

Focus: The Holy Spirit Guides Us.

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD-Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1
Bible: The Beginner's Bible
Red/Green paper squares

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about living in community like the Holy Trinity does. This week we will hear the story of the first time the Holy Spirit was made visible to the apostles and what happened afterward.

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 God's people; and light in them with the fire of your love.
Amen.*

Song/Movement

Praise him, praise him all you little children., track: 29, from Bible Songs for Kids - Volume 1

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.

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Memory Verse

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

I will go and make a place ready for you.

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

Say: *Jesus tells this to his disciples before he goes back to his Father in heaven. He is no longer here on earth as a person but he stays with us in spirit. He sent the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us and show us the way to be good followers of Jesus.*

No one has ever really seen the Holy Spirit, but sometimes we can hear his voice. Sometimes we have to make a choice and choosing the right thing is hard, but the Holy Spirit tells us to do it anyway. We can pray to the Holy Spirit just like we pray to God the Father and Jesus, the Son. We can ask the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices.

Gospel Story

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

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 Beginner's Bible, pp. 496-499, *Jesus Goes Home*

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

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

Discussion Starters:

- *What are the disciples supposed to do after Jesus leaves?*
- *Where did the friends go after Jesus ascended into heaven?*
- *Why were the disciples filled with joy?*
- *What things did they remember about Jesus?*
- *What did Jesus promise them he would do when he came back?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus' mission was to suffer, die and rise again; once his mission was accomplished he knew there was no need for him to stay. Jesus knows it's time to return to his Father. He wants to be sure his work continues. He tells the disciples that they are to tell people about Jesus and his message. They are told they should wait in Jerusalem until the Spirit comes. The Apostles are still not exactly sure what the kingdom is like where Jesus is going, but they are happy to do what Jesus asks.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to stay with us forever. Jesus and the Holy Spirit and the Father are one God. Where one is, they all are. Jesus is still with us in the Holy Spirit.

The disciples were filled with joy, because they knew the love of God. Knowing love is the greatest joy there is. When we experience the love of God we are filled with joy too.

Gospel ActivityActivity 1:**The Holy Spirit Comes:**

Read from The Beginner's Bible, pp. 500-505. Wind and Fire.

This is the story of how the apostles first experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit. It isn't usually so forceful. We experience the Spirit when we feel the love of God. Sometimes it is in a prayer in church; sometimes it is when your mom or dad give you a hug and a kiss on the head before bedtime. God's love comes in many quiet ways.

What do you think the apostles told others about Jesus? Acknowledge appropriate responses.

When we are baptized we receive the Holy Spirit. After we are baptized we learn about all the ways that the Holy Spirit helps us to be good children of God.

Imagine you are sitting in the room where the apostles were. What is it like? What are you sitting on, a bench, a chair, the floor? There are a lot of people there, are you talking with anyone or are you just sitting by yourself thinking about all the amazing things that have happened? Then, all of sudden, with no notice, the room is filled with a strong warm wind. Your hair blows around, but you don't see anything right away. Then you see little flames of fire come and rest over your head. You are filled with God's love and go out and tell others about Jesus. What do you think you would tell them?

Allow time for sharing.

Activity 2:

The Holy Spirit helps us make good choices. Let's practice making good choices that help us be good children of God and show God's love to others so they can be happy too.

All good things come from God. Without God there is no goodness. Who would want to live in a world without goodness? Those who love God are filled with his love and goodness.

Even the simplest prayer or smallest kindness to someone else, if it is done in the name of Jesus, becomes an act of love for God.

Let's play a game to see if we know how to be kind to someone else.

Red Light-Green Light

(Use the colored paper squares-or use thumbs up/thumbs down) Have children raise Red for a bad idea (STOP), Green for a good idea (GO). These are just a few examples. Please make up some more of your own.)

- You see a friend crying so you just walk right by.
- You hear your parents talking so you wait patiently before asking a question.
- It is very late and you are tired, so you cry loudly and complain about everything.
- You don't really like peas, but you eat two more bites for mom.
- Time for bed, so you stomp your feet and say, "NO!"

- It is morning and everyone is waking up. You still feel tired, but you give a big smile and a hug good morning to your mom and dad.
- You give your unused toys to the homeless shelter
- A friend asks to play with your new game and you won't share.
- You help your mom and dad deliver food to the food bank
- A child at the playground makes a mistake and you make fun of them.
- There is a new kid at school and you ask him to play with you on the playground.
- You throw a temper tantrum when you don't get what you want
- Before you go home from a play date you help clean up
- Listen to your parent when they tell you it's time to clean up your room
- You don't pay attention at the grocery store and you hit someone with a shopping cart
- You run or skate around inside a store
- Visit someone in a nursing home
- Make a card for a sick friend
- You get mad and hit your brother or sister

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 us?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who brings us God's peace and forgiveness?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us live a life of peace?

Sending Forth

Say: When we go back to church, take a quiet moment and say a prayer to the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and help you spread God's love to everyone. Ask him to help you be unselfish and to live in peace.

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play "*This Little Light of Mine*" track 32 from Bible Songs for Kids-Vol 1 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.