

## Pentecost prayer & reflection space activities

During your time within the Prayer and Reflection Space the chances are that you will, at some point, have to explain one or more of the prayer and reflection activities. At each activity, there will be a short instruction card which explains the purpose of the activity. The text for these instruction cards has been included below so that you will have an idea of the different activities before you arrive. Please do not feel that you have to learn these, though!

During each session, you will be stationed at a particular prayer and reflection zone. As each group is directed towards you by the Prayer and Reflection Space leader, you will need to welcome them (ask their names) and encourage them to explore the activity. Depending on the age and ability of the students you may need to explain the activity to them again or help them by scribing their response to an activity. We would always encourage the Prayer and Reflection Space volunteers to interact with students as much as they think is necessary. Some students may want to quietly explore the activity by themselves, whilst others may be happy to just chat with you for the whole time, it is important that they are made to feel welcome in doing either. When talking with the students please use the language '*Many Christians believe...*' or '*As a Christian I believe...*'. **Do not** pray with individual students or do any kind of corporate group prayer.

### 1) Fire

In the Bible it says that when the Holy Spirit came all of the disciples had tongues of fire on top of their heads!

One of the reasons the Holy Spirit came down was to help the disciples tell everyone in the whole world about Jesus. Maybe you know someone that lives in the world that you would like to pray for or think about?

**If you would like to you can take one of the scratch card flames and scratch out either a prayer or thought for that person, or scratch out a picture of them.**

Or

Christians believe that the Holy Spirit brings fire, energy and passion to places and people all over our world.

**Take a look at our world and think about people and places around you, where you think they might need help. You can write a prayer, thought or wish onto the flame and put it on the place or places you would like God's spirit to help.**

You could think about or pray for:

1. Friends and Family near where you live and in other countries.
2. Your school
3. Teachers
4. Local places like the shops or your local church.
5. Events or people or places you have heard about around the world where people might need help.

### 2) Water

Just like water brings life to plants that are dying, Christians believe that the Holy Spirit can make us feel more alive when we are feeling sad about things.

Is there something that you feel sad about in life and would like to feel happy about?

All of us have done things we regret, or wish we could change.

"I wish I hadn't...", "I'm sorry I...", "I didn't mean to..." How would you finish these sentences?

**Write or draw the things you are sad about or want to say sorry for onto the paper and then put the paper in the water and watch what you have written disappear. Christians believe God can take all the things you have done wrong and forgive you, or help you when you feel sad about something.**

Or

The Holy Spirit is sometimes symbolised by water, reflecting how Christians believe the Holy Spirit washes away the bad stuff that they've done.

Maybe you've done something you regret?

Whether you're a Christian or not, it might help to acknowledge some of those things that you've done to try and help you move on from it.

**Either as a prayer or a reflection, write down something that you're sorry for onto some acetate paper, wash it off in the water and then hang it on the cross.**

### 3) Oil

In the Bible oil is used to anoint a person, which basically means to show that they are chosen to do something.

Sometimes you might feel that you want to do something, but can't because you get worried about things getting in the way.

**Take a calm jar and an MP3 player and listen to some music. As you watch the glitters swirl around and begin to settle, think about your worries settling. You might want to ask God to help you.**

Or

Christians believe that God is with us all the time.

**Take a seat on a cushion or stand if you prefer, make yourself comfortable and close your eyes if you would like to.**

**Wait for the scent of the perfumed oil to reach you. It is invisible but we sense its presence with us. You might want to thank God that he is always with us through his spirit, even though we can't see him with our eyes.**

### 4) Dove

In the Bible, it says that the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. It also says in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is a gift, a gift that Christians are thankful for.

**If you'd like to, take some of the play dough and make something that you'd like to say thank you for.**

**Or, if you'd prefer, you might like to make a dove out of the play dough, as a way of saying thank you to God for the Holy Spirit.**

### 5) Wind

God's Spirit can give hope to something that seems difficult or hope when you feel sad.

What's on your mind? What are you worried about?

**Write or draw the things you would like to ask God for on post it notes and stick them on the bubble tube.**

The bubbles going up the tube in the middle here represent all our prayers going to God, who hears all of them.

Or

The Holy Spirit is sometimes symbolised with wind - we can't see it, but we can feel it and we can see the effect it has.

When the Holy Spirit came down on the disciples at Pentecost it helped them to overcome their fears and be brave. Is there something you would like to ask for help with?

**If you would like to, take one of the paper circles and write something that you would like help with as a thought or a prayer. Then cut out a spiral mobile that can be hung from the ceiling, and you can watch the wind blow through it.**