

40 Days of Prayer for Kids

This guide is provided to enable elementary age children's participation in the "40 Days of Preparation" initiative of the Oklahoma Conference, United Methodist Church. For 40 days prior to 2008 Charge Conferences in local churches, all members are asked to be intentional about lifting the church and its leaders in prayer, reading Scripture to hear God's word for the church today, and to reflect on the response the local church makes to this Word. Parental assistance and participation will be required from time to time. The Contemporary English Version of the Bible (American Bible Society) is the translation used for this study.

Day 40

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

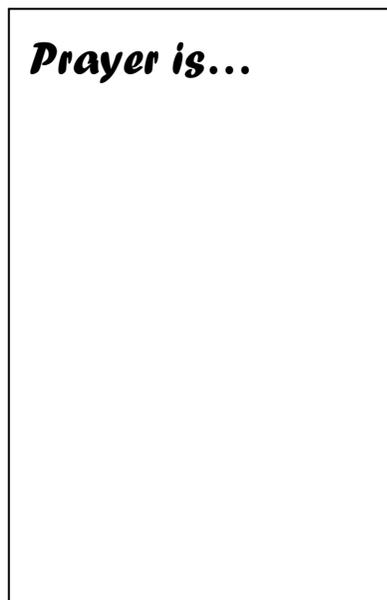
Read: I Samuel 3:4b and 10b ("*b*" means the second part or half of the verse)

Think about: What are we doing?

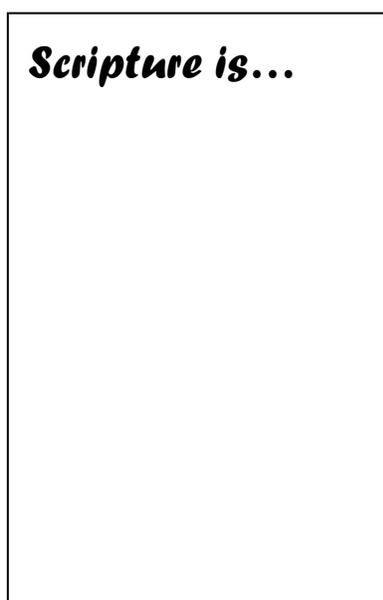
For "40 days" (which in "Bible-speak" means "a long, long time") before "Charge Conference" (a big church meeting where everything your church has done for the past year is reported) everyone in your church is being asked to 1) read the Bible, 2) meditate (think about), and 3) pray for your church, its leaders, and what God wants your church to be doing.

Today we start with a real basic question: What is "prayer?" "Scripture?" "Meditation?" In the space below write or draw a picture of your answer.

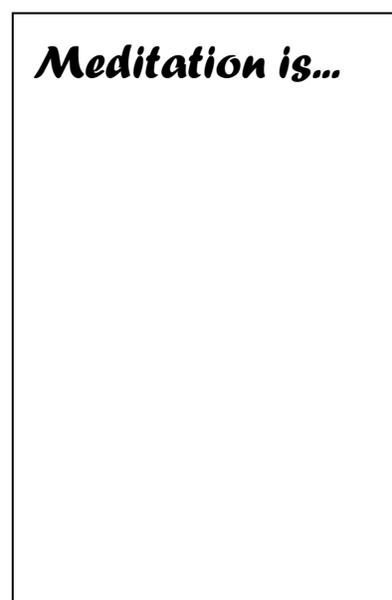
Prayer is...



Scripture is...



Meditation is...



