

# STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



## Week Thirty Four - The Spirit Comes

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*The Day of Pentecost is both a known story and a confusing one. Pray that we can all understand what God is doing on this day and how it is just a preview of what He desires to continue to do in His people. The Spirit was sent to Jesus' church to empower them to live like Jesus and show the world what God is like!*

- **Big Idea:** God fills His people with His presence and power!

### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Breathing Exercise**

*Have everyone take a deep breath, hold it in, then push it out. Ask if they saw their breath. Have them do it again, but this time tell them to place their hand in front of their mouths before they breathe out. Ask if they felt their breath. Though they couldn't see it, their breath is their life. God breathes His life on us through His Spirit!*

### **Sing Together**

### Story - from Acts 2:1-42

A long time ago, when God rescued Israel from slavery to Egypt, He called them to remember their salvation by celebrating three feasts every year: the Feast of Shelters, the Passover Feast, and the Feast of Weeks. The Feast of Shelters reminded them how they lived in the wilderness in tents before God brought them into the new Promised Land. Passover reminded them how God sent a plague of death on Egypt, but it passed over all who trusted in God's instruction. The Feast of Weeks reminded them how God brought them into the Promised Land and provided for them. That feast was 50 days after Passover, so it became known as Pentecost (which means 50).

When the Feast of Pentecost came, 50 days after Jesus rose from the grave, his followers were all together in one room. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind out of nowhere, filling the whole building. It was the breath of God—His Spirit! Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread throughout them, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them.

Many Jewish men from all over the world had also traveled there to Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. When they heard the sound, they came to see. Then they each heard their own languages being spoken by Jesus' followers and they were blown away. They kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various languages, describing God's mighty works?!"

Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?"

Others joked, "They're drunk on cheap wine."

That's when Peter stood up and, backed by the other eleven, spoke out with bold urgency. He started to remind them all of their history and how God had always promised to send a rescuer. Jesus was that rescuer. He reminded them also that God had always promised to send His Spirit upon His people, and that's what they were witnessing now. Just as Jesus told them would happen. Just as God's prophets long ago had said. The Spirit was here to be with God's people, empowering them to live new and good lives, showing the world what God is like.

During the Feast of Pentecost, they were supposed to gather all their harvest crops in and bring the first fruits as a sacrifice to God. Instead, God had gathered these men from many different nations together as His first fruits — and gave them His Spirit—His breath of life & power. Thousands believed Peter's words and the Spirit filled them. Then, they were sent back out to their own homes to bring God's good news!

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- Why do you think it was important for God's people to celebrate those three feasts?
- Why do you think Jesus died and rose at Passover time?
- Why do you think the Spirit chose to come on God's people during the Festival of Pentecost?
- How were these people the first of God's harvest? Does this mean He wants to continue to give His Spirit to more people and not just the ones in this story?
- What do you think it means to have God's Spirit within you?
- Do you think you need God's Spirit?

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**

God, thank you for rescuing us. Please fill us with your Spirit so we can be your people, showing the world what you're like. Amen.

