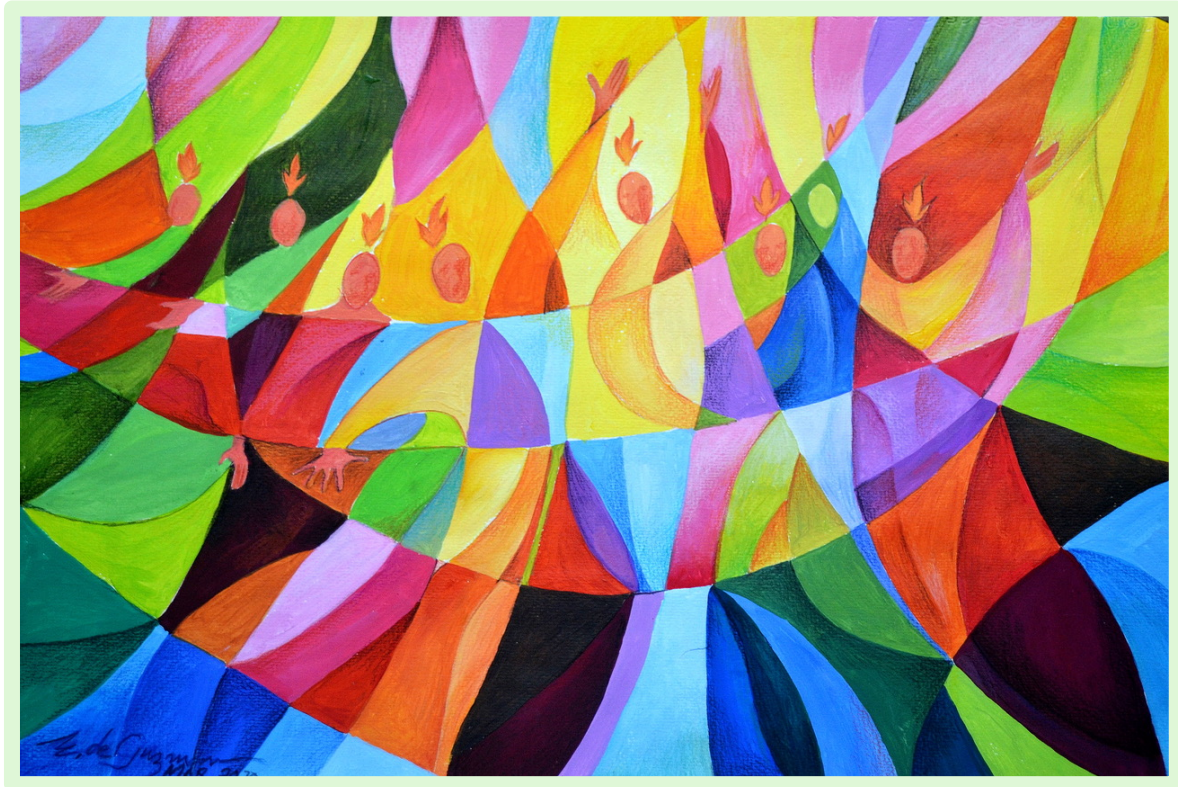


Journey Into Pentecost With Children

Reflections through Art



Printed with permission © Edgardo De Guzman

Inspired by a painting from the Philippine artist Edgardo de Guzman, this pack offers children and their families new and creative ways to engage with the story of Pentecost.

Written by Shahne Vickery, author of *Experience Easter, Roots and Fruits* and many other popular collective worship titles for schools.

THE STORY: from Acts Chapter 2

The great day of Pentecost had arrived! Crowds of people from all over the Roman Empire had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the festival. Many languages were being spoken as friends met one another to catch up with news and share stories from the past year.

