

Read

Acts 2

It must have felt strange for the disciples as they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. Jesus had returned to heaven and they had a lot to think about. They had decided to replace Judas with Matthias and now all they could do was watch and pray.

Held 50 days after the feast of Passover, Pentecost—the Festival of Weeks—was a thanksgiving for the harvested crops. Jews from all nations would have gathered in Jerusalem to give thanks to God for the harvest. When the disciples gathered, something strange started to happen and God started to reveal his presence with a strong wind and tongues of fire. In the story we read that as the Holy Spirit filled each of them, they started to speak the languages of the different people out celebrating in the city.

Christians believe God's Spirit not only gave them the courage to share the good news about Jesus, He also gave them the right words to say. The Holy Spirit inspired Peter to preach a sermon that helped people to understand that Jesus was God's promised rescue plan. That day 3000 people heard and understood what God was saying to them through Peter. They decided to change their ways and become a follower of Jesus.

It was the start of something amazing—the church. Followers of Jesus gathered together to pray, learn and worship. As they did so, they shared everything they had and cared for those in need.

Pentecost @ Home



Wonder

- I wonder what it felt like to be in the crowd and experience God as wind and fire
- I wonder what the people thought when they heard the disciples from Galilee talking in their own languages
- I wonder what it means to share *everything* you have

Say

Dear God,
Thank you for wind and fire and for the lessons that we can learn from nature and the beauty that surrounds us. Please help us to develop good qualities in our lives. Help us to grow in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Help us to treat others with respect.
Amen

Do

- Do the Pentecost, Pentecost clapping rhyme together (see below)
- Print and cut out the large flames, or make some of your own from thin paper. Make sure everyone has one and, if possible, a straw. Line them up on a table or smooth floor surface. Agree a finishing line and then see who can get their flame to the finishing line using only their breath. No hands!
- Make a Pentecost mobile. You can use the flame pictures below, or make your own with colour paper. Larger flames could be strung together to make bunting, or smaller ones can have a hole punched in the top and be tied to an old coat hanger or CD with coloured wool or thread to make a mobile.
- A man called Paul was one of the early leaders in the Christian Church and he wrote letters to several of the early churches to encourage them and to teach them more about Jesus. One of these letters was to a church in a place called Galatia, in this letter Paul says that God's Spirit grows good things in people like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (See Galatians (5:22-23). These are called the fruit of the Spirit. Decide which real fruits you think represent the fruit of the spirit, label them on the sheet and colour them in.
- Whilst you are colouring the fruit chat about the following:

When Paul talks about fruit in his letter, he doesn't mean fruit growing on a tree, he means good qualities or characteristics that we can see in people's lives. Can you think of people you know who show some of each quality.

Do you think that these are all good qualities for a person to have? Why/why not? Do you find it hard to show some of these qualities in your life? Why/why not?
- Take a piece of ribbon or a strip of paper. Hold on to the ribbon while saying a prayer or a thank you for the world. Tie the pieces of ribbon to the Pentecost hanger.

Pentecost, Pentecost - clapping rhyme

Chorus: Pentecost, Pentecost
Wonderful and strange
Pentecost, Pentecost
Time for a change

The wind is a blowing and fire falls like rain
It's dancing on their heads, but they feel no pain

Chorus

God's Spirit is with them, filling to the brim
With hope and confidence that only comes from Him

Chorus

They can share the good news of Jesus the King
Living it out by loving and sharing

Chorus

God's Spirit's is for now, not just for the past
He fills us up too, whenever we ask

Actions

Pent—clap left hand on left thigh

E—clap right hand on right thigh

Cost—clap both hands together.

