

# Pentecost Ideas: Exploring the Holy Spirit

## In Baptism



Jesus said "Go therefore to all the nations and baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

Jesus said "In very truth I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born from water and spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh: It is spirit that gives birth to spirit."

John 3: 6

Explore baptism and the Holy Spirit.  
Gather some of the symbols of baptism.

With water, talk together about where and how we use water.  
Are any of these uses how water is used in baptism?  
Put your hands in the water and talk about how it feels.  
Give thanks for the gift of water. Remember those for whom water is not easy to find or is not safe to use.

With a Candle, talk together about light, and candles.  
Is there anything here to help us think about baptism?  
Perhaps with care the light of the candle can be shared.  
How come the light of the first candle does not get smaller as the light is shared to other people?  
Give thanks for the gift of the light.

With some Oil, smell the oil and talk about what it is like.  
Like the scent of the oil the spirit is invisible but is there.  
If people wish they could make a cross on their hand with the oil.  
Talk about what it feels like.  
Give thanks for the Holy Spirit.

If there is someone who has recently been baptised, or someone whose child has been recently baptised perhaps they could come and share what it means to them to be baptised.

## The Fruits of the Holy Spirit



**“The fruits of the Spirit are:  
Love, joy peace, patience,  
kindness, goodness, faithfulness,  
gentleness and self-control”**

**Galatians 5: 22-23**

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are characteristics which the spirit can give us. There are often times when we may need these fruits. Gather some fruit to think about the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The list below has nine fruits and each real fruit has the same first letter as a spiritual fruit

<b>Love:</b>	<i>Lemon</i>
<b>Joy:</b>	<i>Orange (it's a Jaffa!)</i>
<b>Peace:</b>	<i>Pear</i>
<b>Patience:</b>	<i>Plum</i>
<b>Kindness:</b>	<i>Kiwi Fruit</i>
<b>Goodness:</b>	<i>Grape (White)</i>
<b>Faithfulness:</b>	<i>Fig</i>
<b>Gentleness:</b>	<i>Grape (Red)</i>
<b>Self-control:</b>	<i>Strawberry &amp; Cream!</i>

(Do not feel constrained to get these particular fruits, but the connection with the first letters is useful. For Oranges, use citrus or satsumas as they have no pips. Figs are most easily useable if they are the ready to eat dried ones, but fresh ones could be used if you wish. And for the strawberries and cream I often use the strawberry and cream candy sweets, but use what is easiest for you to find)

Look at each of the fruit and think about the spiritual fruit they represent. Talk about each fruit.

Then taste the fruits. Perhaps your favourite real fruit, or perhaps the fruit you would like the spirit to show through you.

People say we need five real fruit a day – what would it be like to do 5 a day with spiritual fruit?

## The Gifts of the Holy Spirit



“The Spirit of the Lord is a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and courage, of knowledge and fear of the Lord and faithfulness”

Isaiah 11: 2-3

Wisdom; Understanding; Counsel;  
Courage; Knowledge; Faithfulness;  
Fear of the Lord

In the Christmas song “The Twelve Days of Christmas” each of the gifts the “true love” gave represent something of our belief. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus on the Cross, the two turtle doves are the two parts of the Bible, the Old and New Testaments. The nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Spirit as listed above and the Seven swans a swimming are the seven gifts of the Spirit as set out in Isaiah 11 above. As opposed to the fruits which the Spirit brings out from us, the gifts are blessings given to us.

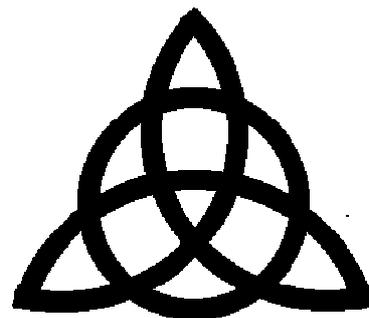
Talk about gifts. The best ones, the biggest ones, the most special gifts. Think about which gifts of the spirit you would like most.

Are there situations or people you know who need these gifts?

Take time to bring them to God in prayer

## The Holy Spirit and The Trinity

Lots of people have tried to illustrate the Holy Spirit and the Holy Trinity. All the illustrations fall short somewhere, but they can be useful to help us think about God and the Spirit.



Illustrations of the Spirit may include:

Lighting candles to think of the tongues of flame that the disciples experienced at Pentecost.

Blowing bubbles to see how the wind (another image from Pentecost) can be seen in its action if not by sight.

Make paper boats and float them on a pool of water. There is something special here about releasing the boat to float freely on the water, as we must trust the Spirit to lead us where it will.

Illustrations of the Trinity may include:

A triangle which has three sides, three angles, but is one shape.

Water which can be solid, liquid and gas.

A woman who is a daughter, a mother and a wife.

Blue, Yellow and Red which together make white.

Each of these is not perfect and some may even say that some are heretical. This is the problem with seeking to explain the Holy Trinity – nothing except God, is like God!!

A better suggestion may be to encourage people not to understand the Trinity, but rather to enjoy it! God does not charge us to understand him, but to rejoice in him. So if you want an illustration of the Trinity ...



... get a packet of Jaffa cakes. Each one has three parts, each can be tasted and they blend together to give a wonderful flavour to be enjoyed – I have no idea how they work, but they are great to enjoy and to share.