

KID'S

ministry



Community of Christ

UNITY THROUGH SPIRIT - Activities

PURPOSE:

- Know the story of Pentecost
- Develop some ideas about the Holy Spirit
- Understand how Pentecost lead to the birth of Christianity

ACTIVITY	TIME (EST.)	RESOURCES
Section 1: Introduction	2 minutes	
Section 2: Story of Pentecost	10 minutes	YouTube-equipment to be able to watch
Section 3: Pentecost Crossword	10 minutes	Option 1: 'Pentecost' (appendix) Option 2: 'Pentecost'- with words (appendix)
Option 4: Similes and Metaphors	5 minutes	
Section 5: Option 1 & 2: Pentecost Game	25 minutes OR	Both: Dice, cards (appendix), paper (yellow, orange, red), scissors, stapler, ping pong ball (orange) straw Option 1: Board (appendix), game pieces Option 2: Masking tape, signs, coloured party hats
Section 5: Option 3: Pentecost Activities	25 minutes	Hats: Paper (yellow, orange, red), scissors, stapler Spinners: Textas, pencil, (appendix), staples or tape Games: Ping pong balls (orange), play dough, straws
Option 6: Conclusion	5 minutes	

LEADING INSTRUCTIONS:

Read through materials before you start and ensure that everything is printed, and activities prepared ahead of time

Parts in bold are to tell or ask the group or children. Some answers are provided in case the group doesn't get there

Italics is instruction for the leader

Several activities have variations, do what is best for your group. There are two different Section 5. There is doubling up if you plan to do both.

Section 1

INTRODUCTION

Today is a big day in the life of Christian churches. It is essentially the birthday of Christianity as we know it. It is the day when the stories and teachings of Jesus went beyond the firsthand experience of Jesus. It is the day the disciples first started sharing the message of Jesus with new people from different lands. And from there it spread to the ends of the Earth.

Section 2

STORY OF PENTECOST

Video: Watch the first 2 minutes and 45 seconds of Bible Projects video “Acts Ch 1-7”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQhkWmFJKnA>

There was a lot going on in the video that may still need a little more unpacking. So we are going to go over it again, with your help.

The disciples of Jesus have been learning from the resurrected Jesus. What does resurrection mean?

To defy death. Jesus rose again after his crucifixion.

Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem till they receive a new kind of power. What was the power called?

The Holy Spirit.

This would enable them to be faithful witnesses into all the nations. Then Jesus ascended to heaven. Meaning he is no longer physically present with the disciples.

This brings us to Pentecost. There were many people in Jerusalem at that time because Jewish people from many different nations needed to visit the temple in Jerusalem for the celebration of Shavuot or the “Feast of Weeks”.

If there people are from many different countries, what would this likely mean about the languages and cultures present? (*They too would be different*). This is a very important point for us to remember as this is the grounds for the miracle of that day.

So Jesus' followers, also called _____ (*disciples*), are all together when they hear a loud _____ (*noise*) and see what looked like _____ (*fire*). The fire settled above people's heads but didn't burn like normal fire.

The fires on each person is important as they represent God's or the Holy Spirit's presence in each follower of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit or God is not just contained in an old building or box somewhere as was often represented in the Old Testament stories, but in the park.

What happened once the fires settle on the followers of Jesus? (This is our miracle).

They could speak other languages, ones they never knew before.

They went out and shared the gospel stories of Jesus with others.

But there were some in the crowd who tried to dismiss what was going on. That it wasn't something from God but that they were just drunk. So Peter debunked this and shared how the prophet Joel had said God would pour out God's Spirit on them. He also spoke of Jesus and his teachings. From this event, 1000's decided to follow Jesus and the Christian movement as we know it was birthed.



Section 3

PENTECOST CROSSWORD

ACTIVITY:

Complete the crosswords to test a little of the knowledge we have just learnt from the story of Pentecost.

Option 1: Crossword: "Pentecost"

Crossword puzzle in appendix

Option 2: Crossword: 'Pentecost' with words

This is the same crossword puzzle (also in appendix) but has the list of possible words for younger learners that might need a little extra help.



Section 4

SIMILES AND METAPHORS

DISCUSSION:

1. WHAT IS A SIMILE?

A figure of speech that involves making a comparison by likening one thing with something of a different kind. 'She is as brave as a lion.'

