

Focus: Jesus wants us to spread the good news

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: 25 Sunday School Songs
Bible: The Big Picture Story Bible
Blue tape, paper and ping pong balls

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about the prayer that Jesus said for us. He prayed that we would always know that God the Father is with us. This week we are going to hear a story about the Holy Spirit, and how it helps us spread the word about Jesus.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Amen.

Song/Movement

Trust and Obey, track:, from 25 Sunday School Songs

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. Have children sit on their carpet squares when finished.

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way
While we do His good will
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and
obey.
(Chorus).

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go,
Never fear only trust and obey.
(Chorus 2x)

Chorus:
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey

Memory Verse

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

I will send you the gift of the Holy Spirit

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

Say: *After Jesus had risen, he spent time with his friends, teaching them all they would need to know to spread the Good News about God's kingdom. Jesus knew that times would be hard and they would need help to carry on His work. He sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to make good decisions and be strong when we have to do hard work for Jesus.*

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: The Big Picture Story Bible, pp. pp. 413-426, *God's New Kingdom Spreads*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What did Jesus tell his followers would happen after he went to heaven?*
- *What happens when Jesus gives his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit help the disciples?*
- *How does the Holy Spirit help us?*
- *How does your family help you to grow?*
- *How does the Church help you to grow?*

Reflection on Reading:

Today's feast of Pentecost celebrates the day in which the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. It is the last Sunday of Easter and brings the Church's Easter Season to a close.

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to help the disciples spread the news of God's Kingdom. After the Holy Spirit comes to them they are able to tell many people about God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit doesn't help us speak in many languages, but it can guide us to make good decisions and stand up for what is right.

As long as we live, we keep learning more and more about how to live lives of love according to God's truth. As we learn about God's truth from the bible and from the Church and pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us, we begin to form a conscience. A conscience is that part of us that feels uncomfortable and sad when we know we've done something wrong. As the Holy Spirit forms our conscience, we find it easier and easier to know and do what is right.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Fanfare Relay

Divide the group into equal teams. Mark a start and finish line on the floor with the blue painter's tape. Give the first person in the line a piece of card stock and a ping pong ball. The ping pong balls have different logos on them in case they cross paths on the floor. The player must use the paper to fan the ping pong ball from the start to finish line and back again. Then the next team member does the same. Continue until everyone has a chance to go or as time permits.

Praying to the Holy Spirit helps us all move along toward becoming the people God wants us to be.

Activity 2:

Follow the Leader

Have the children form a single file line behind you. Have them copy your actions:

Say: Let's start our adventure in the park. Someone didn't put this paper in the trash.

Action: Bend down to pick it up and throw it away.

Say: Look no one will play with that little boy, but I will.

Action: Throw a ball and pretend to catch one.

Say: I'm so hungry, but there is a long line at the ice cream truck, should I cut in line? No, I won't I will wait for my turn.

Action: Fold hands in front of you and relax to wait in line. Then pretend to pay for your and eat your ice cream.

Say: Uh, oh, it's time to go home, but I'm not ready, I'm having too much fun. Should I stamp my feet and refuse to go? No, I won't I will go home, I can always come back another day.

Action: Walk or skip back to your starting place.

See: making good choices is easy, let's think of some other good choices we can make, at home and at school.

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 has done great things for us?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who teaches us to pray?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us share the Good News of Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: Remember that by being good followers of Jesus and by making good choices we can let others know about Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Remember to do good things for others like, sharing a story, cleaning your room, making new friends at school, being kind to others.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*This Little Light of Mine*" track 10 from 25 Sunday School Songs 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.