

# **PENTECOST:** EVERYONE'S TALKIN'

*by Andrea Burton*



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# Pentecost: Everyone's Talkin

A children's play  
about the Holy Spirit

by Andrea Burton

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

**KELLY**

Newscaster

**MADISON (MADI)**

Sunday school student

**TRISTAN**

Madi's brother

**BOY 1**

**BOY 2**

**GIRL 1**

**GIRL 2**

**CHORUS**

(Optional)

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### Synopsis

An inquiring newscaster wants to know all about Pentecost — and Madi and Tristan are happy to supply the details. Using enacted scenarios, snippets of song, Scripture, and simple dialog, this often misunderstood church holy day is explained for all.

### Casting

Although it is not necessary to perform the play with a chorus, it is a way to involve a lot more children if you wish. There may be an unlimited number of chorus singers. There are also three speaking parts, which may be reassigned between Madi and Tristan if you opt not to have a chorus.

### Costumes

Kelly could either wear something professional or dress all in one color to separate her from the others. For everyone else, street clothes or church clothes are fine. They should be age-appropriate, but keeping it simple is the name of the game.

### Props

Kelly needs a hand-held microphone, notebook, and pen. Tristan needs a Bible. If there is a chorus, members might carry kid-friendly items, such as backpacks or balls. Not every chorus member needs a prop. Again, keep it simple.

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1       (*ALL form a tableau and freeze. KELLY interviews MADI for*  
 2       *a TV show. She holds a microphone. They should be aware*  
 3       *of a “camera” somewhere in about the third row. KELLY and*  
 4       *MADI are forward and slightly off-center. The CHORUS is*  
 5       *scattered behind them and to the sides. The CHORUS should*  
 6       *carry props indicating activities, e.g., one might carry a ball,*  
 7       *and another might have a backpack. They watch KELLY and*  
 8       *MADI and from time to time try to get “in the shot.”*  
 9       *TRISTAN is seated in the congregation.)*

10      **KELLY:** Good morning, everyone out there. I’m Kelly, and I  
 11       am pleased to welcome you all to another edition of *In*  
 12       *the Mind of a Child*, the show that helps you get in step  
 13       with some seriously radical thoughts. This morning on  
 14       our show, we’ll be exploring the ins and outs of frozen  
 15       fruit beverages and other summertime treats, but first,  
 16       something crucial to our everyday lives: our faith.  
 17       Today we explore Christianity in the springtime. We all  
 18       know about Palm Sunday. We know all about Holy  
 19       Week. We know how Jesus was betrayed, how he died  
 20       and was buried. We know how he rose from the dead  
 21       on Easter. But is that the end of the story? What is it  
 22       about Pentecost that has everyone talking? (*Stops and*  
 23       *smiles.*) We have with us today, Madison. Welcome,  
 24       Madison. I understand that you are currently attending  
 25       Sunday school.

26      **MADI:** Yes, that’s correct.

27      **KELLY:** Well, perhaps you can tell us a little something  
 28       about Pentecost.

29      **MADI:** Sure. What would you like to know?

30      **KELLY:** It’s an important day, isn’t it? Why?

31      **MADI:** Well, it’s the end of Easter — plus a week.

32      **TRISTAN:** (*From the congregation*) Come on. Easter was ages  
 33       ago.

34      **MADI:** (*To TRISTAN*) Don’t you ever pay attention in  
 35       Sunday school? Honestly! (*To KELLY*) You see, Kelly,