2. WHAT IS A METAPHOR?

A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object which it is not. He is the black sheep of the family.

Often writers in the bible were trying to write about hard concepts for us to understand or see. Jesus would often use parables to make a point with a story. Some writers used similes and metaphors. When John says the Spirit came as fire, or when the Spirit descended as a dove at the baptism of Jesus. They are using metaphors and similes to help describe the Holy Spirit, which can be very difficult to describe.

3. WHAT METAPHORS OR SIMILES COULD WE USE TO DESCRIBE THE HOLY SPIRIT? (Recognising that all metaphors have their limits.) HOW DOES THIS APPLY?

Suggestions: breeze, water



Section 5

PENTECOST GAME

ACTIVITY:

This is a board game that uses the experience of Pentecost as its bases. Print needed cards from the Appendix. Recommend printing the board on an A3 size for Option 1.

Rules of the game: Player rolls the die and moves that number of squares. If they land on a card square, the player on the right takes a card and reads it to the player in play. If they get it correct or complete the task before their next turn they move one square forward. If they don't get the question correct, they stay in the same place and next turn a new card is selected. The winner is the person to land on the middle square on the value of their roll.

Option 1: (2- 8 players max)

Play as individual players. Print out the board and everyone gets a game piece on the board. If there are more than 8 players have two smaller games going at the same time.

Option 2: (large groups)

Use masking tape to create the board on the floor. Split into 3 or 4 teams, have one person be the game piece (identified by different party hats). Cards can be answered after team discussion but the answer given by the 'marker' is the team answer. Tasks can be completed by any team member.

Section 5 PENTECOST ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY:

Option 3:

Hats: Pentecost hats or headbands

Using red, yellow and orange paper make hats/headbands that incorporate the flames of Pentecost.

Activity: Winds of Pentecost

Using a straw to blow a ping pong ball from one side of the room to the other. This can be set up as a relay if desired.

Variation: make a swirl out of play dough on a flat surface, participants need to use their straw to blow the ball into and out of the swirl.

Spinners:

Use the templates in the appendix. On one side at the top draw a flame, on the other side below where the flame sits draw a disciple. Fold along the dotted line. Stick a round stick on the inside behind the flame. Stick along the top edge and the other open side. When the stick is rolled between palms, the flame should appear above the head of the disciple.

A large orange circular graphic on the left side of the page, partially cut off by the edge. It contains the text 'Section 6' in white.

Section 6

CONCLUSION

When the Spirit touched the Disciples, it gave them courage to share the story of Jesus with others.

DISCUSSION:

1. HOW DO YOU SHARE JESUS' STORY AND MESSAGE WITH OTHERS?

2. WHO COULD YOU SHARE WITH?

CLOSE IN PRAYER:

Mighty God,

We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. May it move amongst us as it did the disciples that first day. May it also give us courage to step out in your name, to share Jesus' message and teachings with others. May we share the joy we have with you in our lives with all those we encounter.

