

Interactive Reading of Acts 2:1-13 - A Birthday Party For the Church

Supplies:

- Un-inflated balloons (red, yellow, orange work well but multicolored would also be fun)
- Birthday candles and lighter
- The words to “Happy Birthday to You” song Spanish. You can also use other languages or other words or phrases. Like “Christ is risen!” “God loves you!” or the Lord’s Prayer.
- Streamers - again, red, orange and yellow work well, but multicolored would be fabulous!
- Small “party-favor” Bubbles for the whole congregation - You can buy tiny bubble containers for birthday party favors or weddings.
- Cupcakes (optional). We used mini-cup cakes from the grocery store, which was a great size. But you could order cupcakes with flames on them. Or make special cupcakes (or mini cupcakes) yourself. It would be great to invite an cross-generational group to meet at the church on Saturday and make the Pentecost cupcakes!

Preparation

- Give everyone an empty balloon (red, orange, yellow) as they come into the sanctuary. Before the scripture, everyone blows up their balloon, but doesn’t tie it closed. Have some hand air pumps and folks ready to help for those who don’t have enough breath to fill a balloon.
- Have birthday candles ready to be lit in a prominent place
- Print the words the “Birthday Song” in Spanish in the bulletin, put on screen, or pass them out.
- Have multiple rolls of streamers at the ready, you may even choose to unwind about 3-5 ft to make it easier to the the end with one hand and throw with the other.
- Have bubbles in baskets ready to pass out.
- Have cupcakes on plates ready to pass out. (optional)

Reading

- You may want to call children up to the front, or a group of volunteers to help you with the party.
- Acts 2: 1-2 - Read. Then release balloons as a rush of violent wind! (hilarity and joy ensues)
- Acts 2: 3 - Read. Light the Birthday Candles
- Acts 2: 4 - Read. Sing “The Birthday Song” in Spanish.
- Acts 2: 5-11 - Read. (Consider changing all or some of the “place” names to cities, states or countries near to your church or present in your congregation). Use streamers to connect everyone in the congregation. Have volunteers hold one end of the steamer in one hand, then throw the roll into the congregation with the other hand. Someone catches or retrieves it, holds on to one place, then throws again. Repeat until the congregation is covered with streamers.
- Acts 2:12 - Read. “What does this mean?” The Spirit is here! Pass out bubbles to symbolize the gifts of the Spirit. Encourage people to blow bubbles whenever they recognize the gifts of God or the Spirit’s leading in worship.
- Optional - pass out cupcakes (at least to the kids). Because it’s a birthday party!