

Suggested Children's Activity for Reconciliation Sunday 2012

This year we are celebrating Reconciliation Sunday on Pentecost Sunday.

What do we do on Reconciliation Sunday?

We remember the Aboriginal people of Australia and celebrate their culture. We give thanks for Aboriginal people as they were the first people in this land and they looked after it and gave special names to the birds and animals and the special places.

Do you know any Aboriginal people?

Maybe you might know some Aboriginal children at your school.

Even if we haven't met any Aboriginal people we might know some of the names they have given us for places near here.

Morialta, Medindie, **Tarndanyangga – Victoria Square** (places in Adelaide)

Useful web sites:

<http://www.adelaidecitycouncil.com/community/reconciliation/kaurna/>

<http://www.kaurnaplacenames.com/>

http://www.kaurnaplacenames.com/historical_context.php

(Some local research may be required here)

Today we are going to hear and say some words from an Australian language from the Kurna (pronounced Garna) people of the Adelaide Plains. This only one of many Aboriginal languages.

*(Use the downloaded **Sample Kurna Alphabet** datashow on a laptop computer with your group of children. Enjoy repeating the words. This might also be used in the church and shared with the whole congregation if multimedia facilities are available.)*

The other special thing about today is it is Pentecost. In Luke's story in the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit comes and people from many different places hear the people speaking in their own languages so they can all understand what people are saying. God's Spirit breaks down the barriers to communication so we can understand each other even if we are different and from different cultures. With the Holy Spirit living in us we are all brothers and sisters in God's family.

Note for leader:

Some names on the maps, such as Willunga, Onkaparinga and Aldinga, are names that Kurna people have used for those districts from time immemorial. These names were learnt by colonists from Kurna people and placed on the map as the one and only name for those districts. However, English and Kurna are very different languages. When the colonists learnt these names they adapted, or some might say 'corrupted', them to fit into an English way of saying them. Willunga is probably pronounced in much the same way that it always was. However Onkaparinga (originally Ngangkiparringga) and Aldinga (Ngaltingga) sound very different today to the way they were originally pronounced, mainly because English speakers do not use an ng [ŋ] sound at the beginning of words.

Read more . . . http://www.kaurnaplacenames.com/historical_context.php