Day 39

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

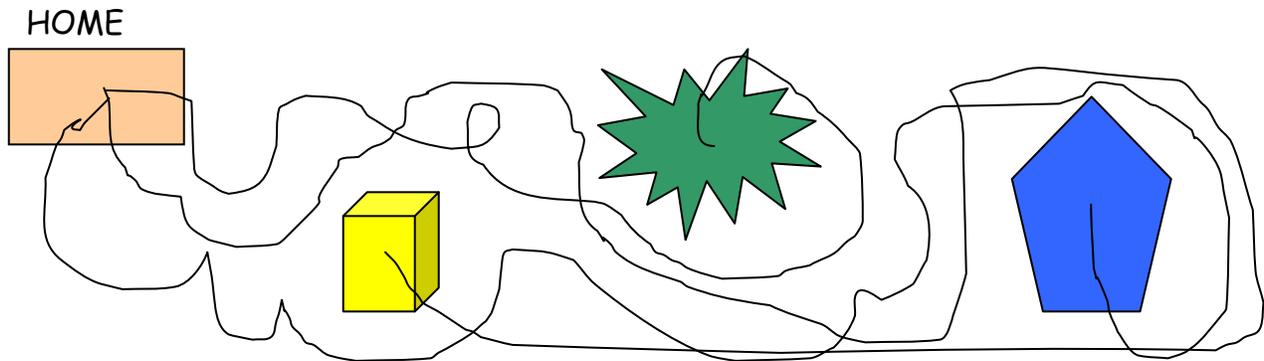
Read: Matthew 28:18-19a ("*a*" means the first part or half of the verse)

Think about: GO...

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he gave instructions (*or orders*) to his followers that today we call the "Great Commission." This is still considered one of the most important things Jesus wants his followers, Christians, to do.

What did Jesus tell his followers to do?

Where do you think God wants you to GO to make disciples? Name three places on the map then find you way there.



Day 38

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

Read: Matthew 28:19a, b

Think about: PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONS...

Do you know any people from "other nations?" Who?

Do you know people who are "different" than you? Who? How are they different?

Do you think God loves them the way you are loved?

Day 37

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

Read: Matthew 28:19a-b

Think about: MAKE DISCIPLES...

If you think about "making disciples" like you make a cake, what kinds of ingredients should be put together to create the best batter?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



Day 36

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

Read: Matthew 28:19c

Think about: BAPTIZE THEM...

Have you been baptized?

Ask an adult in your family to tell you about your baptism. Maybe they can show you pictures, a certificate, or a special memento of that special day.

What do you think baptism means?

After you've written your answer, ask other adults in your family what they think.

Day 35

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

Read: Matthew 28:20a

Think about: TEACH THEM...

Who is your favorite teacher? Why?

Do you ever teach anyone anything? What?

What have you learned about living in a way that makes God happy?

How could you teach others these things?

Day 34

Pray: Dear God, Open my eyes and open my heart to know you and your will. Amen

Read: Matthew 28:20b

Think about: I WILL BE WITH YOU...

Jesus makes a promise to go along with his "order" (*from Day 39*). What is that promise?

Think about your day today (*or yesterday*). When were you aware of Jesus being with you? How did that make you feel?



Day 33

Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:4

Think about: A BODY...

How many parts of the BODY can you find in this word search? _____

Arm	S H I N Q S C F T Y E J M K K C E N	Hand
Eye	L K A J H G D S N I A R B A W R T I	Bones
Ear	Z X C I V B H N O M R W A S H A N D	Liver
Head	Q E N E R V E O S Q H E A R T P E L	Lips
Hair	Y R H K D J G H E L M B T H I G H C	Neck
Back	S O C E W R M L P U T G O B V F R W	Lung
Foot	N E P Q A O O F O Z E Y E J G H A N	Nose
Shin	N P N O S D U D X L W E T T O R P L	Elbow
Brain	T G P O K E T O B X A O E Q M T K I	Thigh
Heart	W N T R B B H O A P O S E P H K O V	Toe
Leg	S U K I L S W Y C F G T N O S A Z E	Knee
Mouth	I L I P S K O T K S N I K S J H W R	Skin
	F E G T U V W U M O R H Y X P I S L	

Day 32

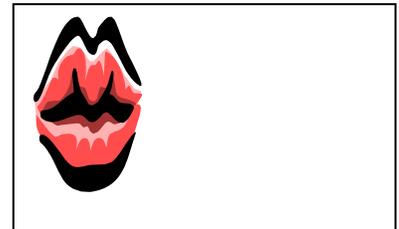
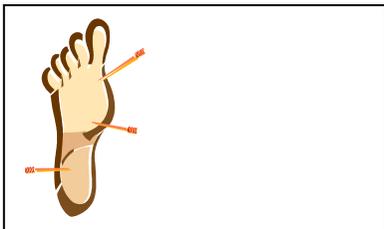
Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:5a,b,c

Think about: THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH US...

People talk about the church being "the Body of Christ" with Jesus at its "head." Jesus was created "fully human" which means his body had all the parts our bodies have, and that he thought, felt and did everything we can do with our bodies.