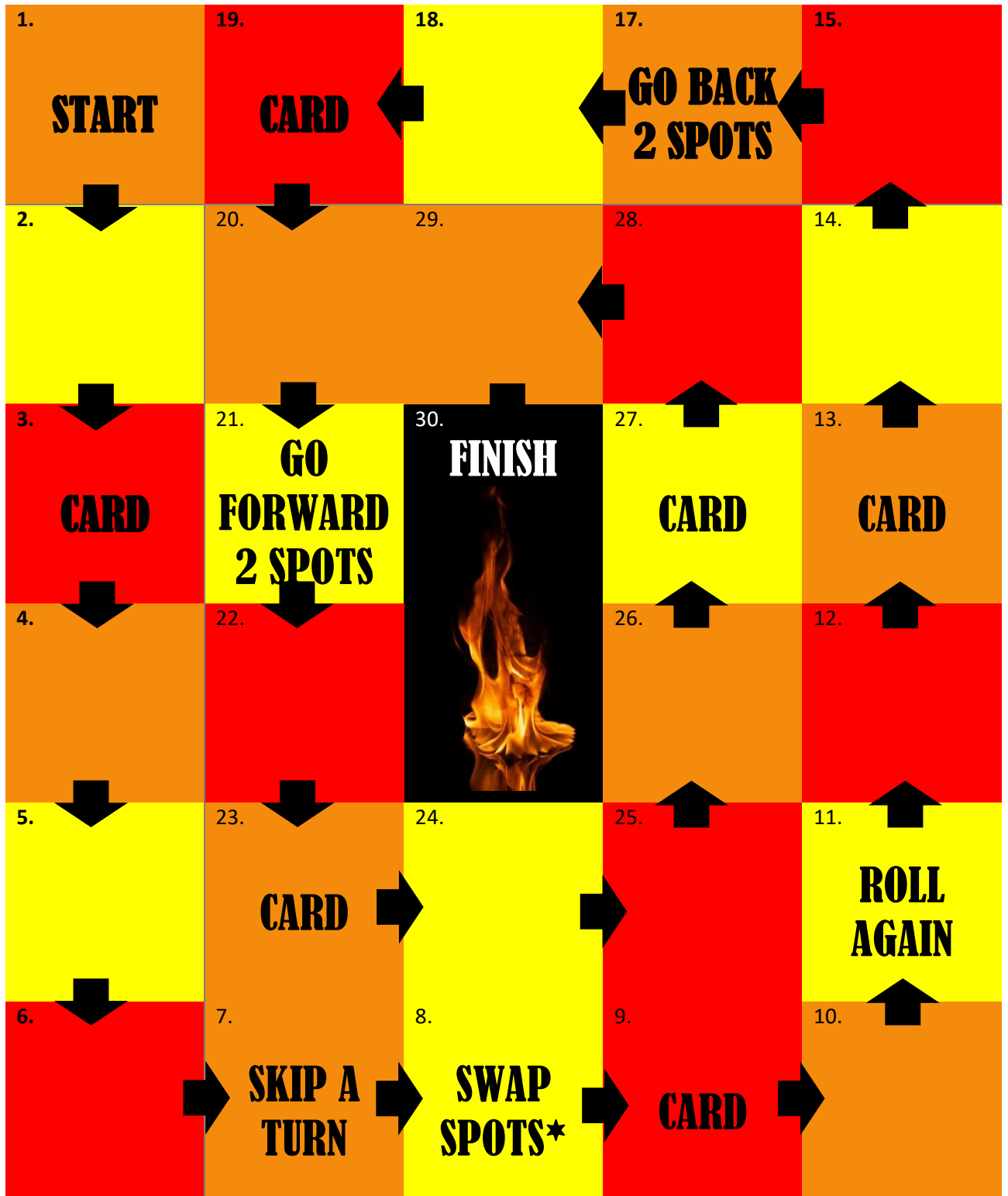
Amen

PENTECOST GAME- CARDS

<p>True or False</p> <p>On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came as a whisper (F)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>The Holy Spirit helped the disciples to speak other languages (T)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>The symbol of the Holy Spirit is an angel (F)</p>
<p>True or False</p> <p>Everyone was in Jerusalem to celebrate Christmas (F)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit make up the trinity (T)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>Acts contains stories of how the disciples grew the 'church' (T)</p>
<p>True or False</p> <p>The Holy Spirit moves amongst our everyday lives (T)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>Only very special people receive the Spirit (F)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>In Community of Christ we baptise by both water and spirit (T)</p>
<p>True or False</p> <p>The Holy Spirit only lives in church buildings (F)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>The Holy Spirit can be very hard to describe (T)</p>	<p>True or False</p> <p>To follow Jesus' teachings is to be a disciples (T)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">True or False</p> <p style="text-align: center;">At Pentecost people suffered very bad burns (F)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">True or False</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Baptism by Spirit in the Community of Christ is called Confirmation (T)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">True or False</p> <p style="text-align: center;">When Peter shared about Jesus, 1000's became followers (T)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Share</p> <p style="text-align: center;">When have you felt the Holy Spirit move in your life or ask someone else to share their experience</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Share</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How have you communicated with someone when you didn't speak the same language</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Task</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Say anything in a different language</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Task</p> <p style="text-align: center;">How would you tell someone who Jesus is?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Task</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Draw a dove</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Task</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Create a hat of fire and wear it for the remainder of the game</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Task</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Blow the fire (ping pong ball) from one side of the room to the other</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Task</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What is a metaphor you could use to describe the Holy Spirit</p>

