

CHEEKY PANDAS

Family Service

Pentecost

The following are suggestions of what you might wish to include in an All Age/Family Service, whether on line or in church. Please adapt and change to ensure all essential elements for your denomination/church are included.

It incorporates the *Cheeky Pandas videos* for you to use in the teaching slot.

There are 11 in all so you have the possibility of using them in 11 family services. Please use as much or as little of these outlines as you wish.

There is also an *activity pack* available for each service outline. Each one has a Biblical text, an application, a craft activity, a game, a food challenge and a prayer. You may wish to enable families to have them prior to services. Please feel free to adapt to your local situation.

Inclusion of sung worship is still a matter of local guidance, so we have not included anything specifically here. There are however songs included in the Cheeky Pandas Videos.

What you will need

- **The Family Activity Sheet to send to families prior to the service if you wish to use them.**
- If you are providing resources you will need:
 - Two inch strips of orange card to go round a child's head
 - The flame template printed onto white cards
 - Coloured pencils to colour it in
 - Packs of sticky paper chains
 - A wrapped bar of chocolate
 - 200grms of large marshmallows
 - Assorted sprinkles
 - White and brown chocolate to melt 50g of each
 - Lolly pop sticks
 - A dice

For this Family Service you will need:

- Five small candles lit ready for the confession
- A birthday cake and birthday candles for the prayers



If the service is to take place in church you may wish to decorate it as ready for a party. The activity pack could then become party bags to take home.

Theme: Pentecost – Bible Texts: Acts 2:1-4

Background reflection

Power is a funny word and taken out of context has overtones of domination, control, fear and reduction in flourishing. Power can lead people to greater things and also diminish, neglect and destroy.

For Christians, the birth of what was called 'The Way' and now called the church holds a significant focus on power. The power of God, the gift of the power of the Holy Spirit. It is that empowering by God's spirit that enables us to live the Christian life in the ways of the Kingdom. The fact that this was given to all peoples of every race and tongue at Pentecost blows wide open any mere thought of an incrowd or a select group. God's Kingship was to explode onto the known world and would last in places and peoples never dreamt of on that day. God's power pack freely given.

After Pentecost, the stories of Jesus, the healings, the teachings, the types of encounters he had with the rich, the reckless, and the wronged became ours to live out from one generation to another. The Christian faith is not a mere set of credal beliefs, nor a set of writings to be learned parrot fashion. The faith is an active living reality in our lives. So we party today with that kind of power.

Welcome

You may wish to start by saying Hello in some different languages or use people in the congregation to say welcome in their own language.

- Arabic: Marhaban (MARR-hah-bah) or Salam (sah-LAHM)
- Cantonese: Neih hou (nah-hoh)
- Catalan: Hola
- Danish: Hallo (hah-low) or hej (hi)
- Dutch: Hoi (pronounced hoy and means "hi"), Hallo (pronounced hah-low and means hello)
- Persian: Salam (sah-lahm)

The Theme today is *Pentecost* which is also traditionally known as the birthday of the church. Not just our church but the church across the whole wide world.

Gathering Prayer

Leader: Come to us Lord, as we gather here today.

All: Just like you did at Pentecost long ago.

Leader: Send the gifts of your Spirit for all people.

All: Just like you did long ago.

Leader: Help us to know that your Holy Spirit's power is here with us.

All: Just as you did long ago. Amen.

Prayer for the day

Leader: Gracious God, thank you that we can join with other Christians around the world linked by the Holy Spirit and all of us following Jesus as our Lord and saviour. Amen.

Saying sorry *Have your five candles lit ready.*

Leader: So today we going to think about things that we do that are wrong, but which we want to say sorry to God for. I wonder if these are any of the things that you would like to say sorry for?

- 1) *For being unkind to someone.*
- 2) *For not helping when you could.*
- 3) *For forgetting to say thank you.*
- 4) *For forgetting to say your prayers to God.*
- 5) *For telling lies or blaming someone else.*

Of course there maybe other things you wish to say sorry for. Look what happens if we keep doing these things or don't say sorry. *(Go to each candle in turn and extinguish the light)*

It is like a little light goes out inside you as well. The light of your happiness become dull.

The Good News is that there is a way for the light of your happiness to come back on. God can switch it on again if we say sorry. So if you are ready, let's say sorry for these things.

All: Loving heavenly Father I am sorry for the times when I was not as kind as I could have been. *(candle is relit)*

All: I am sorry for the times when I could not be bothered to help when it was needed. *(candle relit)*

All: I am sorry for the times when I forgot to say thank you to you and my family. *(candle is relit)*

All: I am sorry when I just did not bother to talk to you loving heavenly Father, nor listen when you wanted to talk to me. *(candle is relit)*

All: I am sorry when it was easier to say 'It wasn't me' than being honest. *(candle is relit)*

Leader: so all the candles are relit. Thank you God that you forgive us and give us a fresh start.

Amen.



Watch the Cheeky Pandas video here: [The Power Cut](#)

If using the optional craft activity you could do it here amongst some sung praise worship.

Prayers

To keep the idea of fire and celebration going you might like to use a birthday cake and birthday candles for the prayers.

Leader: So in our prayers we are going to place a birthday candle on the birthday cake for each prayer and then at the end light them all.

The following prayers could all be said by the Leader or they could be split using a mix of adults and children for each section. After each one an unlit candle goes on the cake.

- Lord, for your wonderful world we pray. Help us to take better care of it. *(place a candle on the cake)*
- Lord, for your church all over the world we pray. Especially we pray where that church is persecuted and people are afraid to worship. *(place a candle on the cake)*
- Lord, for those families known to us who are struggling at the moment we pray. Help us to help them in whatever way we can. *(place a candle on the cake)*
- Lord, for those we know who are sick *(insert names)* we pray. Send your Holy Spirit of healing just as you did at Pentecost. *(place a candle on the cake)*
- Lord, we pray for places where there is war or misunderstanding. Help them to understand each other and live in peace as you did with different people at Pentecost. *(place a candle on the cake)*
- Lord we pray for all who are sad this day because someone has died. Send your Holy Spirit to comfort them as you did at Pentecost. *(place a candle on the cake)*



Now light all the candles, a moment's silence is kept.

Leader: send the Holy Spirit's power on us as your church. Amen.

Remind them of the activity packs and the food challenge

The Blessing/Grace

We say the grace together or a similar blessing.