What do you think it would be like to be part of Jesus' body? His foot? His hand? His mouth? Give your answer below.



Day 31

Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:5d

Think about: ...PART OF ONE ANOTHER

As Christians we are connected to each other as well as to Christ. Do you think this is important? Why?

Imagine what it would be like if your hand, for example, was no longer connected to your body? How would you brush your teeth? Shoot hoops? Write a note?

Jesus knew people needed each other just as we need all of our body parts. Who would you miss being connected to?

Day 30

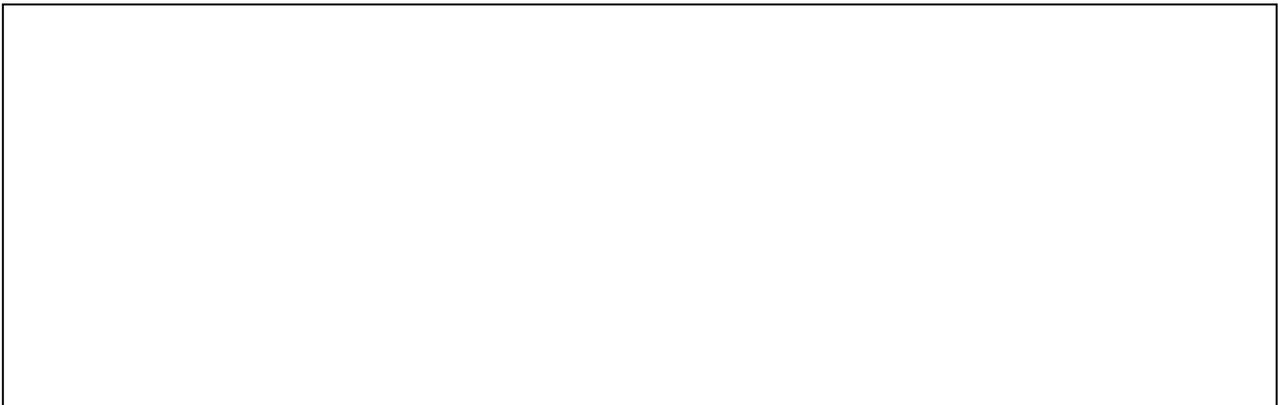
Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:6a

Think about: DIFFERENT GIFTS...

Why do you think God gives us different gifts to use?

What would happen if every person on your baseball team was only good at batting and only had a bat to use in a ballgame? Draw a picture below of what a game like that might look like! Thank God for differences!



Day 29

Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:6

Think about: PROPHECY...

"Prophecy" is the first spiritual gift mentioned in this passage. What do you think this word means? Talk about this with a grown-up and write your definition here.

This gift is to be used "according to the amount of faith" a person has - the greater the faith the greater the message. What is the greatest message you can remember hearing?

Day 28

Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:7-8

Think about: MORE GIFTS...

This passage names other gifts God gives. Can you unscramble the words on the left and match the ending of each phrase to the word(s) on the right.

EXAMPLE: If we can phetrosy, we should... —————> ...do it according to the amount of faith we have.
(prophecy)

If we can verse others, we should... ...do our best.

If we can achet, we should... ...do it cheerfully.

If we can agecouren others, we should... ...be generous.

If we can vige, we should... ...serve.

If we are serdeal, we should... ...encourage them.

If we are odgo to others, we should... ...teach.

Day 27

Pray: Dear God, Speak to me and help me understand. Amen

Read: Romans 12:6b-8

Think about: WHO HAS GIFTS...

There are people in your church today who have gifts from God. Who can you think of that do these things? Talk to an adult in your family and write their names in here.

Prophecy (preach) _____

Serve others _____

Teach _____

Encourage others _____

Give _____

Lead _____

Do good _____

Below draw the figure of a body (like a big gingerbread cut-out cookie). Make Jesus Christ the head of the body. Write in the names of the people you listed above on different parts of this body. Where do you fit in this body? What are your special gifts?

Day 26

Pray: Dear God, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

Read: Matthew 25:14

Think about: WHO WILL YOU TRUST?