- **Craft:**

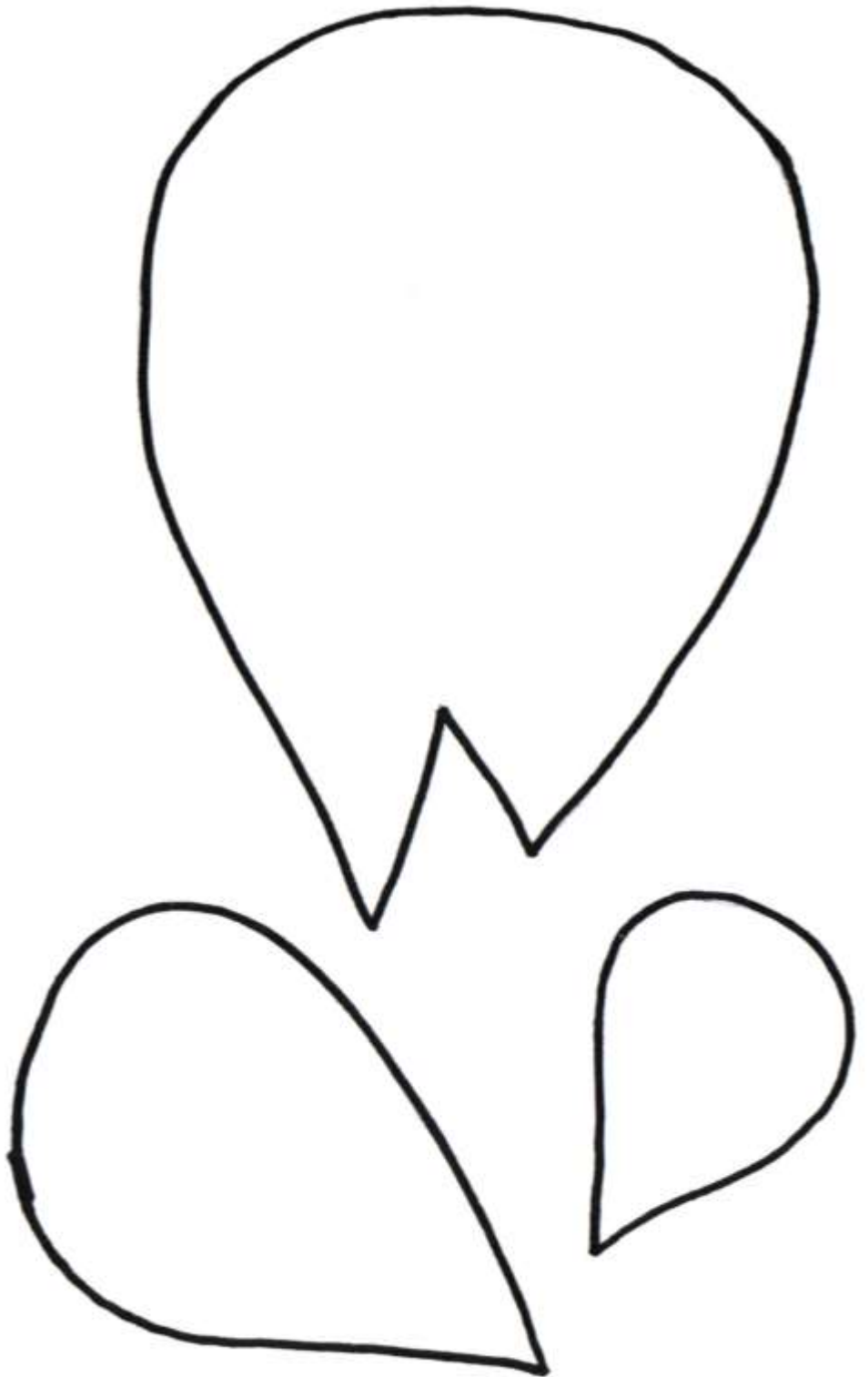
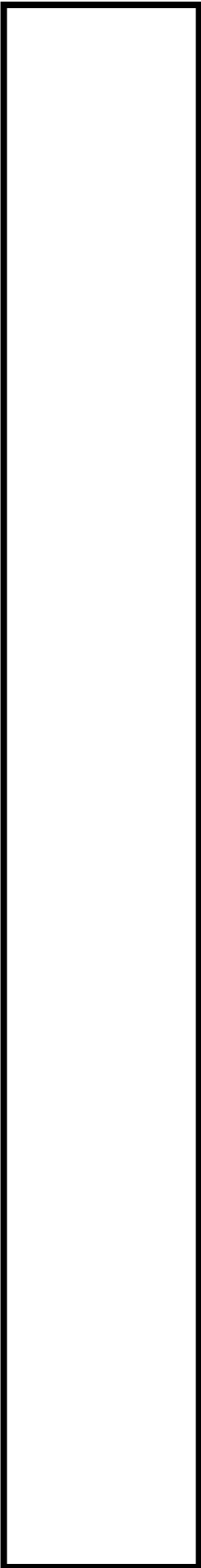
- Use the template attached to create headbands with flames
- OR use the next attached page for a simple coloring sheet