- 1 Easter lasts several weeks. Forty days, to be exact.  
 2 Then you have Ascension — that's when Jesus went to  
 3 heaven. And then you get Pentecost.
- 4 **TRISTAN:** (*Goes up front and tries to take the microphone away.*)  
 5 Never mind my sister. She's way too smart for her own  
 6 good. Let *me* tell you about Pentecost. (*MADI*  
 7 *successfully defends microphone.*)
- 8 **MADI:** Excuse me. She asked *me* the question. (*Shakes her*  
 9 *head.*) You see, a long time ago, after Jesus ascended ...
- 10 **TRISTAN:** Went to heaven ...
- 11 **MADI:** After Jesus *ascended*, he sent the Holy Spirit to be  
 12 with his people.
- 13 **TRISTAN:** Jesus promised he would. But, check this out.  
 14 There was fire. Lots of fire. Flaming tongues.
- 15 **KELLY:** (*Sarcastically*) Really.
- 16 **MADI:** Yeah. Actually, he's right. We read in Acts that on  
 17 the day of Pentecost, the disciples were all together and  
 18 ... there was fire, and — and wind, and ...
- 19 **TRISTAN:** Come on, let me tell this part of the story. I love  
 20 this bit ... And I have it right here ...
- 21 **MADI:** All right.
- 22 **TRISTAN:** (*Opening his Bible and reading*) “And suddenly  
 23 from heaven there came a ... rush of ... wind, and it  
 24 filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided  
 25 tongues, *as of fire*” — (*Looking up*) that's the good  
 26 stuff — tongues “appeared among them, and a tongue  
 27 rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the  
 28 Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages ...  
 29 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was  
 30 bewildered ... They asked, ‘Are not all these who are  
 31 speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each  
 32 of us, in our own native language?’” (Acts 2:2-4, 6-8).
- 33 **KELLY:** Can you tell us more?
- 34 **MADI:** Well, they spoke in tongues. It means that everyone  
 35 understood what the disciples said even though what

1           they heard probably should have sounded like  
2           gibberish to them. Thanks to the Spirit, language  
3           ceased to be a problem.

4   **KELLY:** And that's a big deal?

5   **TRISTAN:** Yeah! Have you ever noticed how sometimes  
6           words get in the way of a message? I mean, it could be  
7           something as simple as "hello."

8   **KELLY:** I suppose.

9   **MADI:** Let's give you an example. (*Nodding, several members*  
10           *of the CHORUS point to two BOYS walking toward each*  
11           *other. BOYS 1 and 2 freeze. The CHORUS members then*  
12           *sing to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." In the*  
13           *absence of a chorus, all but KELLY may sing.)*

14   **CHORUS:** (*Singing*) Say, say, say "hello"

15           Any way you can.

16           Surely that's so simple

17           Anyone would understand.

18   **MADI:** What can I say? We knew you were coming — so we  
19           prepared. (*BOYS 1 and 2 who entered from opposite*  
20           *directions meet in the middle of the staging area.)*

21   **BOY 1:** Hola.

22   **BOY 2:** Guttentag.

23   **BOY 1:** Hola?

24   **BOY 2:** Guttentag?

25   **BOY 1:** (*Getting more frustrated*) Hola.

26   **BOY 2:** Guttentag.

27   **BOY 1:** (*Getting more frustrated*) Hola!

28   **BOY 2:** Guttentag!

29   **BOY 1:** (*Overlapping with BOY 2, sings to "Row, Row, Row Your*  
30           *Boat."*) I have said hola.

31           What is guttentag?

32           This is sad, and it hardly

33           Counts as dialog.

34   **BOY 2:** (*Overlapping with BOY 1, sings to "Row, Row, Row Your*  
35           *Boat."*) What does hola mean?



- 1       **I said guttentag.**  
 2       **This is sad, and it hardly**  
 3       **Counts as dialog.** *(They stop, shake their heads, put their*  
 4       *hands on their hips, and finally walk off, frustrated, in*  
 5       *opposite directions.)*  
 6       **MADI: But at Pentecost everyone understood the apostles,**  
 7       **no matter what language they spoke.**  
 8       **KELLY: Uh-huh.**  
 9       **TRISTAN: But that's not the only time language trips us up.**  
 10       **Sometimes it's not that simple.**  
 11       **MADI: Sometimes we work at cross purposes — even when**  
 12       **we're saying exactly the same thing.** *(Two GIRLS march*  
 13       *up the aisle toward one another and meet in the middle. They*  
 14       *need to get around each other, but they keep moving in the*  
 15       *same direction and neither GIRL can pass. They square off.)*  
 16       **GIRL 1: (Abruptly) OK. Hello.**  
 17       **GIRL 2: (Defensively) Hello.**  
 18       **GIRL 1: (Accusingly) Hello.**  
 19       **GIRL 2: (Blowing her off) Hello.**  
 20       **GIRL 1: (Aggressively) Hello.**  
 21       **GIRL 2: (Offended) Hello. OK. We seem to be at a bit of an**  
 22       **impasse.**  
 23       **GIRL 1: So indeed.**  
 24       **GIRL 2: Do you want to move forward?**  
 25       **GIRL 1: Do you?**  
 26       **GIRL 2: Step around and I'll go through.**  
 27       **GIRL 1: Why me? You step around and I'll go through.**  
 28       *(GIRLS 1 and 2 freeze. All the members of the chorus move*  
 29       *together to watch, as if there might be a fight. They sit and*  
 30       *sing to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." In the*  
 31       *absence of a CHORUS, all but KELLY sing.)*  
 32       **CHORUS and GIRL 1: (Singing) I'm really not sure what to**  
 33       **say now.**  
 34       **You're hovering right in my way.**  
 35       **I tell you that I must not tarry.**