PENTECOST GAME



* Swap spots with any other player

CARD

CARD

CARD

CARD

CARD

CARD

SKIP A

TURN

START

SWAP

SPOTS

FINISH

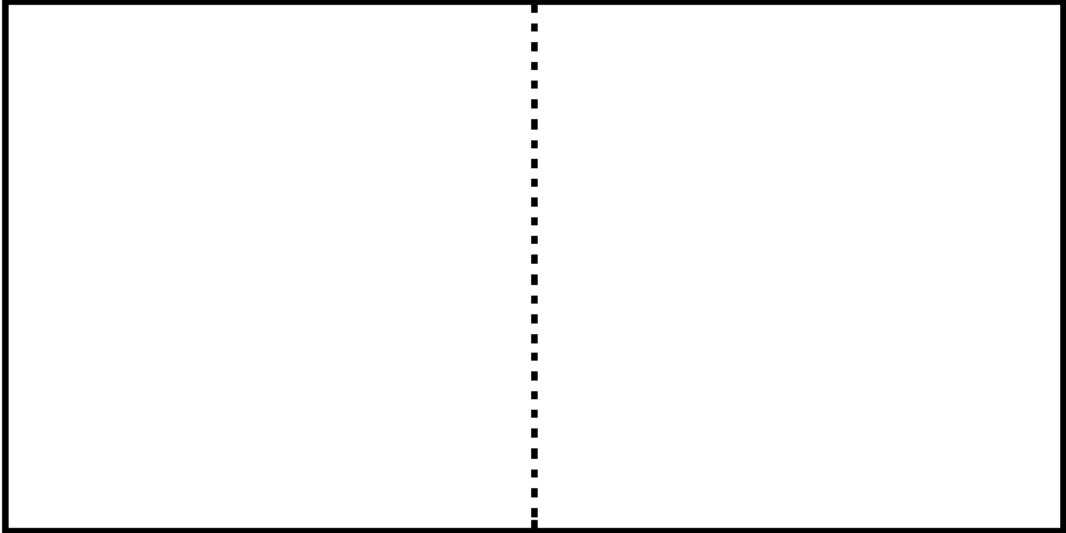
