

MAY 24, 2015  
PENTECOST  
SUNDAY

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

God sends his Holy Spirit to make us new.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.

Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit is given
Monday	Ezekiel 36:22-28	I will put my Spirit in you
Tuesday	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Dry bones alive with God's Spirit
Wednesday	Joel 2:21-29	God's Spirit poured out
Thursday	John 7:37-39	The living water of the Spirit
Friday	1 Corinthians 12:4-27	Many gifts, one Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 143:7-8	May your Spirit lead me
Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act." Ezekiel 37:14 (NRSV)

### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, breathe your Spirit into our lives and make us new. Amen. (Ezekiel 37:5-6)

#### Mealtime Prayer:

We look to you, O God. You give us food when we need it. You open your hands and satisfy us with good things. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 104:27-28)

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God give you his Holy Spirit so that you believe in Jesus and live for what is right. Amen. (John 16:8-10)

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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about an experience you have had with wind or fire.
- Pentecost was an ancient Hebrew celebration of the yearly harvest (Deuteronomy 16:9-10). During this festival, God gave the Holy Spirit to the first followers of Jesus. If you had been among Jesus' followers on that day, what do you think you would have seen, heard and felt?
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life? What signs of the Spirit's work have you seen, heard or experienced for yourself?

## DEVOTIONS

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper in prayer (Romans 8:26-27). The Spirit brings our needs and concerns before God, even when we do not know what or how to pray. Share together in a time of Pentecost prayer. Darken a room and place a burning candle in a large metal bowl. Invite each person to write their worries, needs or prayer requests on pieces of paper. Then ask them to place their slips of paper into the flame and the bowl as an act of prayer in the Holy Spirit. The fire symbolizes the Holy Spirit. The smoke symbolizes our prayers rising to God who receives them as a fragrant offering.

## SERVICE

Pentecost reminds us that the world is full of many different language groups. God wants the good news of Jesus to be taken to all these different cultures and groupings. This relies on the work of Bible translators and organizations, such as the *Bible Society* and *Wycliffe Bible Translators*. Find out how you can support their work. Include them in your household prayers this week.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Cut flame shapes of various sizes from red construction paper. Overlap the flames and form them into a circle, using a stapler to attach them to one another. Use these flames of the Spirit as the centerpiece of your meal table this week. When you gather around it, share with one another about how you have experienced the Holy Spirit throughout the day.



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