

words that are easy to sound out or basic sight words. In the Pentecost Offering activities booklet, show the children the photographs of the adult teaching the children. Say that children and youth can serve as teachers, too, not only for others of their own age, but also for adults.

- ▶ Discuss the things that all children need like food, water, housing, education, and health care. Make a list on a chalkboard, a whiteboard, or a sheet of newsprint. Then say, “Adults know that children need many things, but sometimes they forget that many children go without what they need to live and grow. We can be adults’ teachers by reminding them of what children need.”
- ▶ Tell the group that they are going to make large alphabet cubes. List the letters of the alphabet down the side of the paper or board, and invite the group to look at the things they listed and to find a word or a phrase for each letter. For example, for “A” they might say, “All children need to grow up strong,” or “Children need apples and other fruits and vegetables to be healthy.”
- ▶ Assign a letter to each child, and invite all of them to make their drawings. Glue each drawing to one side of a cube. If you like, leave one side open and print “The Holy Spirit . . . will teach you” on that side.
- ▶ Remind the children that the verse from John’s Gospel says that it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us all things. Earlier in Chapter 14, Jesus reminds

his disciples that the Holy Spirit teaches us to keep God’s commandments. Jesus summarized the commandments by saying we are called to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. If we love our neighbors, we want them to have all the things they need to live the life God intends for them.

- ▶ Stack the completed cubes and display them where the adults in your congregation can see them.

For Youth

Class Notes Cubes

- ▶ To do this activity with youth, substitute a copy of CliffsNotes or some other book notes or book summary resource. Ask the group if they have ever used one of these resources to help them review what a book is about or to study for a test. Discuss how they can help to educate adults about what youth in the United States and the world need to be the people God intends them to be.
- ▶ Have the youth create their own “Notes” on the cubes to educate the adults in the congregation. If you have Internet access, they might research progress on the Millennium Development Goals or statistics on children and youth. You may also use the minutes for mission in the Pentecost Offering Leader’s Guide to identify information about children at risk, youth ministries, and Young Adult Volunteers to include on the cubes.
- ▶ Invite each young person to choose one fact or issue about which they would like to educate the adults in the congregation and to create a graphic representation of that fact on the drawing paper. Attach completed pieces to the prepared cubes.

Pentecost Offering Cubes

Which project will receive your congregation’s 40 percent of the Pentecost Offering? Have youth gather information about that project and use the cubes to teach the congregation about it.



Mission Interpretation
General Assembly Council
www.pcusa.org/pentecost
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Children and Youth Activities

John’s Gospel speaks of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, teaching us all things. Children and youth can explore ways that they, through the power of the Holy Spirit, can be advocates or teachers for adults, calling attention to the needs of young people in our churches, communities, nation, and world.

Prayer Bowls

What You Need

- Commercial clay (available at school supply or craft stores)
- Shallow pans (such as aluminum pie pans)
- Water source
- Smocks, aprons, or old, large T-shirts to cover clothing
- Implements to work the clay (plastic knives, rolling pins, orange sticks)
- Several copies of the prayer card (pattern provided below)
- Scissors
- Pens
- Pentecost Offering poster
- Internet access (optional)
- Newsprint sheet and felt-tipped marker

What You Do

Before the group meets:

- ▶ Visit www.presbykids4kids.org. If you have Internet access in the space where the activity will be done, you may plan to access this site during the session.
- ▶ Prepare a sheet of poster board or newsprint with the following information:

There are things every child needs to live a good life and to grow up healthy. Because these things are so important, they are called children’s rights. All children are born with the same rights.

It’s right for kids to grow up healthy.

Clean water, enough good food, a safe and healthy home, and health care.

It’s right for every child to be a kid.

To have time, a chance to play, and a chance to go to school.

It’s right for every child to speak up and be heard.

To have a name and a nationality, to be able to express themselves, and to live a good life.

It’s right for every child to be safe.

Not to be hurt, not to do dangerous work, not to be held back by a disability.

- ▶ Photocopy the provided prayer card pattern onto red paper, enough for each child to have six or more. Or cut out flame shapes from fun foam.



