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**June's B.i.G. Idea**

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

**June's Bible Verse**

*Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe. Psalm 150:2, CEV*

**June's B.i.G. Theme**

Great Are the Works of the Lord

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## Lesson 2 ★ Peter at Pentecost

### Today's Bible Story

Acts 2:1-42

### Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

### Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about Peter's change from a frightened disciple to a bold preacher after the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.
- ★ Children will recognize that the Holy Spirit empowers us to do good things in the name of Jesus.

The Jewish feast of Pentecost marks fifty days after the celebration of Passover. In fact, the word *Pentecost* is from the Greek word for "fifty." The feast celebrated the day on which Moses received the Law from God on Mount Sinai and was a day of giving thanks for the grain harvest.

When the day of Pentecost came after Jesus' resurrection, there were people from many nations visiting Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. The disciples and many followers were gathered in one place. Suddenly the room was filled with a strong gust of wind, and they saw what looked like tongues of fire resting over the heads of everyone gathered there. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in languages they had never spoken before, proclaiming the

wonders of God. People in the crowded street were amazed at what they heard. Some, however, accused the followers of being drunk, and they laughed at what was taking place.

Peter stood up and began to speak to the crowd. He told them that Jesus was not dead, but he had risen and now ascended into heaven. He explained that God was pouring out the Holy Spirit upon the people. Peter stated that Jesus was the Son of God and encouraged the people to repent and be baptized. On that day, about three thousand people were baptized and became new followers of Jesus Christ.

This is the same Peter who, because of his fear, sank into the water rather than walking on it with Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33). This was the same Peter who denied knowing Jesus three times because Peter was afraid (Matthew 26:69-75). Now this same Peter stood courageously in front of a crowd and proclaimed Jesus to be the Son of God. When the Holy Spirit touched him, Peter was changed. No longer would he be timid about his faith.

Today, Christians celebrate Pentecost as the day when God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit. We remember that on this day lives were changed and the church was born. Pentecost celebrates the birthday of the Christian church, when God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift empowers us, like Peter, to boldly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

## Invite them in . . . (15 minutes)

Welcome! ✓

Birthday Card Montages ✓

Pentecost Garlands

Pinwheels

## . . . Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Hear the Bible Story

Backyard Time

Birthday Card Fun

Praise Time ✓

## . . . Into Life (15 minutes)

Party Game

Pentecost Party Horns ✓

Closing Worship



**TimeSaver**

Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



**EcoFriendly**

Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

## DVD Summary: Backyard Time

*It's party time! The backyard is set up for a party, because it is a celebration of Pentecost, the birthday of the church. Mr. Z sings a song, accompanied by Bongo, and Ms. Lucy brings the cake. Each of the Backyard Time kids has brought with them a friend from another country. As your kids meet the new kids, it can remind them that the church is for everyone, not just for people who live next door or right across town. The visitors celebrate Pentecost by saying "happy birthday" in their own languages.*



## The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

### Welcome!

**Supplies:** Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

#### Prepare

- ★ Pray for each child in the class. Pray for God's direction as you teach.

**Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child a birthday cake **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.

- ★ **Say:** It is a Happy Birthday day! Today we are celebrating the birthday of the church. I am glad you are here today for our birthday celebration.
- ★ **Say:** Today's Bible story is about a day when Jesus' friends realized that God was still with them. It was a new feeling that changed how they acted.
- ★ **Say:** Do you remember our Bible verse for this month? It says, "Praise our God! His deeds are wonderful, too marvelous to describe" (Psalm 150:2, CEV).
- ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

**Live B.i.G.** The birthday of the church is a special day!

### Birthday Card Montages

**Supplies:** old birthday cards, safety scissors, gluesticks, red construction paper

- Do** ★ Help the children count all the cards.
- ★ Have the children sort out all the cards with animals on them.
  - ★ Encourage the children to sort out all the cards with flowers on them.
  - ★ **Say:** These cards remind us that today is the birthday of the church.
  - ★ Let the children use safety scissors to cut the cards into pieces.
  - ★ Give each child a piece of red construction paper.
  - ★ **Say:** The birthday of the church is a day called Pentecost. (*Have the children repeat the word.*) The special color for Pentecost is red.
  - ★ Have the children glue the card pieces onto the construction paper to make montages.
  - ★ Display the montages around your room.

**Live B.i.G.** We are thankful that today is Pentecost, the birthday of the church.

## Pentecost Garlands

**Supplies:** Kids' Book—page A, yarn, large drinking straws, tape, red crepe paper streamers

### Prepare

- ★ Punch out the candles (**Kids' Book—page A**).
- ★ Cut a piece of yarn about 20-inches long for each child.
- ★ Tape both ends of the yarn to make stringing easier.