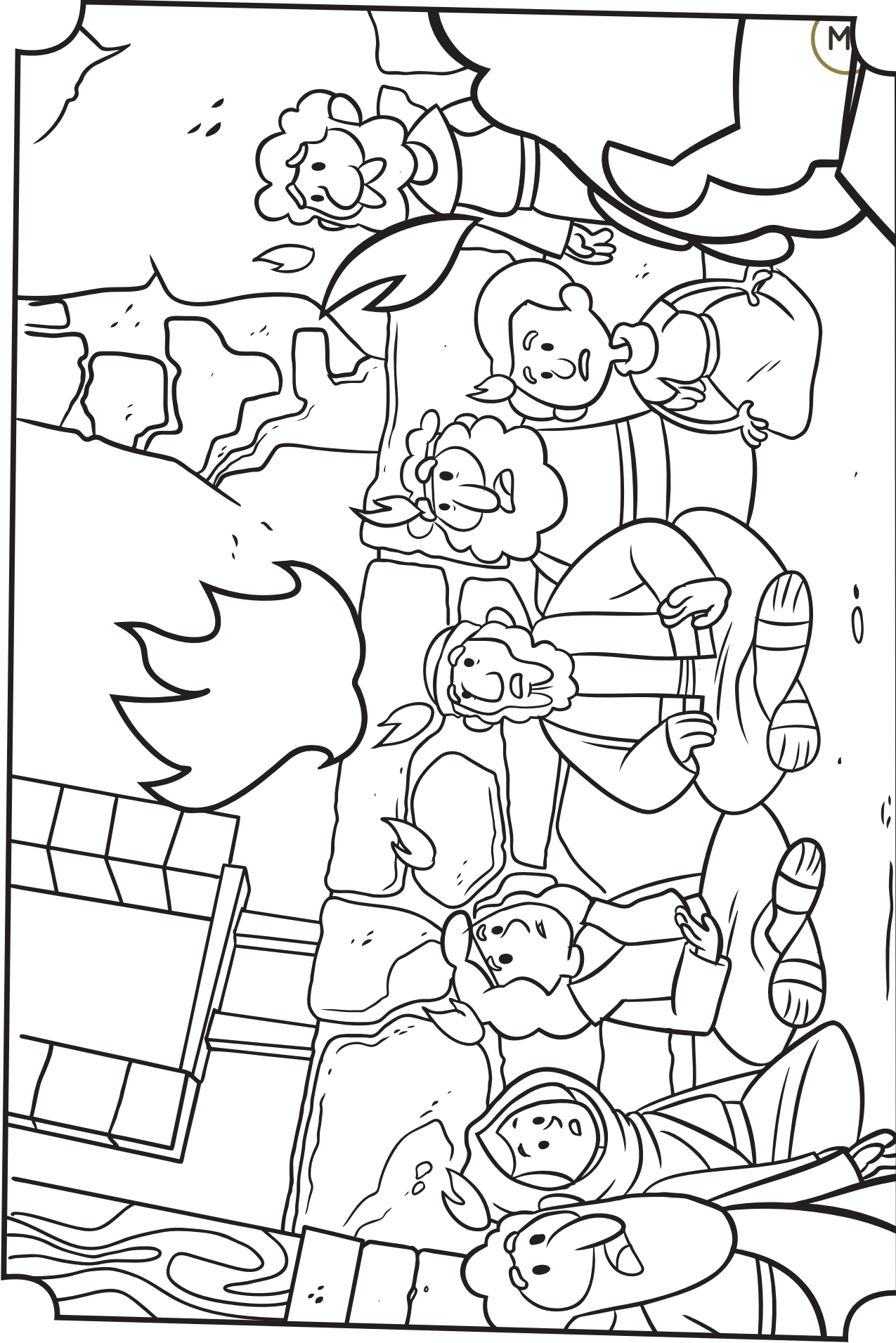
- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**

*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm.

Pray as a family and ask the Spirit to speak to you about what He wants in your life. Take some time to sit in silence and allow Him to respond. If you don't hear anything, that's okay. Keep coming back in silence a little each day asking Him to speak.





Jesus had promised his followers a special helper - the Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit came at Pentecost. Acts 2:1--4