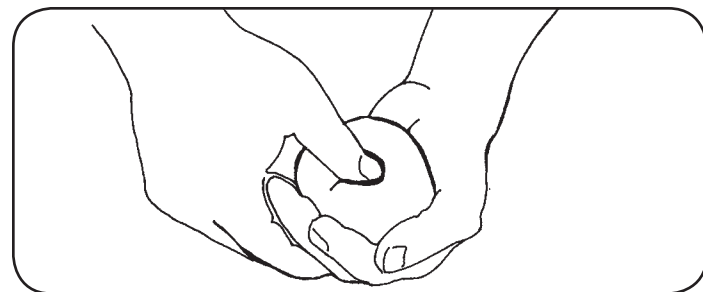
- ▶ Work the clay until it can be easily manipulated. Divide it into baseball-sized portions, one for each child.
- ▶ Locate a workspace that includes tables with a smooth, washable surface. You may want to put down newspaper to protect the floor.
- ▶ Place shallow pans of water on each table, along with the balls of worked clay.

When the children arrive:

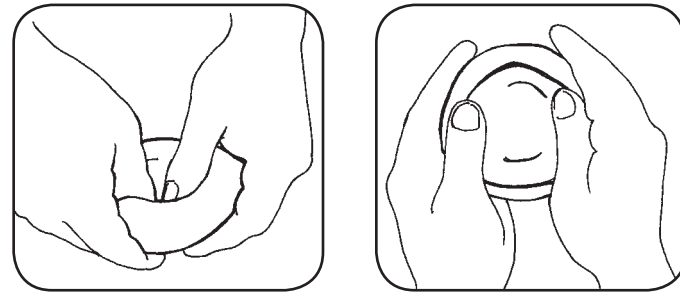
- ▶ Invite the children to join you in a circle. Show them the Pentecost Offering poster and call their attention to the image of the hands modeling the clay. Ask: Whose hands are these? (The hands of an adult are helping the hands of a child to form a bowl from the clay.)
- ▶ Call the attention of the group to the Scripture verse on the poster. Say that while often adults do teach children, the verse from John's Gospel says that it is the Holy Spirit who teaches us all things. When we open our hearts to God through our prayers, the Holy Spirit can teach us, too. Earlier in Chapter 14, Jesus reminds his disciples that the Holy Spirit teaches us to keep God's commandments. Jesus said we are called to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. All children, everywhere, are our neighbors, and we want them to have all the things they need to live the life God intends for them.
- ▶ Invite the children to create a prayer bowl using either the pinch or coil pot method.

Pinch Pot

1. Tell the children to insert their thumbs into the clay ball, pushing down until they almost reach the bottom.
2. Tell them to begin to press outward, making the hole larger and using their hands to rotate the clay as they work.

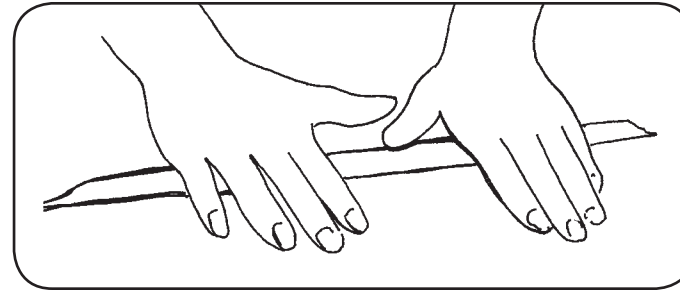


3. Encourage them to wet their thumbs in the water as they pinch the clay, using just enough water to help their thumbs slide better.



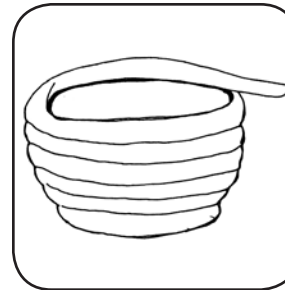
Coil Pot

1. Have the children squeeze the clay into a coil, rolling it between their hands to make a "snake."



2. Ask them to gently roll the coils on the table, applying equal pressure to keep the snake even.
3. When the coils are about the thickness of a pencil, show them how to make a circular base with the coils, moving upward, and stacking them on top of each other to form a bowl. Encourage the children to push the clay together and scrape over the joints with their fingers.

4. Have the children moisten their fingers with water and smooth the inside of the pots.
5. To level the pots, have them turn them over and gently tap them on the tabletop.

