

**Focus:** Being peacemakers

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD-Easter Season-Cycle C  
Bible: In lesson plan  
Piece of Paper  
3 Paper hearts

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

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about loving others as Jesus loves us. This week Jesus tells us that we are sent a guide, the Holy Spirit, to continue to teach us and remind us in our hearts and minds of the love that Jesus had for us.*

**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.*

*Dear Jesus, you give us the gift of peace. Help us to be peacemakers in our world.*

*In the name of Jesus we pray.*

*Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*Join in the Dance-May want to omit this as there is plenty of song and movement in the rest of the lesson plan., track: 1, from Easter Season Cycle C*

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.

Join in the dance of the earth's  
jubilation! This is the feast of the  
love of God.

Shout from the heights to the ends  
of creation: Jesus the Savior is risen  
from the grave!

1. Wake, O people; sleep no longer,  
greet the breaking day!  
Christ, Redeemer, Lamb and Lion,  
turns the night away!

2. All creation, like a mother, labors  
to give birth.  
Soon the pain will be forgotten, joy  
for all the earth!

3. Now our shame becomes our  
glory on this holy tree.  
Now the reign of death is ended;  
now we are set free!

**Memory Verse**

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

*God sent the Holy Spirit*

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

*Say: In the Gospel verse Jesus tells his disciples that he will always be with them even though his is leaving them to go back to his Father in heaven. Jesus tries to help his friends understand that even though he is leaving them, he will always be with them.*

*Jesus tells his disciples that they will not be left alone. The Father will send the Holy Spirit to help them remember all that Jesus has taught them. Jesus tells his disciples that he is leaving them with a very special gift, the gift of peace. The Holy Spirit brings the gift of peace to all followers of Jesus. This peace is different from the peace that the world has to give. The peace that Jesus gives lives in the hearts of believers forever. Jesus brings comfort and peace to his disciples by telling them that he will always be with them.*

**Sing Alleluia for Easter Season:**

***“Hallelu, Hallelu” Track 2 on CD Labeled EASTER SEASON CYCLE C,***

**Say:**

**We haven’t been able to sing Alleluia during Lent, but now it is Easter and we celebrate that Jesus is Risen!**

***Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,  
Praise ye the Lord!***

***Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah,  
Praise ye the Lord!***

***Praise ye the Lord, Hallelujah, repeat 2 times  
Praise ye the Lord!***

***Repeat three times***

### **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. N/A,

Jesus said to his disciples:

[Chatty hands, thumb on forefinger]

“Whoever loves me will keep my word,

[Place your hands over your heart.]

And my Father in heaven will love him.

[Point heavenward]

And we will come to him and make our dwelling in him.

[Use both hands to point to your chest]

I have told you this, the Holy Spirit will be sent to you by the Father.

[Pretend you are handing someone a gift]

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything

[Put your hands on your heart]

And remind you of all that I told you.

[Point to your head]

My peace I give to you.  
[Pretend you are handing someone a gift]  
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.  
[Shake your head no.]  
I am always with you.  
[Hold your arms as if hugging yourself]

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

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

### Discussion Starters:

- *How did Jesus teach us to love?*
- *Can you think of any examples from the Gospel stories we have heard this year?*
- *Who did God the Father send to teach us about love?*
- *What does the Holy Spirit do for us?*
- *What will we do if we love God?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*The Holy Spirit helps us to love others and to show that love in many ways. When people are kind, forgiving, patient, gentle, peaceful and generous, that's the love of the Holy Spirit showing through them. Sometimes it's hard to be forgiving, patient or generous, but if we pray, the Holy Spirit will help us.*

*All love comes from God. We would not be able to love anyone if God didn't make that possible for us. Just as God gives us life, air, food, water and all that we need, he also gives us the ability to love. God knows that loving and being loved are things we need as much as air, food or water. When we love someone, especially when it's hard to do, that is the love of God living in us. Whatever we do in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do in the name of love.*

### Gospel Activity

#### Activity 1:

#### Spiritual Exercise

Explain that the word "spirit" in Hebrew-the language of the people of Israel in the Old Testament- is RUAH, and means wind or breath. Invite the children to breathe in and out slowly. Ask them if they can feel the breath moving in and out of their lungs. Invite them to hold their breath for a few seconds and feel it press against their ribs. Invite them to blow little puffs of air against their palms and ask how that feels.

Pick up a piece of paper and show how the paper moves when you blow hard against it, even if you are holding it tightly. Ask the children if they can see the air around them.

We can't see it, but we know it is there because we feel it and see what it does. The Spirit of God is like that. We don't see the Holy Spirit, but we feel his love and we see that love in action in the world.

Activity 2:

You will need 3 hearts for this activity.

Jesus taught his friends about God, love and how we can see God in the love we give and receive.

God is love.

[Hold up one heart]

God, our loving Father, sent Jesus, his loving Son, to teach us how to love.

[Hold up the second heart, fanned out next to the first two like two leaves of a three leaf clover]

Jesus said that God the Father would also send the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity to continue to teach us and remind us in our hearts and minds the love that Jesus taught.

[Hold up the third heart, and fan it in with the other two, completing the three-leaf clover shape]

If we love God, we will live in love and the love of God that Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit will live in us.

[Hold the fanned hearts over your own heart]

Put the hearts on the felt board with the "stem." Tell them that the stem represents the love that each the Father, Son and Holy Spirit share with each other and with us.

Ask them to brainstorm ways to show love to others. Have them be specific-choose a person and an act that shows love to that person.

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 knows and loves all people?*

*Do you believe in Jesus, who prepares a place for us with God?*

*Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with peace and helps us to treat others with love?*

**Sending Forth**

Say: *Pick someone close to you and show them you love them each day this week. Choose something different each day. Give them a hug, a kiss a flower etc.*

**Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "Rejoice in the Lord" track 3 from Easter Season Cycle C 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.