first harvest. God will call a much greater number of people to be a part of His family during the second, larger harvest.
- Jesus Christ, our older brother, is called the first of the first fruits because He is the first Son to be resurrected into the family of God (*1 Corinthians 15:20*). He is the firstborn of many brethren (*Romans 8:29*).

God gave some special gifts on the Day of Pentecost.

- After the Israelites left Egypt and camped at Mount Sinai, He gave the people His Law in codified, written form on the Day of Pentecost. *What is His Law?*
- On the first Pentecost after Jesus Christ was resurrected, God gave His Holy Spirit to those who obeyed and believed (*Acts 2:1-4*). *What is the Holy Spirit?*
 - ▷ No matter how hard we try, we are going to sin. God's Holy Spirit helps us have more Godly thoughts, attitudes, and actions.
 - ▷ Because God's law is all about love (*Romans 13:8-10*), God, through His Holy Spirit, helps us to keep His law and love one another as He commands us to do (*Matthew 22:37-39*).
 - ▷ God's Holy Spirit sets us apart. Anyone who is called and chosen by God is included with Christ as God's first fruits (*James 1:18*).
 - ▷ The Holy Spirit is given to those who repent and are baptized (*Acts 2:38-39*).

How do we observe The Day of Pentecost?

Leviticus 23:21 tells us that Pentecost was commanded to be observed throughout all generations. *Leviticus 23:21* (GNT) Your descendants are to observe this regulation for all time to come, no matter where they live.

- Pentecost is an annual Sabbath, sanctified (made holy) and set apart by God.
- We are to gather together so that we can learn more about God's plan and His law.
- We are to bring an offering.

Questions from UCG Fundamental Beliefs

These questions are intended to check the parent understanding of the topic. There is one best answer to each question. Select that best answer.

1. The following happened on the day of Pentecost:

- a. The Israelites received the Commandments
- b. God gave His Holy Spirit after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- c. Both a and b

2. Pentecost represents:

- a. The first spiritual harvest of mankind—The Church
- b. Jesus Christ as the first of firstfruits
- c. Both a and b
- d. The only harvest in God's plan of salvation

3. The Holy Spirit is:

- a. A person that helps us to live God's way
- b. God's power—a gift - within us from laying on of hands at baptism
- c. Part of the Trinity
- d. An animal

4. The Holy Spirit:

- a. Is a gift
- b. Helps us to develop Godly fruit
- c. Helps us to obey God's commandments
- d. Is essential to being identified as a child of God
- e. All of the above

Additional resources for your family studies

- **Booklet:** *God's Holy Day Plan*

“The Feast of Pentecost: The Firstfruits of God's Harvest”

ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/gods-holy-day-plan-the-promise-of-hope-for-all-mankind/the-feast-of-pentecost-the-firstfruits-of-gods-harvest

“God's Festivals in the New Testament”

ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/gods-holy-day-plan-the-promise-of-hope-for-all-mankind/gods-festivals-in-the-new-testament

“The Power of the Holy Spirit”

ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-power-of-the-holy-spirit

- **Beyond Today Videos**

“Pentecost: The Power of God in Your Life” by Darris McNeely

ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/pentecost-the-power-of-god-in-your-life

“God's Holy Day Plan: Blueprint for Salvation”

ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/gods-holy-day-plan-blueprint-for-salvation

- **Articles**

“The Feast of Pentecost and Its Meaning for All Mankind”—ucg.org/beyond-today/the-feast-of-pentecost-and-its-meaning-for-all-mankind

“What Is the Holy Spirit?”—ucg.org/beyond-today/blogs/what-is-the-holy-spirit

“The Remarkable Lesson of God's Feast of Firstfruits”—ucg.org/good-news/the-remarkable-lesson-of-gods-feast-of-firstfruits

“The Biblical Feast of Firstfruits: How It Explains a Great Mystery”—ucg.org/the-good-news/the-biblical-feast-of-firstfruits-how-it-explains-a-great-mystery

- **Sermons**

“Change and Live” by Darris McNeely—ucg.org/sermons/change-and-live

Becoming a true Christian requires change.

“Will You Be Gods?” by Peter Eddington—ucg.org/sermons/will-you-be-gods

Can you become a Christian if you deny the Trinity? The Trinity denies the greatest truth we can know—that God is a growing family of which we can become a part.

Acts Chapter Two Activity

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank below. (Hint: If you need help, open your Bible and turn to Acts 2. This was taken directly from the New International Version translation.)

When the _____ of _____ came, they were all together in one _____. Suddenly a _____ like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole _____ where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be _____ of _____ that separated and came to rest on _____ of them. _____ of them were filled with the _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the _____ enabled them.

Word Bank

fire	Holy Spirit
Day	each
Spirit	wind
languages	All
tongues	heaven
sound	place
Pentecost	house



Next:

1. Describe in your own words what happened on the day of Pentecost.
2. Why is this event so important for God's people?

THE FIRST NEW TESTAMENT PENTECOST

Acts 2:1-4



Pentecost Activity

Directions:

Choose the correct word to fit into each letter of the word, PENTECOST.

Use the sentence clues and line spaces to help.

— — — — — P — — — —
— — — — — E — — — —
— — — — — N — — — —
— — — — — T — — — —
— — — — — E — — — —
— — — — — C — — — —
— — — — — O — — — —
— — — — — S — — — —
— — — — — T — — — —

Clues:

P – Followers of Jesus who received the Holy Spirit

E – Andy gave his mom _____ for her birthday.

N – A place to grow flowers

T – You receive the Holy Spirit when you are _____ .

E – The Holy Spirit is the _____ of God.

C – God the Father and _____ are one family.

O – God gives this when you are baptized.

S – Plants grow from these.

T – The Holy Spirit is given as a _____ .

Instructors Notes and Resources

Pentecost Think-Tac-Toe

Post a collection of activities from which students can choose to do to demonstrate their understanding of Pentecost. It is presented in the form of a nine square grid similar to a tic-tac-toe board and students may be expected to complete from one to “three in a row”. Children can work individually, in pairs, or in groups. Circulate among groups as they complete the activities and provide feedback. It would be helpful for more knowledgeable children to pair with some who are younger or may not have a firm grasp of the topic. Have each group share a minimum of one completed activity with the class at the end of the lesson.

3-2-1 3 differences between Pentecost and the other Holy Days 2 effects of the Holy Spirit on our lives 1 question you still have about the topic	Stop and Reflect I became more aware of... (Share any new learning you had about Pentecost.)	Misconception Check Name one or more common misunderstandings about the Holy Spirit. What does the Bible say about the Holy Spirit that is different than what someone may think?
“Post-It” Take 5 sticky notes. On each sticky note, write an important thing to remember (something you would post) about Pentecost and why it’s important. Post it for others to see.	Three W’s <i>Discuss or write</i> • What did we learn about Pentecost? • So What?(relevancy, importance, usefulness) • Now What? (how does this fit into what we are learning, does it affect our thinking, can we predict where we are going)	Stop and Reflect I was surprised about... (Did anything you study stand out as interesting or surprising?)
Stop and Reflect I connected my learning about Pentecost to... (Share a sermon, reading, or Bible passage).	What was the “muddiest point” in your learning about Pentecost? What do you find unclear about this Holy Day and its meaning?	Study Up Prepare a “study sheet” with 2-3 key scriptures that would be useful for studying during a quiz over the topic of Pentecost. Why are they important?

