



Extension activities for spring Blaze the Bee children's address

This is not a complete lesson but instead a series of activities that can be chosen from to create a Sunday morning that continues the theme from the children's address materials produced.

Listed below are a series of activities that look at the theme of church and what that might mean in relation to Romania, where Blaze the Bee has been visiting Steve and Rosie Kennedy to see the work that they are involved in there as PCI global mission workers. If the video was not shown in church as the children's address, you will want to show the Digital Dispatch video which Rosie has done, featuring Blaze and telling something of the work that they are involved in in Cluj-Napoca in Romania.

ACTIVITY 1

Display a world map and see if the children can find Romania on it. Steve and Rosie live in Cluj-Napoca, which is the 4th most populous city in Romania. See if they can find that as well.

Ten facts about Cluj-Napoca in Romania:

1. Cluj-Napoca is situated in the province of Transylvania and its nickname is Treasure City.
2. There are about 308,000 people who live there.
3. The main languages in Cluj-Napoca are Romanian and English, but there is also a large Hungarian speaking minority, a Roma population who speak Romany, as well as Italian and French speakers.
4. The city is surrounded by forests and grasslands. There are a large number of castles in the countryside surroundings, constructed in medieval times by wealthy families who lived in the city.
5. On average, the city has 65 days of snow each winter. A modern, ski resort sits on Feleac Hill, outside Cluj-Napoca. This ski resort offers outdoor lighting, artificial snow and a ski tow. In summer, the average temperature is approximately 18 °C (the average for July and August), despite the fact that temperatures sometimes reach 35 °C to 40 °C in mid-summer in the city centre.

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6. The city has the best air quality in the European Union.
7. In terms of religion, 71.3% of the population in 2011 were Romanian Orthodox and 10.6% were Reformed.
8. Cluj-Napoca is an important economic centre in Romania. The headquarters of all regional television networks, newspapers and radio stations are situated there.
9. Football team CFR 1907 Cluj-Napoca (founded in 1907) is the one of the oldest established teams in the Romanian Championship. It has won eight Romanian championship titles and four Romanian Cups as well as four Supercupa României. FCU Olimpia Cluj is the local women's soccer team, established in 2010. The team has won the Liga I 10 times, and Romanian Cup 6 times.
10. Romania is home to 60% of Europe's brown bears, which live in the Carpathian Mountains a few hours' drive outside Cluj-Napoca.

ACTIVITY 2

Here are a couple of activities that you can choose from depending on the time that you have:

One of the major ministries that the congregation in Steve and Rosie are connected to is about translation so that the people in the city of Cluj-Napoca can hear Bible teaching in the language that they understand best.

- Try your hand at some **language** fun! Pick a foreign language, maybe one of the ones that Rosie mentions in the video, and learn some new words in it.

The Holy Spirit entered like a rushing wind. What is so important about air? (It gives us life! We have to breathe... God gives us life, too!)

- Have a **windy race**... Using a straw, see how fast you can blow a ping-pong ball or pom-pom from one side of a room to the other!
- Fill a **balloon** with air... let it go, and see where it lands! With multiple people, see whose balloon can reach farthest across the room or hall.
- Make a **pinwheel**. This might work best with upper-primary children; younger primary will just need more hands-on help. Give the children a square of card to decorate. Then fold it twice to form an "X" in the paper, and cut halfway up the lines of the X. Fold each corner to the centre, and drive a thumb tack through the middle onto the eraser of a pencil. Give a big blow and watch it spin!

ACTIVITY 3

Bible teaching: **Acts 2 The Coming of the Holy Spirit**

Reading from International Children's Bible

v1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise came from heaven. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was giving them the power to speak these languages.

Ask: The Holy Spirit entered in this event, just as Jesus had promised to send His presence. How do we know that God is always present? (This could be a tricky question! Consider elements of prayer, knowing all we have comes from Him, and the Bible.)

Say: Some amazing things were happening in this story. Tongues of fire and rushing wind; Speaking other languages. Of course, we don't experience these things on a daily basis. This was a remarkable and special event in the life of the church. We may not see this all the time, but it's still amazing and exciting to learn about in order to consider how Jesus still can and does work through us today.

v5-8

There were some religious Jews staying in Jerusalem who were from every country in the world. When they heard this noise, a crowd came together. They were all surprised, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were completely amazed at this. They said, "Look! Aren't all these men that we hear speaking from Galilee? But each of us hears them in his own language. How is this possible?"

Say: Sometimes people don't understand what God is doing in our lives. They might criticize or critique what confuses them. The disciples were filled with power to do amazing and remarkable things, like speak in other languages. A lot of people believed the things that they shared, but there are always some who will be sceptical or grumpy. Explain to kids that even in this experience, God gave the disciples wise words to help them explain what was happening.

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v22-24

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus from Nazareth was a very special man. God clearly showed this to you by the miracles, wonders, and signs God did through him. You all know this, because it happened right here among you. Jesus was given to you, and you killed him. With the help of evil men, you nailed him to a cross. But God knew all this would happen. This was God’s plan which he had made long ago. God raised Jesus from death. God set him free from the pain of death. Death could not hold him.”

v32-33

“So, Jesus is the One who God raised from death! And we are all witnesses to this. Jesus was lifted up to heaven and is now at God’s right side. The Father has given the Holy Spirit to Jesus as he promised. So now Jesus has poured out that Spirit. This is what you see and hear.”

v38-39

Peter said to them, “Change your hearts and lives and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you. It is also for your children and for all who are far away. It is for everyone the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Ask: The disciples were excited to tell everyone who would listen about Jesus. Who do you tell about Him?

Remind kids that all of us are called to celebrate what God has done. The church is not just one place, but is the way Jesus uses us and our love to continue spreading the joy and love of Christ everywhere. We can tell people about God, and we can also live as His people by demonstrating genuine care for one another. Everyone, everywhere is our mission field!

Is there someone who could tell their testimony of the Holy Spirit coming into their life and then how the Holy Spirit continues to help and guide. This could be a leader or bring someone else in from church to do this.