Discuss these questions with a grown-up:

- Have you and your family ever gone away for a long time? Where did you go?
- Is there something special you had to leave behind while you were gone? A pet? Your mother's garden or houseplants? The mail?
- What did you and/or your parents do to see that these things were cared for while you were gone?
- Who did you TRUST to take care of your treasures?
- What would a wealthy man leave behind when he went out of town?
- Who would he trust?

Day 25

Pray: Dear God, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

Read: Matthew 25:15

Think about: WHO CAN DO IT?

* Why is it important to know what a person can or can't do before you ask them to do something for you?

* What would happen if someone asked you to build a spaceship to take you to Mars? Do you know how to do that? What would you do?

* Why did the man in the Bible story give his servants

Draw a picture of your spaceship:

Day 24

Pray: Dear God, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

Read: Matthew 25:16-17

Think about: BEING FAITHFUL AND...

Lots of words can be used to describe the servants in this reading. Can you figure out these three?

re - spon - si -  = _____

ho -  = _____

w -  - s = _____

Do you think these words describe these two servants? Why?

Day 23

Pray: Dear God, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

Read: Matthew 25:18

Think about: BURYING TREASURE

Why do you think this servant buried his master's money?

Do the words you figured out yesterday describe this servant? Why?

How do you think the master felt about what this servant did?

How would you feel?

Day 22

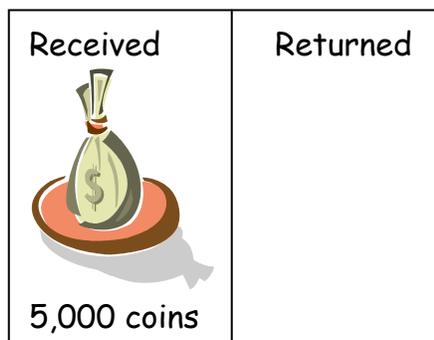
Pray: Dear God, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

Read: Matthew 25:19-23

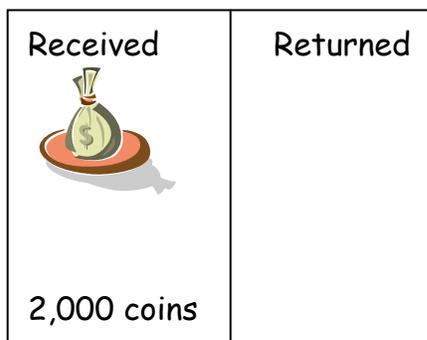
Think about: MAKING THINGS GROW

Below are pictures of what the master gave each servant. In the blank square, draw a picture of what the servants gave back to the master.

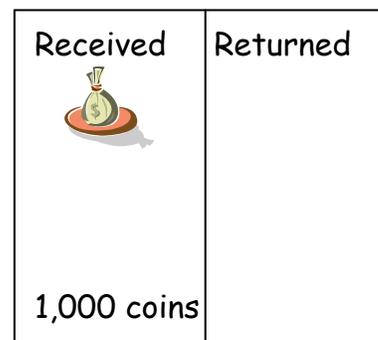
Servant #1



Servant #2



Servant #3



Do you think God has given you something to grow and return in faith?

Day 21

Pray: Dear God, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

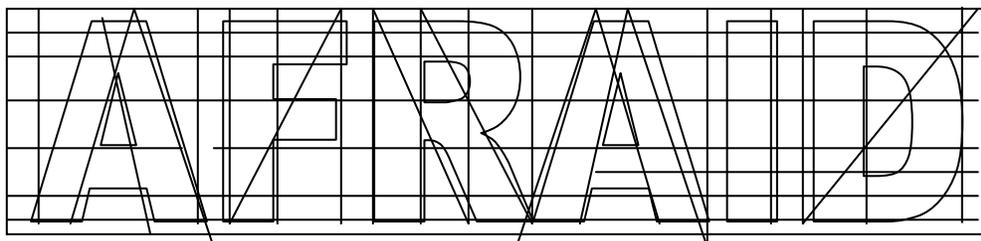
Read: Matthew 25:24-25

Think about: BEING AFRAID

Why do you think the third servant buried the coins he was given? (hint: verse 25)

HE WAS...

(color in the word you see in the box)



Why do you think he felt this way? (hint: verse 24)

Day 20

Pray: Dear *God*, you give us all gifts and responsibilities. Help us know how to use them faithfully. Amen

Read: Matthew 25:26-30

Think about: CONSEQUENCES

How do you think the master felt about what the third servant did with his coins?