The disciples were gathered in Jerusalem too, but they were *not* milling around in the crowds. They were together in the upper room of a house, unsure about what the future would hold for them now that Jesus had gone back to heaven. As they waited the disciples prayed, trusting the promise that Jesus had given them; the promise of God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

Suddenly, without warning, the whole house began to shake. A mighty rushing wind swept down from the sky, swirling around every room and whistling through the open windows. The disciples were astonished and had no idea what was happening.

Then, what seemed like flames of fire separated above them and came to rest over their heads.

As they tumbled outside into the streets the disciples found that they could speak in other languages, languages that they had never learnt! A crowd quickly gathered. The people were amazed that, wherever they had come from, they could hear and understand the disciples praising God for all he had done in their *own* language!

Peter stood up and spoke to everyone with a new confidence and authority. "Our friend Jesus was crucified," he told his astonished listeners, "but God has raised him from the dead so that all who put their trust in him will have their sins forgiven and have a new life, a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is God's promise to you and your children and to all who will choose to turn to God and believe."

That day, over 3000 people joined the disciples in following Jesus.

LOOKING CAREFULLY AT THE PAINTING

Movement: When the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, the Bible tells us it felt like a mighty rushing wind. In his painting Edgardo De Guzman uses shapes that suggest gusts of wind swirling from above and filling the space. The figures appear to be caught up in the breeze, almost as if they are dancing. The artist is showing us what he imagines it must have been like to experience the coming of the Holy Spirit on that day of Pentecost.



Colour: The shades in Edgardo's painting are from different parts of the colour spectrum but they all work in harmony, beautifully complimenting one another.

The shapes and segments in the picture fit together perfectly too, like a jigsaw. There are no gaps.

In the story of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit miraculously enabled the disciples to speak in many different languages. They worked together so that every person in the crowd, no matter where they came from, was able hear the good news about Jesus and the great things that God had done.

RESPONDING TO THE PAINTING

Which words would you choose to describe the sense of *movement* in this picture?
(Here are some ideas from others: *reaching, stretching, leaping, lifting, gesturing*)

Which words would you choose to describe the types of *colours* in the picture?
(Here are some ideas from others: *vibrant, shining, bright, luminous, light, warm, glowing*)

Which words would you choose to express the *emotion* in the picture?
(Here are some ideas from others: *joy, excitement, confidence*)

REFLECTING

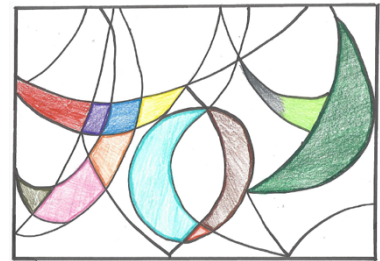
If you had been one of the disciples in the upper room the day the Holy Spirit came, I wonder how you would have explained what had happened to your family when you went home?

What differences do you think your family might have noticed in you after that experience?

CREATING

Choose a word that expresses the way that this painting makes you feel. Set the letters into a design in the style of Edgardo De Guzman.

Or: Pick out and colour the pre-drawn letters that spell JOY in the line-drawing. (see example)



PRAYING

Mindful Praying: Sometimes people find that using their hands to colour a picture stills their mind so that they can pray and give God the space in which to speak to them.

Using pencil crayons, colour in the line-drawing of Edgardo's *Pentecost* picture, choosing the same or similar shades that the artist has used in the original work.

Alternatively, just pick one section and colour it (see example).

The disciples needed the power and confidence that God's Holy Spirit gave them to speak out and tell others about Jesus. As you carefully colour the picture, pray for the power of the Holy Spirit in your life as you think about what it will take to courageously tackle a challenge that lies ahead for you.



A PENTECOST PRAYER

Holy Spirit of God,
Just as you filled the disciples on the day of Pentecost
Fill us we pray, with your life and love,
your power, your courage and your joy.
Amen



Copyright permission is given by Imaginor Ltd, free of charge, to use the image of the painting with this resource only.

An A4 image of the painting and all line drawings (both the blank and coloured versions) are available to download from the Imaginor website.