Opening Song - This is the Day
This is the day, that the Lord has made
I will rejoice and be glad in it.

Gathering Prayer
*After the opening song, a prayer is offered.*

Context - Conversation

We believe God has made God’s self known through creation, through Jesus and through the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit look like? The Hebrew word spirit also means “wind” or “breath,” so it makes sense that Luke compares the Holy Spirit’s arrival to rushing wind (Acts 2:2). The Spirit hovers over each disciple looking like a flame, letting them speak and understand the crowd’s many languages (Acts 2:3-4). The Spirit takes the form of a dove when Jesus is baptized.

We discover Pentecost was celebrated by Christians as the church’s birthday as early as the 2nd century. It was celebrated on the Jewish festival of the spring barley harvest. Jewish tradition asserts it is the day God gave Moses the law.

The Holy Spirit - Pentecost

The disciples were gathered in a house in Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Pentecost.

WOOSH! A loud gust of wind blew through the house. Flames of fire flickered above each of the disciples’ heads, but the flames didn’t burn them!

Filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples began to speak in languages they had never learned.
before. Each spoke a different language, but they could not understand one another.

Crowds of people heard the wind and gathered around the house. The people were from many places, including Rome, Egypt and Asia. The disciples told the crowd the good news of Jesus.

All the people in the crowd understood the disciples’ words in their own language! Peter told them, “We are able to speak in many languages because the Holy Spirit has made it possible!”

Those who heard Peter’s words were baptized and welcomed as followers of Jesus - 3,000 people were baptized that day!

**Video**

**Group Reflection**
What did the followers of Jesus see that made them feel unsafe at first? How did you know the Holy Spirit had arrived? Could you see it? I wonder what the spirit of God felt/feels like. What could the followers do after the Holy Spirit moved through the room? What were they saying? I wonder what the people looking through the window were thinking about what they saw.

**Hymn Learn - Holy Spirit, Come**
Holy Spirit, come into our hearts today. Fill us with your love, and teach us how to pray.

**Prayers**
The group offers up petitions and thanksgivings.

**Prayer Song - God hears me**
God hears me when I pray. God hears me when I pray. Out of all the people in this great, big world, God hears me, God knows my voice, Yes, God hears me when I pray.
On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to Jesus’ disciples. Draw in the wind and flames of the Holy Spirit above the disciples’ heads.
Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21, 36-42

As the disciples were gathered in a house, the Holy Spirit blew through, filling the room. A flicker of flame appeared on each disciple, and they were able to speak in many foreign languages. All the people in Jerusalem could hear and understand the disciples in their own language. Peter declared the fulfillment of a prophecy and called everyone to repent and be baptized.

Take a Look
Here are some of the people and things in today’s story. What can your child tell you about them?

Pentecost has been celebrated as the church’s birthday since the second century. According to Jewish tradition, it was also the day that God gave Moses the law.

The Holy Spirit rested on each disciple, appearing as a flame, letting them speak and understand the crowd’s many languages.

The disciples waited in Jerusalem after Jesus’ ascension because he said they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit there (Acts 1:4-5).

About the Video
The disciples gathered in a home, and the Holy Spirit, blowing like a mighty wind, rushed through the house. The Holy Spirit appeared like flames over their heads, and the disciples could speak and understand many languages. A crowd gathered to listen to the disciples, and many were baptized.

- What did the Holy Spirit cause to happen?
- What do you think the flames felt like?
- What other languages have you heard?

Try This!
Do an Internet search to learn the word spirit in as many different languages as possible. Make a poster of all the words you find.

Prayer
Dear God, we celebrate your presence. Move through us, and with us, and in us, as we live together as your church. Happy Birthday to the church everywhere! Amen!