What were the consequences for what the third servant did?

What were the consequences for what the first and second servant did?

In the space below draw a picture of the scene described in verses 28 through 30.



Day 19

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:31a

Think about: STORIES

Jesus loves stories. He told his disciples stories to help them learn and remember things, but sometimes they were hard to understand.

Do you like stories?

What is your favorite story?

Can you think of a story that taught you something? What was the name of the story? What did you learn from it?



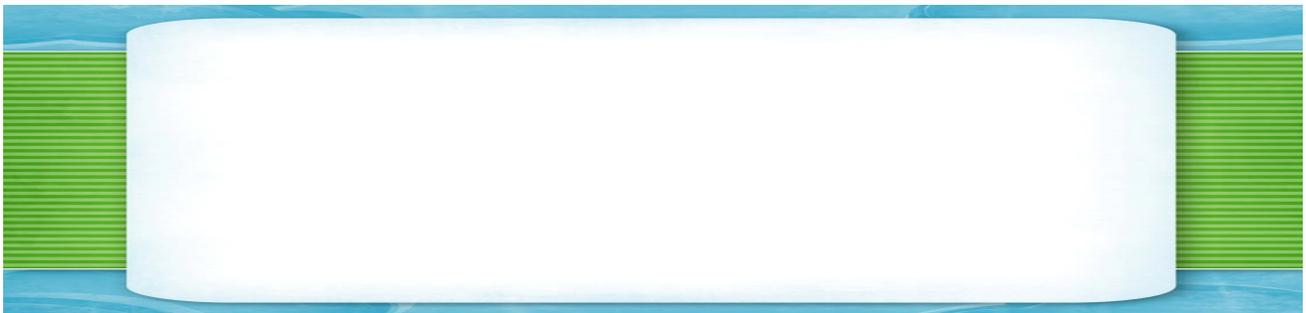
Day 18

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:31b

Think about: KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

The Kingdom of Heaven is a place where everyone does everything God wants them to do. Some people think of it as the "Peaceable Kingdom" or like the "Garden of Eden" once was. What do you think the most wonderful, peaceful place in creation would be like? Describe or draw a picture of your ideas below.

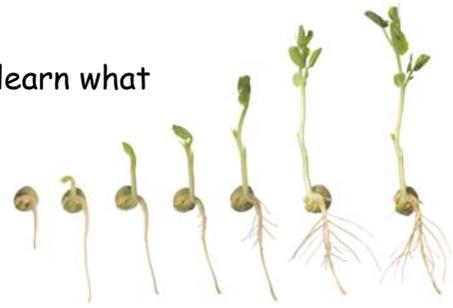


Day 17

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:31c

Think about: PLANTING and GROWING



Have you ever planted a seed? Have you watched it sprout and grow?

If you haven't, try sprouting a large seed in a clear plastic cup. Press the seed against the side of the cup then fill the cup with dirt. Keep it moist until you see roots and top sprout.

When a seed is planted in the dirt, or a field, we can't see it sprout or grow but it does anyway.

- Can a story be like a seed?
- When we hear a story is it like planting a seed in our minds?

The story itself may not change and grow, but we change and grow because we now know the story.

Day 16

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:32a

Think about: BEING SMALL

Has anyone ever told you that "you're too small!"? How did that make you feel?

Have you ever found that being small is really a good thing? How did that make you feel?

In this story, the mustard seed is tiny - not much bigger than a pencil dot on a piece of paper. But being so small does not mean the mustard seed is useless. The farmer has a use for it. He needs what it produces, so he plants it.

No matter how small, God needs us all!

Day 15

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:32b

Think about: GROWING LARGE

What does it take for a plant to grow large?

What does it take for people's bodies to grow large? Their minds? Their hearts?

What do you think God wants to see grow?



Day 14

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:32b

Think about: BECOMING A TREE

Is being a "tree" a good thing? Why?

The mustard seed planted in the farmer's garden wasn't really a tree, but it was as big as a tree. What do you think the farmer thought about this? Was he happy or sad? Why?

