Intergenerational Worship

Risen and Real: Resources for Intergenerational Worship

Pentecost Year B

New Words for New Ways

What this is: Bible Engagement

Where it’s used: In any intergenerational gathering; Early Word, Bible Reading

Time: 5 minutes

Bible focus/theme: Pentecost; Acts 2:1-21; Romans 8:22-27

What’s needed:
- Text of Acts 2:1-21 displayed with selected highlighted words on screen, or printed copies for your gathering.
- Large Dictionary.
- Large Bible
- Musicians prepared to sound a drumroll and or fanfare - “Ta-Da!” chords.
- Art Image ‘Proclaiming’ displayed on screen and in large poster form.
- Leader to facilitate introduction and participation
- Reader who has practiced reading the text of Acts 2:1-21 slowly, expressively and meaningfully and is prepared to stop on all of the Orange Bold words indicated.

Summary: Prepare for reading the Pentecost story by thinking about the way new words are invented and used when new things happen in history. Read the text of Acts 2:1-21 celebrating the words that are ‘new’ - ie, that haven’t appeared before in the stories of Jesus.

Sample of Greek words appearing for the first time in the New Testament

2:1 When the day of Pentecost drew near, they were all together in one place.
2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.
2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.
2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them to utter.
2:5 Now there were devout Jews from every
Introduction

The Bible
This is the Bible. (Pass Bible to someone in your gathering to hold for you)

It's full of ....words!
Words that tell the story of God and God’s people over thousands and thousands of years.

This Bible is full of english words, but of course it didn’t start out that way. The first speakers and hearers and writers and readers of these stories used words in Hebrew, and Syriac and Greek. and those languages changed over time, and some of the writing is very classy and polished, with a sophisticated vocabulary, and some of it is rough and ready, down to earth, street-speak.

The Dictionary
This is a dictionary. It’s full of all the official words of the English language. If you can think of a word, it’s in here. But our language is always changing and we are inventing new words every year, because new things keep happening, and we need new words to talk about it!

For example in 2006, the Oxford Dictionary added the word ‘Googling’. It hadn’t been in the dictionary til then, because in 1996 there was no such thing even as Google. But in just 10 years, people had started using the word so much - we needed to add it to the dictionary.
The Oxford Dictionary publishes updates online every month, adding some new words that people have started using so much, they need to be in the dictionary. So everyone knows them and what they mean.

Take a moment with a buddy near by you to see if you can name some words that you think might now be in the dictionary that weren’t 5 years ago.

(Leave a minute for this sharing, then gather a few examples in feedback)

Here are some recent updates that have joined the dictionary:
‘Binge-watch’.
‘Photobomb’
‘Glamping’
‘Face-Palm’

(Display these on separate pieces of card, held up various participants in your gathering, just wherever they are sitting).
The Story of Pentecost

Our reading today is from the book of Acts. It comes after the gospels, which tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. And in today's reading, we hear of how the Story of Jesus now is being told in brand new ways, that more and more people from different places and situations can understand. So you can see in the art image here, lots of different kinds of people.

In telling the story of Jesus from the Book of Acts, a whole new bunch of words start appearing that we haven't seen before, so far, in the New Testament. It's not so obvious when we read it in our English translations, but we've got the words marked here in our reading today.

The orange bold words show us the words that are new! They are not new words in the language, but they are words that haven't been used before in telling the story of God.

And look how many of them there are! God is doing something so new, that the writer of Acts needs to get a whole new part of the dictionary out to describe it to us.

Let's read this together.
Our reader will read the whole text, but will stop on words that are in orange bold. Our musicians will play a short drumroll/fanfare and then we will all together read the word.

(Read once this way)

Great Job reading and celebrating all those new words that have been used to show that the writer of Acts had a new way of understand and talking about what God is doing.

And of course this happened to people in the story - they heard in new ways too.

We are going to read the passage once again, and this time we are going to practice telling the story of God's Spirit - present and powerful - using our own new ways.

Our reader will read slowly, and at any time, any of us can call out our own words, that we would use to tell this story in our own way. For example

"When the day of Pentecost drew near, they were all together in one place."

you might call out 'It was festival time' or 'Jesus friends were hanging out together'.

Read again this way, drawing plenty of interaction.

Conclusion
Let's pray: As we learn new words for the new ways of living in our world, we pray Holy Spirit that you would help us learn new ways of speaking about God's good news story for us and for all. Amen.
When the day of Pentecost drew near, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them to utter. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes. Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’