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| YEAR LEVEL | 3 & 4 |
| TITLE | Celebrating the Gift of the Spirit |
| STRAND | TRINITY |
| SUGGESTED DURATION | 4 - 5 weeks |
| ENDURING QUESTIONS | <p>Who is God?</p> <p>Is God Alive in me?</p> <p>How does the Holy Spirit lead me in my life?</p> |



Unit Focus

In this unit students will explore the role of the Spirit in the mission of the Church. They will reflect upon Pentecost as a special feast of the Church for people who celebrate and proclaim the message of Jesus.

Achievement Standards

By the end of Year 4, students should be able to:

Identify Pentecost as a celebration of the Holy Spirit. Students explore and describe the symbols within the Pentecost Story. They explore the role of the Holy Spirit in the mission of the Church. Students identify how the Spirit guides them in their life.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of the unit students should be able to:

1. *Identify how the presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced in the Early Church.*
2. *Explain how the Holy Spirit is present in the Church today.*
3. *Identify ways the Holy Spirit is present in all members of the Church.*

Key Understandings for Students

- Pentecost is a special feast day in the Church.
- The Holy Spirit is present in the Church today.
- The Spirit of God is in each person.
- The Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to live as Jesus did.

Student Context

The students in Years 3 and 4 are becoming less self focussed as their understanding of self, community and world expands. Play is an important activity that promotes growth and learning. Their analytical skills are developing and they have a clearer understanding of differences. Whilst still literal, students are beginning to understand different levels of thinking.

At this level, students seek to clarify for themselves the distinctions between fact and fantasy. Teachers will need to keep this in mind as they discuss the events that depict the Pentecost story.

Theological Background for Teachers

- Pentecost is a time to be aware and deepen our appreciation of the Church as people who celebrate and proclaim the message of Jesus. At Pentecost, the Church celebrates the Father's gift of the Spirit promised by Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit is present in the world through people who work for the good of others. The Holy Spirit inspires people to serve God and work for the good of others.
- The Church is the community of God's people. Through the Church we are united not just to God, but to one another. Within this community the Church continues the mission of Jesus through the parish and the Diocese. Those within the parish use their gifts in service of others in the local community and beyond (Sydney Arch.).
- The duty of Christians to take part in the life of the Church impels them to act as witnesses of the Gospel and of the obligations that flow from it. This witness is a transmission of the faith in words and deeds. 'Witness' is an act of justice that establishes the truth or makes it known. (CCC 2472)
- The experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit is described as being 'Like the rush of a mighty wind and as fire, distributed and resting on each of them.' (Acts 2:1-4).
- The Spirit empowers and teaches, reveals to the Church the mysteries of God, inspires prophecy, and is the giver of wisdom, encouragement, joy, hope and love.
- The presence of the Holy Spirit was experienced in the Old and New Testaments. The Hebrew people used the word '*Ruah*' to describe the Spirit, a word which means spirit and breath. They identified the Spirit as the life-giving breath of God.
- The word Pentecost (a Jewish harvest celebration) means the fiftieth day from the Passover. Counting the Sundays at each end of seven weeks, it is the fiftieth day from Easter.
- Jesus made it clear to his disciples that it was important to carry on his mission after he was gone. Jesus promised he would give his friends the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture

Acts 2:1-4 - *The Coming of the Holy Spirit.*

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as

of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as if the Spirit gave them ability.

Gal 5:22 - The Fruit of the Spirit

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

Major Assessment Task

Assessment tasks for this unit may include:

- Draw or research via the media images or examples of articles that show the Holy Spirit at work in the community. Make a collage grouping like concepts. Label and display.
- Use a T - chart or a Venn Diagram (if there are similarities between self and others) to demonstrate some ways that you recognise the Holy Spirit is at work with you and with someone within your school or community.

Suggested Teaching & Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity:

Interviews: invite an active member of the Parish (eg. St Vincent de Paul) or community to come and share their ideas of mission within the Church community. Begin to create a list of actions that people can do to create community and enliven the Mission of the Church by sharing gifts of the Spirit.

- Read Acts 2:1-4. Working in small groups, children use the Scripture Probe (White, O'Brien & Todd *Into the Deep* p.61) to further explore the passage.
- Create a Storyboard about the events of Pentecost.
- Read Gal 5:22 The Fruits of the Spirit. Groups of children take a fruit each to depict through art, cutting magazine pictures or clipart images how this fruit of the Spirit can be expressed and experienced by others. Decorate and create a display.
- Research a person past or present who displays Spirit filled characteristics. Share the information gained with the class through visual presentation eg. Poster, wordsplash, etc.
- Pentecost Kite: Make a kite and write a message on it that reflects some understanding of the Pentecost feast, for example God is Love, Come Holy Spirit. Make it a focal piece for a prayer celebration. Students could sing a song about celebrating the Gift of the Spirit such as 'Holy Spirit Come' by Andrew Chinn or 'My Lighthouse' by Rend Collective.
- Explore the ways in which the parish is 'church' in its service to others by inviting a panel of parishioners to take part in a forum. The panel could include parishioners from St Vincent de Paul, the parish Social Justice group, the Bereavement group, the Parish Priest, Parish Pastoral Council etc. Students formulate questions to ask the speakers.
- Attribute Profiles: Children make 3 outlines of a Church building and label them: believing community, serving community and celebrating community. The Church buildings are populated with faces. On each face are written words that describe people who believe, serve and celebrate.

- Collect newspaper/magazine articles that show the Holy Spirit at work in the community. Make a collage grouping like concepts. Label and display.
- Individually make a book outlining how the Holy Spirit is Alive in My Life e.g. I show the Holy Spirit is alive in me when... (These statements can be used to formulate goals/class norms for the year.)

Prayer Ritual

Students gather around the class prayer focus in a circle. With them students bring their Pentecost Kites and their books outlining how the Holy Spirit is Alive in My Life books.

Begin with the Sign of the cross. Ask the students to meaningfully place their Pentecost Kites in a special focal place (e.g. in the middle of the circle, pinned to a wall).

Leader: Read Gal 5:22 The Fruits of the Spirit.

Ask students to share one item from the books that they created through the unit regarding how they show the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives.

Leader: Concluding prayer:

God of all, you sent your Spirit to be with the disciples, filling them with joy, peace and courage. May we also be filled with your Spirit, be brave and share your peace in our world.

Amen.