Day 13

Pray: Dear God, you teach us through stories. Help us learn what you want from the stories we hear. Amen

Read: Matthew 13:32c

Think about: NESTING BIRDS

What do you think birds look for when they want to build a nest for laying eggs? Circle the things below that you think they need.

- * Cable hook-up
- * Tall tree
- * Source of water
- * Running water
- * A nice bird feeder
- * Grass and twigs for nest building
- * One little branch
- * Fruit and berries
- * Lots of leafy branches to hid in
- * Colorful ribbons
- * Watch dogs
- * Nuts
- * Worms and bugs
- * A heated bird bath

All of these necessary items add up to a safe and secure place to raise baby birds. A bush as big as a tree is good for providing these things - even when it comes from the tiniest of seeds!



Day 12

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:1

Think about: PENTECOST

What is **Pentecost**? Unscramble the words below to find the definition.

Pentecost. A _____ festival that came _____.
(s h e w i J) (t i f f y)

days after _____ and celebrated the _____.
(s P a v o s e r) (t h e w a)

harvest. Jews later celebrated _____ as the time when
(s P e e n t c o t)

they were given the Law of _____.
(s e M o s)

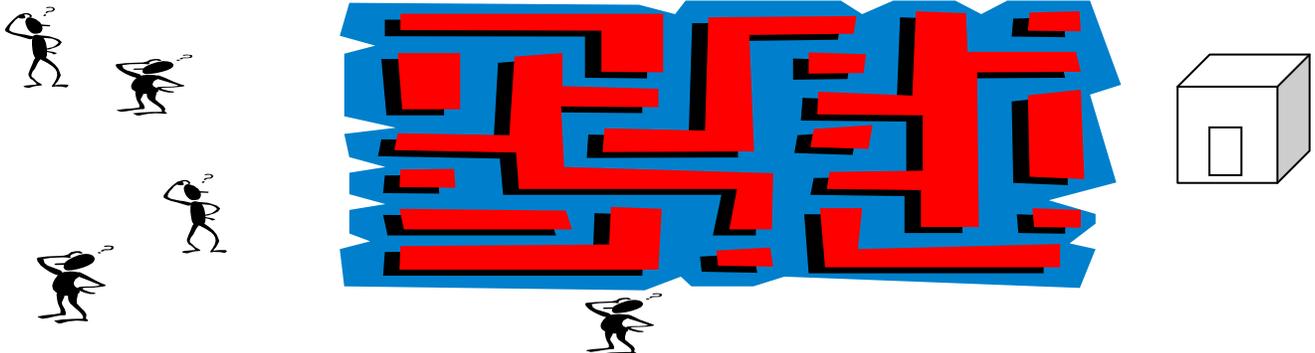
Day 11

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:1

Think about: BEING TOGETHER

Can you help these people find their way to be together in one place?



Day 10

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:2

Think about: A MIGHTY WIND

Find a grown-up and talk about these questions together.

What is the loudest noise you've ever heard?

Can you imagine a roaring noise - like being in the middle of a tornado or hurricane - right in your own house? Sit still, close your eyes, and try to imagine.

How would you feel? Do you think Jesus' friends felt this way, too?

What do you think they wanted to do?

