

The Fire of the Holy Spirit



Use this fun and tasty activity to learn about why fire is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Materials

- Chocolate chips
- Slices of strawberries, bananas, apples and other favorite fruits
- A double boiler (If you don't have one, you can accomplish the same effect by boiling water in a sauce pan and putting a smaller sauce pan inside of it . The second sauce pan will be used to melt the chocolate chips.)
- Toothpicks

Instructions

1. Read Acts 2:1-11
2. Discuss the tongues of fire that rest upon the heads of Jesus' disciples. The fire is a symbolic representation of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We will never know what they actually saw and experienced; it was too awesome for words to capture. Fire, though, was a great way to describe the power of the Spirit because fire really changes things and so does the Holy Spirit!
3. Pour all of the chocolate chips out in a bowl. Discuss how all the chips are cold, hard individuals. Sometimes we are cold and hard when we are disconnected from each other. Discuss a cold, hard time in your family when the members of the family just were not connecting.
4. Pour the chocolate chips into the double boiler and melt them.
5. Discuss how the change that is happening to the chips is caused by the fire sending heat to the chips. Fire changes everything it touches. It changes the shape, size, color, texture, flavor, etc. of whatever it touches. Your goal is to keep this chocolate basically the same color, but if the fire could really get at the chocolate, it would even change the chocolate color.
6. Fire is a great symbol for the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit also changes everything. The Holy Spirit melts our frozen hearts and builds unity and understanding between diverse people.
7. Invite those gathered to share a time when they moved from a cold-hearted attitude towards a person to a warmer acceptance of that same person. How was that change in attitude related to openness to the transforming fire of the Holy Spirit?
8. When the chocolate is melted, enjoy dipping fruit into the chocolate and eat up!
9. Follow up: Note that the chocolate hardens again when it is away from the heat for too long. Our hearts can harden again if we don't consistently nurture them with prayer in the Spirit and other deliberate faith formation opportunities. Invite each person to share what they do or could do to keep their hearts warmed by the Spirit.