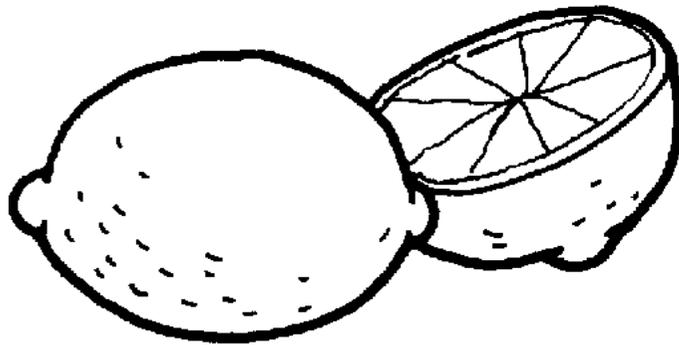
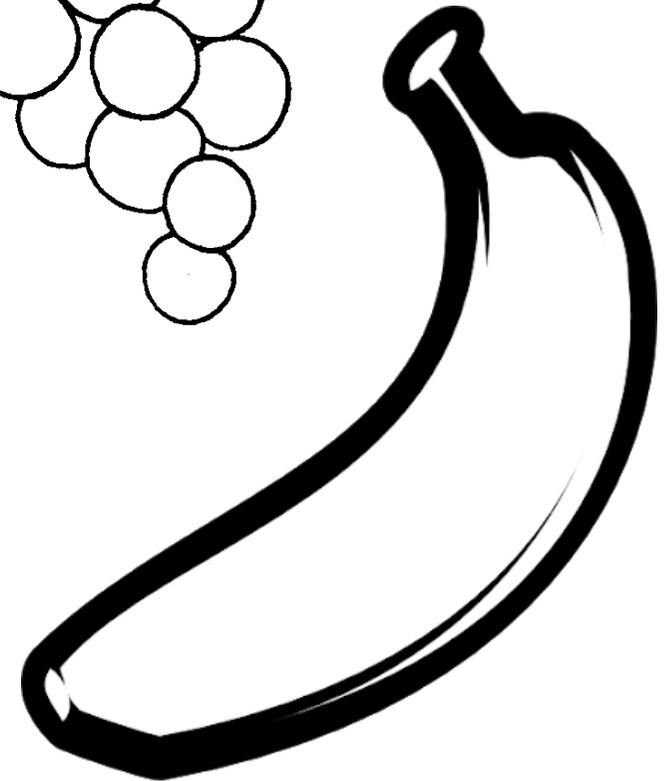
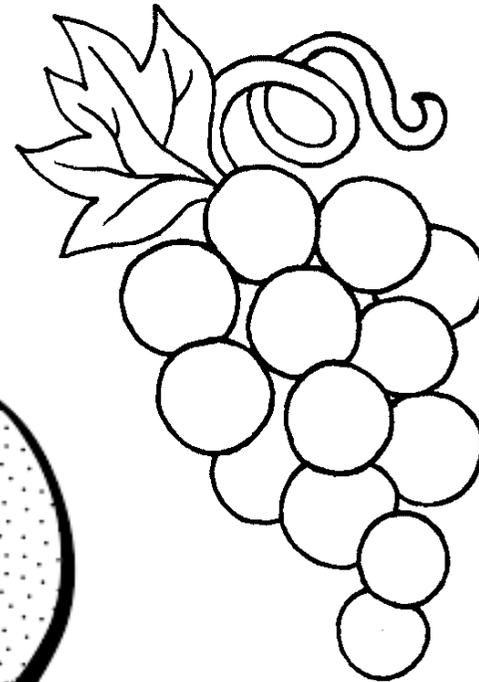
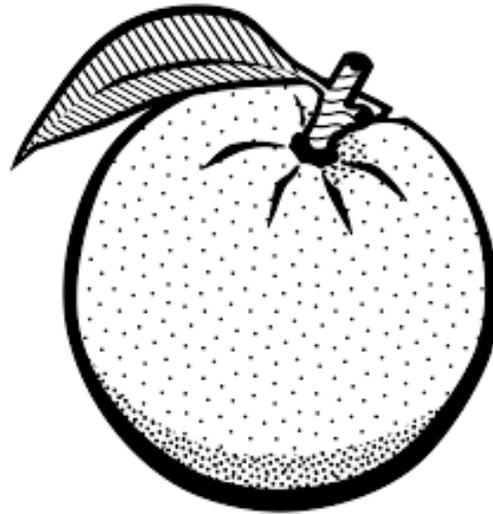
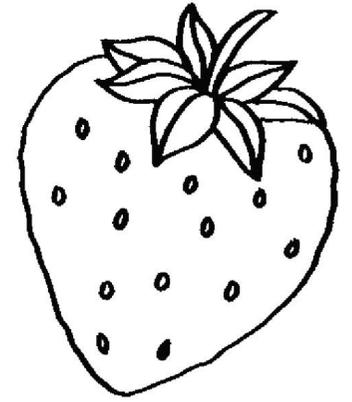
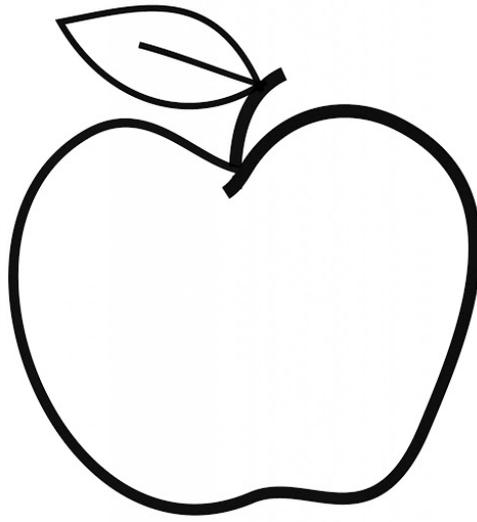
Wonderful and strange—wave fingers in the air like tongues of fire

Pent—clap right hand on left thigh

E—clap right hand on right thigh

Time for a change—raise fist like a winner

When you have said the rhyme a couple of times, encourage everyone to make up actions for the verses



Which fruits do you think could be a symbol for the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control?





Cut out the flames (you can double side them by sticking reverse images back to back. If you are very clever you can try folding this page in half and sticking the two sides together that way)

Use wool or thread to join them together as a garland,



or hang them from an old coat-hanger or CD as a mobile