### Do

- ★ Give each child several candles.
- ★ **Ask:** I am thinking of a special time when we see candles. The candles are burning on top of something good to eat. Can you guess what I am thinking of? (a birthday cake; birthday candles) Do you like birthdays? I do.
- ★ **Ask:** Today is a special birthday. It is the birthday of the church. Our candles can help us remember about this special day.
- ★ Show the children how to cut the drinking straws into pieces about one-inch long.
- ★ Show the children how to string a straw piece onto yarn, followed by a candle.
- ★ Have the children keep adding straw pieces and candles to their yarn pieces.
- ★ Then help the children tie the ends of all the yarn pieces together to make a garland.
- ★ Hang the garlands in your room as Pentecost decorations.
- ★ Add red crepe paper streamers to create a party atmosphere for your Pentecost celebration. Let the children help you choose where to place the streamers.
- ★ **Say:** Today is the birthday of the church. This day has a special name. It is called Pentecost. (Have the children repeat the word.) Our Bible story today is about what happened to Peter and other friends of Jesus on the day of Pentecost.

**Live B.i.G.** We are thankful that today is Pentecost, the birthday of the church.

## Pinwheels

**Supplies:** Kids' Book, thin drinking straws, large drinking straws, red crayons, scissors

### Prepare

- ★ Punch out a pinwheel (**Kids' Book**) for each child.

### Do

- ★ Invite each child to color the back side of the pinwheel with red crayons.
- ★ Show the children how to fold the corners with holes to the center of the pinwheel.
- ★ Match up all five punched-out holes.
- ★ Insert a brad through the joined holes of each pinwheel.
- ★ Punch a hole in one end of each drinking straw.
- ★ Insert the brad into the hole. Fold back the prongs to secure the straw.
- ★ Show the children how to blow on the wheel to make it turn.
- ★ **Say:** You will hear the sound of rushing wind in our Bible story today. Hold your pinwheels and swoosh around the room like the wind. Let the wind blow you to our storytelling area.
- ★ Swoosh like the wind, gathering everyone for the Bible story.

**Live B.i.G.** Pinwheels help us see the wind.



**The B.i.G. Idea**  
We believe that  
miracles show us  
the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

## Hear the Bible Story

**Supplies:** Bible, Leader—page 26, pinwheels made earlier (page 21) or red streamers

- Do**
- ★ If you chose not to make the pinwheels, give each child two or three red crepe paper streamers.
  - ★ Help the children twist one end of the streamers to make a handle.
  - ★ Show the children how to wave the streamers.
  - ★ Open the Bible to the Book of Acts.
  - ★ **Say:** Our Bible story about Peter and the church's birthday comes from the Book of Acts.
  - ★ **Say:** Listen as I tell the story. When I say, "Swoosh! Swoosh!" I want you to repeat the sound and wave your pinwheel (or streamers).
  - ★ Practice with the children.
  - ★ Tell the children "Peter at Pentecost" (**Leader—page 26**), and wave your pinwheel (or streamer) as indicated in the story.
  - ★ **Say:** Peter changed. The Holy Spirit gave Peter the courage to tell everyone about Jesus.

**Live B.i.G.** On the birthday of the church the friends of Jesus knew that God was with them. That changed how they felt and acted.

## Backyard Time

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television

### Prepare

- ★ Preview Backyard Time. Listen for several ways to say "happy birthday" in several languages.
- ★ Practice saying "happy birthday" in Spanish.

- Do**
- ★ **Say:** We are going to see kids having a party during our backyard time today. The children are from different countries and have different languages, but they will all be celebrating together. Let's see what happens.
  - ★ **Ask:** What did the children say? (*Happy Birthday*) How did it sound different from the way you may say it on your birthday?

- ★ **Say:** On the birthday of the church the friends of Jesus felt that God was with them. Knowing God was with them changed how they felt and acted.
- ★ **Say:** On that day, the friends of Jesus started speaking in different languages. People from other countries could understand what the friends said about Jesus.
- ★ **Say:** Let's try speaking in other languages like the kids did on the **DVD**.
- ★ Encourage the children to say "happy birthday" in Spanish: "Feliz Cumpleaños." Include any other languages you or the children may know.

**Live B.i.G.** Like Peter and the friends of Jesus we know that God is with us. Knowing God is with us changes how we feel and act.

## Birthday Card Fun

**Supplies:** Kids' Book—inside back cover, construction paper, paper punch, yarn, crayons, glue, tape

### Prepare

- ★ Detach a birthday card (**Kids' Book—inside back cover**) for each child.
- ★ Glue the cards to construction paper backing to make them sturdier.
- ★ Punch holes at equal intervals around each card.
- ★ Place a piece of tape around the end of each piece of yarn for easy lacing.

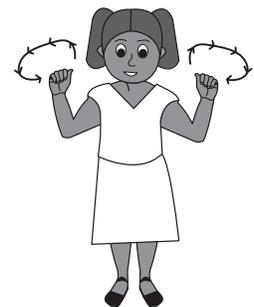
- Do**
- ★ Invite each child to lace around a card with yarn.
  - ★ Invite the children to decorate the back side of the card.
  - ★ **Ask:** What will you do with this birthday card?

