



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**,
συμπληροῦσθαι³_{Luke8,9} they were all together in one place.
- 2:2 And **suddenly** **ἄνω**³_{Acts16,26} from heaven there came a **sound** **ἦχος**⁴_{Luke4,21}¹²_{Heb12} like the rush of a **violent wind** **πνοῆς**²_{Acts17} **βιαίας**^H, 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** **ἀποφθέγγεσθαι**³_{Acts2,26}.
- 2:5 **Now** there were **devout** **εὐλαβεῖς** Jews from every

Introduction

The Bible

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

It's full ofwords!

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 and death and being raised to life again.

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 tht 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 decrcribe 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 undertand 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.’

See also: Bible Art Image Activity Extension