ROLL

AGAIN

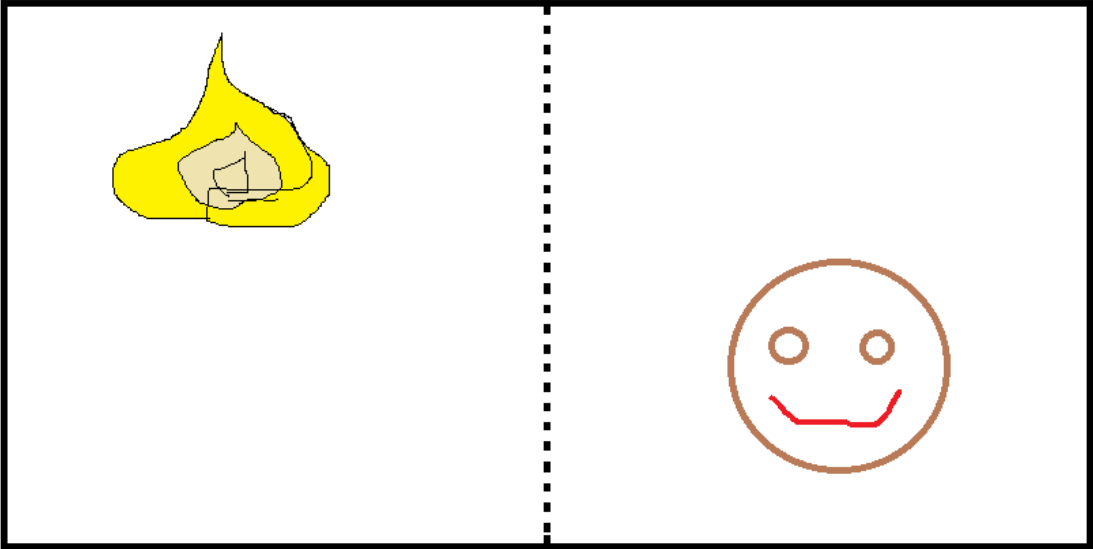
**GO
FORWARD 2
SPOTS**

**GO BACK 2
SPOTS**

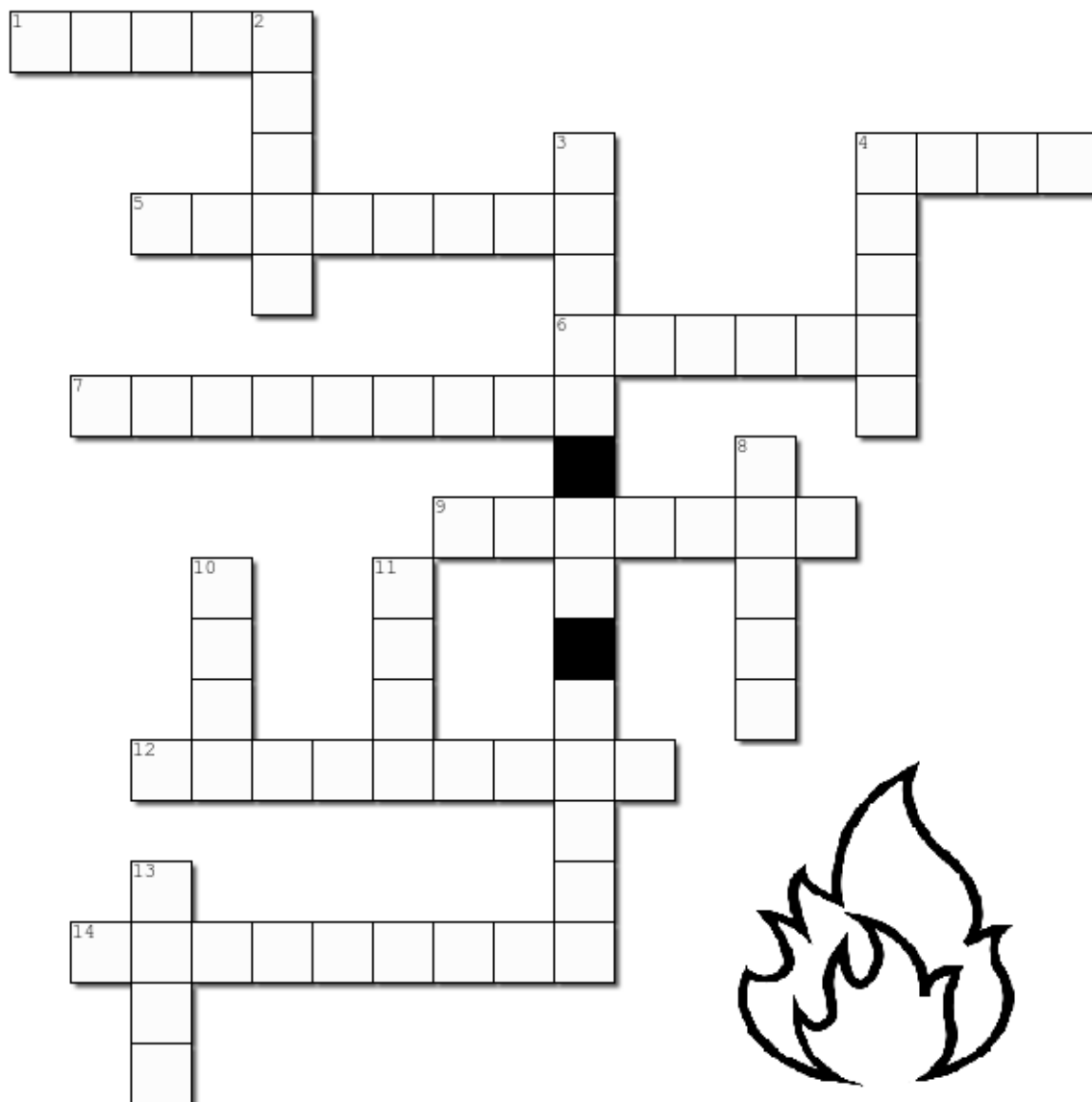
Pentecost Spinner



Example:



PENTECOST



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

FIFTY

DISCIPLES

PROPHET

FEAST OF WEEKS

LANGUAGE

SPIRIT

JESUS

PENTECOST

FIRE

SOUND

DOVE

WIND

JERUSALEM

ACTS

PETER

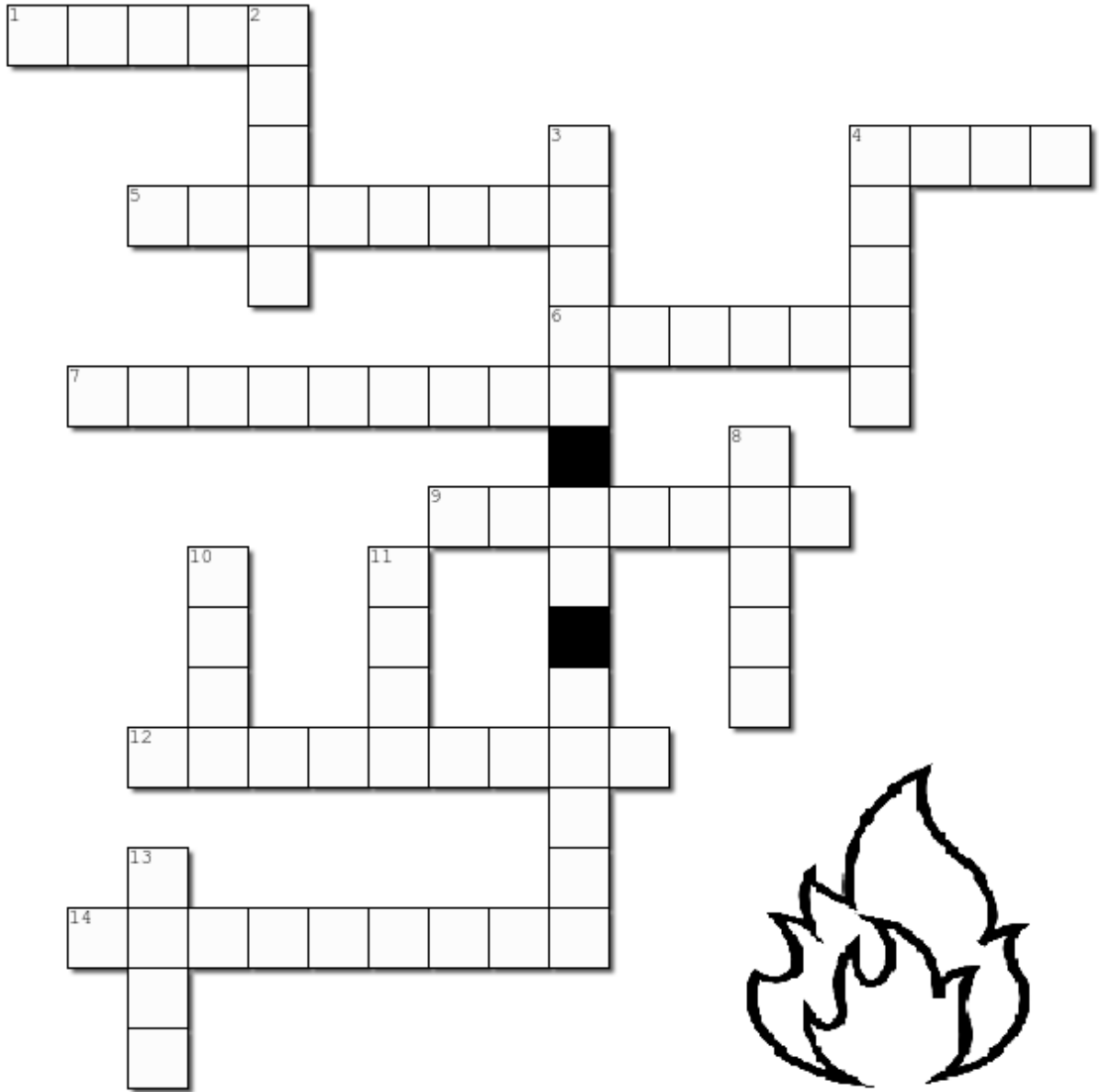
Across

1. Who had told the disciples to expect the Holy Spirit
4. What the spirit looked like
5. Means of communication often used by people of the same country
6. A being that can not be seen, like a ghost
7. The day the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples
9. Person who sees the future
12. The town where they all were
14. Followers of Jesus

Down

2. Something that can be heard
3. Reason so many people were in town
4. The number of days after Easter till Pentecost is celebrated
8. Who addressed the crowds
10. What bird is commonly used to represent the Holy Spirit?
11. Where the story of Pentecost can be found
13. Blowing air

PENTECOST



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

1. Who had told the disciples to expect the Holy Spirit
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