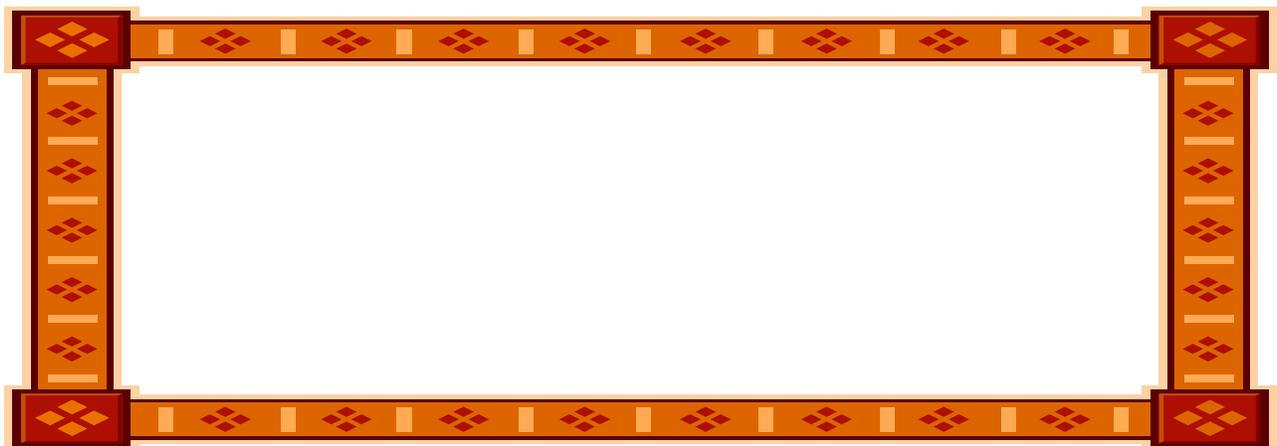
Day 9

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:3

Think about: FIREY TONGUES

First the wind - then the fire. Draw a picture of what this might have looked like below.



Day 8

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:4a

Think about: CONTROL

If God's Holy Spirit took control of YOU, what would you do? Circle pictures below showing what you think the Holy Spirit would lead you to do.



Day 7

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:4b

Think about: LANGUAGES

What language - or languages - do you speak?

It took you two or three years to learn enough to tell people what you wanted or needed. You are still learning more and more words today. On Pentecost Jesus' followers could speak a new language in an instant! We do not understand how they could do this - it was just something the Holy Spirit did for the glory of God.

If you had been with Jesus' followers at that time, what would you think? How would you feel?

Share your thoughts with a grown-up at your house.

Day 6

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:5-6

Think about: SURPRISE

What is the biggest surprise you ever had?

Was it a good surprise or a bad surprise?



Do you think hearing strangers speak your language was a good or bad surprise for the Jews living in Jerusalem?

What kind of surprise would it be to you if you went to the moon and found that someone there spoke your language?

Day 5

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:5-8

Think about: QUESTIONS

What do these verses say about how the Jerusalem Jews felt? They were...

* E ® X ☠ C γ I ✌ T ☺ E ⚙ D ❖ ∞ A ♪ N ⌚ D % £ A ♣ M ⊗ A ∞ Z Ψ E ≅ D

(Mark out the symbols below to read the words the letters spell.)

In addition to these feelings, the people also had...

_____ **ONQUITES S**

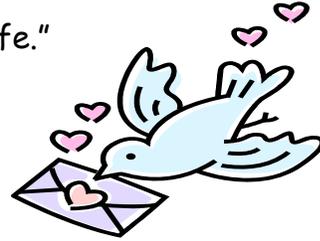
I wonder what you would ask...

Day 4

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life."
Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:9-11b

Think about: BIRTH or CHOICE



Did you have a choice about the parents you have or the family you belong to?

Usually parents have children by birth although some parents are able to make a choice if they adopt a child. In the end it really doesn't matter to the parent. They have a child, and they love that child no matter who the birth parents were. God is like that, too. No matter where a person comes from or who their parents are, God loves them all the same.

The Jews in Jerusalem believed that something very special had happened to them - whether they were Jewish by birth or by choice - that allowed all of them to experience the gift of hearing Jesus' followers words. This was a sign to them of God's love for everyone.

Day 3

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:11

Think about: WONDERFUL THINGS

The Holy Spirit gave the gift of speaking in different languages to Jesus' followers for a special reason: So they could tell of all the WONDERFUL THINGS God has done. What wonderful things God does could you tell others about?



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Day 2

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life."
Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:12

Think about: BEING CONFUSED



Sometimes wonderful surprises are exciting. Sometimes they amaze us. But sometimes they can also be CONFUSING! Find a grown-up and talk about what "confusing" means.

Share with each other times when you have been confused about something. Do you think this is like what the Jews of Jerusalem felt?

Day 1

Pray: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill us with God's "breath of life." Help us live faithfully as God's people. Amen

Read: Acts 2:12

Think about: "WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?"



For 40 DAYS you have PRAYED, READ the Bible, and MEDITATED on (thought about) lots of things. Others have done the same thing. Today people will meet to discuss what they discovered about what God wants your church to be doing. If you have ideas, you can share them, too.

How do you think your church can:

- 1) Grow to be closer to God?
- 2) Share what God has done in your community?

How can people in your church:

- 1) Learn to be more like Jesus?
- 2) Serve others in your community?