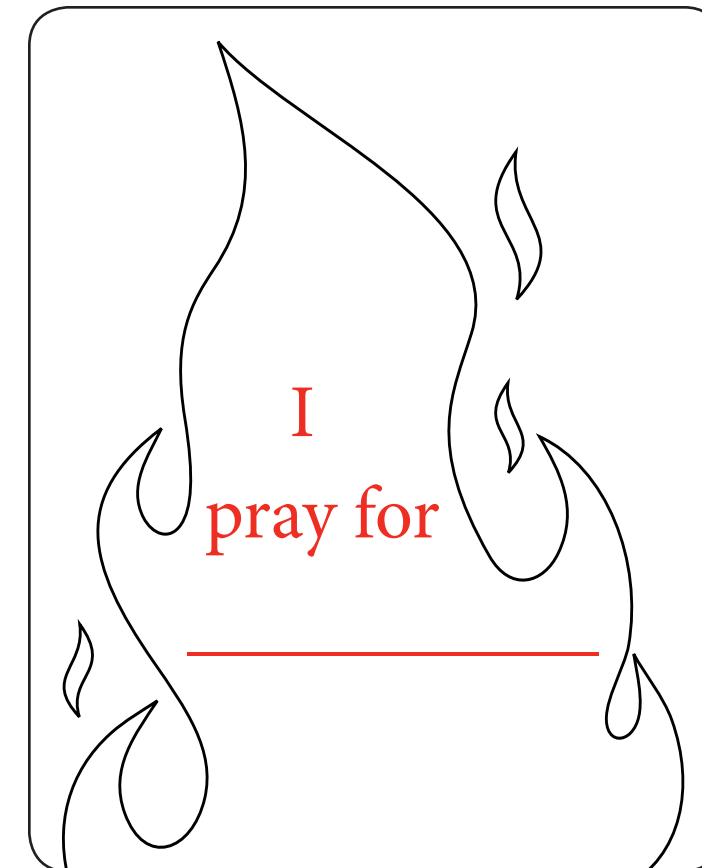


- ▶ When the bowls are finished, children can use implements to gently incise them. Set the bowls aside to dry.

- ▶ Again call the attention of the group to the things children need to live a good life and grow up healthy. Say that we can do many things to help children everywhere. One important thing we should always do is pray.
- ▶ Hand out the cards or fun foam shapes you prepared. Invite the children to use the fine-lined markers to print on the cards or shapes something they pray for all children. For example: "I pray all children will have clean water" or "I pray all children will have someone to take care of them." Ask each child to make several prayer cards. When the bowls are dry, they can place the cards in their bowls, pull out one each day, and pray for the concern on the card.
- ▶ If you have Internet access, children can go to www.presbykids4kids.org to read stories about the things children need, what the PC(USA) is doing to help, and how they themselves can make a difference.

And more . . .

Invite a potter to visit your group and bring a potter's wheel to demonstrate how a pot is thrown on the wheel.



Giant Primer Cubes

What You Need

- Cardboard cartons in approximately the same size or in graduated sizes
- Heavy white drawing paper, sized to fit the sides of the cardboard cartons
- Colored, felt-tipped markers
- Pencils
- Red paper or poster board
- Scissors
- Glue
- Heavy tape
- Children's reading primer (optional)

What You Do

Before the group meets:

- ▶ Ask a teacher in your congregation or community if you can borrow a children's reading primer.
- ▶ Obtain several sturdy cardboard cartons. Tape them closed.
- ▶ Cut heavy, white drawing paper to cover the sides of the cartons. Or cut out red poster board or paper to exactly fit the box sides and glue to the box. Then cut the white paper about an inch smaller on all four sides and glue over the red paper to create a mat effect.
- ▶ From the red paper, cut out block capital letters. They should be large enough to be clearly seen from a distance. If you have a small group of children, you may only need the first few letters of the alphabet. Or you may provide all the letters and let the children select a few. Glue each letter to a separate sheet of drawing paper. Position it to the side so there is plenty of room for children to print phrases and draw. If you prefer, you could simply print one large letter with a red felt-tipped marker on each sheet of drawing paper.

When the children arrive:

- ▶ Show the children the primer if you were able to obtain one. Discuss how a primer is used, saying that it helps children learn how to read, with either