

**Focus:** The Holy Spirit is Jesus' special helper

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD: Easter Medley—Cycle A  
Gospel reading: In lesson plan  
Foam heart  
Pinwheel

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about believing Jesus will lead us to God in heaven. This week Jesus tells us that we have a special helper to keep us on the path that Jesus showed us leads to God.*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*O God, send us your spirit to be our helper and our guide. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Come Christians, Join to Sing, track: 1, from EASTER CD CYCLE A*

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

Come, Christians, join to sing  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain;  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore,  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Alleluia! Amen!

**Memory Verse**

*Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*If you love Jesus, you will listen to him.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

*Say: Just as parents tell us to obey a babysitter and listen to Grandma and Grandpa while they are away, Jesus told us that we are to keep obeying the rules he taught us. Jesus told us to love and care for others. He taught us to pray and do what is right so that we can live in heaven with God forever.*

## Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of John.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read: None, pp. ,

Jesus said:

[Chatty hands, thumb against index finger]

“If you love me,

[Cross hands over heart]

you will do all that I’ve taught you.

[Spread arms in gesture of ‘all’]

I will ask my heavenly Father,

[Point heavenward]

and he will send you an Advocate, the Spirit of Truth

[Open hands, palms face up, gesture as giving a gift]

I will not leave you alone.

[Shake head]

My love will live in you.

[Cross hands over heart]

Live as I taught you,

[Tap index finger on temple]

and my heavenly Father

[Point heavenward]

and I will love you,

[Cross hands over heart]

and the Holy Spirit will be with you.

[Give yourself a hug]

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

## Discussion Starters:

- *What does Jesus tell us to do if we love him?*
- *Who does Jesus promise God will send to help his followers?*
- *Why does Jesus send the Spirit to us?*
- *What does Jesus promise about the Spirit? (will he leave us alone?)*
- *How does Jesus show his love for his followers?*
- *Why does Jesus send the Holy Spirit?*
- *What does the Holy Spirit help us to do?*

**Reflection on Reading:**

*In the gospel today, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to those who love him. Followers of Jesus show that they love him by keeping his commandments. Jesus understands that sometimes it is hard to follow him. He tells his friends that he will ask God to send the Holy Spirit as a helper(Advocate). The disciples do not want Jesus to leave them. Jesus loves his disciples and he promises never to leave them alone. Jesus tells his followers that the Holy Spirit will always be with them as a teacher and a guide.*

*The Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught us. The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom (good thinking) to know what is right and the courage to do what is right. We are never alone when we have the Holy Spirit to guide us.*

**Gospel Activity**Activity 1:**Love Go-Round Game**

Have the children sit in a circle. Hand the heart to one child and chant the following while they pass the heart around the circle:

There's plenty of love to go around,  
The more and more we share.  
Where is the love that goes around?  
Where is the love, O where?

When the verse is done, whoever is holding the heart shares something they can do to show God's love to others.

(You can play a portion of a song from one of the CD's instead-for example: Jesus loves me, this I know; Jesus loves the little children; This little light of mine; instead of the verse.)

Repeat as time allows.

Activity 2:

"The Holy Spirit is our guide and helper. I wonder 'how can the Holy Spirit be our guide if we can't even see the Spirit?'.

I have a pinwheel here. If I hold it up it just sits there, it won't spin without the wind. Has anyone ever flown a kite? The kite needs wind to keep it high up in the air. How many of you have seen the wind? That's a kind of a trick question. You can't see the wind. You can see leaves as they blow in the wind and the branches move, but you can't see the wind. Sometimes we can even feel the wind on our face.

So even though we can't see the Spirit we know he is with us because Jesus told us he would. We can hear about the Spirit in bible stories, see the Spirit helping people to follow Jesus. The bible says the Spirit of God moves his people to speak and do things for him. Remember, just like the pinwheel needs the wind (blow on pinwheel) we need the Holy Spirit to help us be good followers of Jesus.

*Father, thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit. Even though we can't see the Spirit we are thankful we can hear him speak to our hearts, feel his presence in our lives and know he guides us to do your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

**Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who sent Jesus to love as God loves?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who will be with us forever?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who comes from the Father to give us comfort and help us make right choices?*

**Sending Forth**

*Say: Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit to be a special friend to help us. This week, find someone who needs help feeling better. This is how we spread Jesus' love to others.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "Rejoice in the Lord Always" track 3 from EASTER CD CYCLE A while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.