

heartfelt Newsletter

May 2010

SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:1-21

THEME: Celebrating!

family
'round
the
table



Decorations:

Use the decorations you would use for a family party. Add a trail of sparkling confetti down the center of the table.

MENU

Oven Fried Chicken, Three-Bean Salad, Potatoes Anna, Cupcakes (enough for each family member to have two: one for dessert and one for later)

Blessing:

Bless this food to our use, and us to your service. Fill our hearts with grateful praise for all that we have and for our family! Amen.

PLAYING TOGETHER



Activity One: Frosting Cupcakes

Materials: cupcakes, icing, sprinkles and other decorations

Directions:

1. Invite each family member to ice two cupcakes.
2. Eat one of the cupcakes for dessert after dinner. Save the second for tomorrow's lunch.

Activity Two: : Cleaning the Earth

Materials: cupcakes, icing, sprinkles and other decorations

Directions:

1. Invite each family member to ice two cupcakes.
2. Eat one of the cupcakes for dessert after dinner. Save the second for tomorrow's lunch.



STUDYING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Have you ever been to a Pentecost party? Most churches have special celebrations to honor the Feast of Pentecost, the time when the Christian Church began. Long before Jesus, the Jewish people celebrated Pentecost as a time when the first fruits of the growing season was brought to the Temple as a gift to God.

Invite a family member to read the story of Pentecost from a Bible storybook such as The Children's Bible in 365 Stories or consider reading or telling the following.

When the time of the Feast of Pentecost came the disciples were gathered to pray, as they had done many times since Jesus' death and resurrection. When they spoke of it later, they said that on this day while they prayed, it was as if a great wind began to blow. People were speaking aloud in many different languages, languages they had never spoken or understood before.

Thousands of Jews, from many countries, who spoke many languages, were gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost. They were amazed to hear the disciples speak in the languages of their homelands. They began to ask each other how it was that these Galileans knew their languages. Some thought the men had been drinking.

Peter spoke to the crowd. He said, "These men are not drunk. Remember the words of the prophet Joel. He said that a day will come when God's Spirit would be poured out on the people. The people will begin to prophesy. When that time comes God will give signs in the heavens and on the earth. On that day everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. I tell you, that day has come!"

Reflections Questions for the Family

1. How do you think it would feel to suddenly have someone begin to speak to you in language you don't understand?
2. How do you think it would feel if you could suddenly speak a language you had never spoken, never understood?
3. Why do you think God's Holy Spirit gave the people at Pentecost the gift to speak in many different languages?
4. What gift do you think God has given you? How will you use this gift to build up God's kingdom?
5. Invite a family member to find and read John 14:14-17 and 25-26. Do you think the disciples behave as if they remembered this promise?
6. Does Peter in this story seem different than he did when he denied knowing Jesus?
7. The disciples spoke about Jesus and for Jesus to thousands of people. How might you tell your friends about Jesus?



PRAYING TOGETHER

- Place a lighted candle and an open Bible in the middle of the table as a worship center.
- Open the time of prayer by reading Psalm 104:31-34.
- Invite family members to share their joys and concerns for the week. Pray together about your joys and concerns, and invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with courage to get through the things that are tough, and to speak to others about Jesus and what he means to you.
- Close by singing *Breathe on me, Breath of God*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
Breathe on me, Breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.*

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,
so shall I never die;
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.*

[Words: Edwin Hatch, 1878; Music: Trentham, Aylesbury, Carlisle, Dominica, Swabia, Nova Vita, Kingston]