- 1 I've got places to go today.
- 2 CHORUS and GIRL 2: (*Singing*) Me move? You move. Oh, I
- 3 too
- 4 Have places to go today.
- 5 Me move? You mo-o-ove.
- 6 Come on, now, step out of my way.
- 7 ALL: (*Except KELLY, singing*) You really are being
- 8 bullheaded.
- 9 This really is getting absurd.
- 10 Although you seem grouchy and stubborn,
- 11 I tell you I won't be deterred.
- 12 Move left. Move right. I really
- 13 Don't care anymore-ore-ore.
- 14 Move left. Move ri-i-ight.
- 15 I really can't do this much more.
- 16 GIRL 2: Enough. Rock, paper, scissors?
- 17 GIRL 1: OK. Shoot. (*They both throw rocks, then paper, then*
- 18 *scissors. Frustrated, they sigh, shake their heads, and each*
- 19 *leaves the way she came.*)
- 20 TRISTAN: But on Pentecost, they understood each other.
- 21 MADI: Everything made sense because the Holy Spirit had
- 22 come to guide them. They weren't just left to their own
- 23 devices.
- 24 KELLY: But what has any of this got to do with us?
- 25 TRISTAN: Ah, there's the rub. She's gotten to the heart of
- 26 it.
- 27 BOY 2: (*Entering*) Bottom line, no one was left out. God is for
- 28 everyone.
- 29 BOY 1: (*Entering*) And the gospel is for everyone, wherever
- 30 they may be.
- 31 GIRL 2: (*Entering*) And with the power of the Spirit, we can
- 32 speak to anyone, wherever they may be.
- 33 MADI: The Spirit is a powerful thing.
- 34 GIRL 1: (*Entering*) And when we witness to the gospel with
- 35 the power of the Spirit, the nonsense stops.

1     **TRISTAN:** And the music begins. Right, guys? *(At this point*  
 2             *the kids in the CHORUS take their places, push “play” on the*  
 3             *boom box, and sing a praise song of the director’s choosing.)*

4     **KELLY:** So Pentecost really did get everyone talking?

5     **ALL:** *(Together)* Yeah!

6     **CHORUS MEMBER 1:** And singing.

7     **CHORUS MEMBER 2:** But I think you forgot something..

8     **GIRL 2:** They *did* forget something, didn’t they?

9     **KELLY:** What’s that?

10    **TRISTAN:** Don’t look at me.

11    **MADI:** Let’s see. *(Counting on her fingers)* We covered  
 12             language, tongues of fire, wind ...

13    **CHORUS MEMBER 3:** Come on.

14    **MADI:** What? OK, give me a clue.

15    **TRISTAN:** What’s wrong? Didn’t you pay attention in  
 16             Sunday school? *(Overlapping TRISTAN, the CHORUS*  
 17             *starts to hum “Happy Birthday,” gradually increasing in*  
 18             *volume until MADI almost bursts with the answer.)*

19    **MADI:** It’s the birthday of the church!

20    **TRISTAN:** I can’t believe it took you so long to figure that  
 21             out.

22    **MADI:** I knew the answer, didn’t I?

23    **TRISTAN:** Well, it sure took you a long enough time to find  
 24             the right words.

25    **MADI:** *(Looking less than thrilled with her brother)* Ugh!

26    **KELLY:** And there you have it, folks. Pentecost is where  
 27             church and Spirit meet, and the point from which we  
 28             all go forward in faith. Thanks, everybody, for joining  
 29             us today. I’m Kelly, for *In the Mind of a Child*.

30

31

32             *NOTE: The numerals running vertically down the left margin*  
 33             *of each page of dialog are for the convenience of the director.*  
 34             *With these, he/she may easily direct attention to a specific*  
 35             *passage.*



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