**Live B.i.G.** Sending birthday cards is a great way to show love to others.

## Praise Time

**Supplies:** Leader—page 4, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do**
- ★ Show the children how to sign "Alleluia" in American Sign Language. Close both hands in the "A" handshape (closed fist, thumb up). Then bring hands up above the shoulders and make small circles over each shoulder.
  - ★ Play "Great Are the Works of the Lord" (**DVD; Leader—page 4**). Encourage the children to sing and dance with the music and to sign the word *Alleluia* each time it appears in the refrain.
  - ★ **Say:** American Sign Language is another language people can use to praise God.



**Live B.i.G.** *Alleluia* means "praise to God."



## The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that miracles show us the power of God.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

### Party Game

**Supplies:** Leader—page 27, Stickers, scissors, tape, petroleum jelly, kids' sunglasses

#### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy the birthday cake (**Leader—page 27**).
- ★ Tape the cake to the wall or door at eye level for the children
- ★ Smear petroleum jelly over the eye section of kids' sunglasses. This will give the children some security when they walk over to pin the flame on the candle, but their vision will be blurred.

#### Do

- ★ Play "Pin the Flame on the Candles."
- ★ Have the children gather around the cake picture.
- ★ Give each child a flame **Sticker**.
- ★ Call each child forward and encourage, but do not force, the child to wear the sunglasses or simply to close their eyes.
- ★ Let the child try to place the flame **Sticker** on one of the candles.
- ★ Continue until every child has a turn. There are enough **Stickers** for each child to have several turns.
- ★ **Ask:** We are celebrating a birthday today. Whose birthday is it? (*the church*)
- ★ **Say:** On the birthday of the church the friends of Jesus felt that God was with them. Knowing God was with them changed how they felt and acted. They had been afraid to tell other people about Jesus, but now they were no longer afraid. They wanted to tell everyone about Jesus.

**Live B.i.G.** Like Peter and the friends of Jesus, we know that God is with us. Knowing God is with us changes how we feel and act.

### Pentecost Party Horns

**Supplies:** Stickers, red construction paper, crayons, tape

#### Do

- ★ Give each child a half sheet of red construction paper.
- ★ Let the children decorate the paper with crayons.
- ★ Let the children add left-over flame **Stickers** to the papers.
- ★ Show each child how to roll the paper with the decorated side to the outside.

- ★ Show the children how to pretend to blow through the tubes like a party horn.
- ★ **Say:** Let's make noise to celebrate the birthday of the church.
- ★ Have the children pretend to blow the horns and shout, "Happy Birthday, Church!"

**Live B.i.G.** We celebrate the birthday of the church. Like the friends of Jesus, we know that God is with us.

## Closing Worship

**Supplies:** Stickers, Kids' Book, Leader—page 26, party horns made earlier (page 24)

### Prepare

- ★ Detach the storybook (**Kids' Book**) for each child (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Photocopy "Peter at Pentecost" (**Leader—page 26**) to send home.

### Do

- ★ Have the children join in a circle.
- ★ Give each child a "Happy Birthday to the Church!" worship badge (**Stickers**).
- ★ Give each child his or her party horn.
- ★ If the children learned to say *Happy Birthday* in another language during Backyard Time, let them say those greetings to the church now.
- ★ Have the children pretend to blow their horns and then shout, "Happy Birthday, church!"
- ★ **Pray:** Thank you, God, for the church. Amen.
- ★ Give each child a storybook (**Kids' Book**) and a copy of "Peter at Pentecost" (**Leader—page 26**) to take home.

**Live B.i.G.** Happy Birthday, Church!

## Peter at Pentecost

It was Pentecost. Peter and Jesus' other friends were all together. They were afraid. They knew Jesus was alive, but they were still afraid to tell others.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

Suddenly everyone heard the sound of a strong wind.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

The sound filled the whole house.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

Then everyone looked around.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

Little lights appeared over each person's head.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

The lights looked like flames of fire.

Sparkle! Sparkle! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

Everyone started speaking in different languages. They spoke about the great things God had done. People from other countries heard about Jesus in their own languages.

Peter stood up.

"Let me tell you about Jesus," said Peter in a loud voice. "Jesus is alive!"

Peter told the people all about Jesus. He was no longer afraid. The people listened to Peter. On that day 3,000 people were baptized and became followers of Jesus.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

The sound of the wind and the flames of fire helped Peter and the friends of Jesus feel that God was with them. We call this feeling the Holy Spirit.

Swoosh! Swoosh! *(Invite the children to wave their pinwheels.)*

It was the birthday of the church.

*based on Acts 2:1-42*

# Candles

