

The Holy Spirit – preschool/younger elementary

Acts 2:1-21

May 28, 2023

Opening Activity

Say: Good morning! We're going to draw a picture a little differently today. We're going to use a blindfold. Let's see how we do.

1. Give each kid a piece of paper and a crayon.
2. Help to secure a blindfold over each kid's eyes.
3. When kids are blindfolded and situated in their seats, invite each of them to pick up a crayon and try to draw a picture of a house, a tree, and a person standing next to it.
4. After 5-7 minutes of drawing, invite the kids to remove their blindfolds and take a look at their blind-art creations.

How do you feel about your artwork? Do you think you could have done a better job if you wouldn't have been blindfolded?

Today we're going to be talking about something that God gave us that is always with us. Just as you need your sight to create your best artwork, you need this gift to be your best self.

Let's say a prayer, and then we'll learn the story.

Prayer:

(If you have a candle, light it now)

Ask: When do we see candles burning? (Birthday cakes, fancy dinner, church, when the electricity goes out, etc.). **Say:** During worship, we light candles that sit on top of the altar. The flames remind us that God is with us. During our prayer today, we have this little flame burning. Watch this flame flicker as you listen to the prayer. The little fire can remind you that God is right here, in this room, with all of us.

Dear God.

Thank you for birthdays and parties, and churches! Thank you for being with us today as we celebrate the church's birthday. Help us to celebrate all of the good things you give us. Amen.

Open the Bible

Say: The disciples were celebrating a festival called Pentecost, when a very special guest showed up. Who was it? This special guest changed their festival into a birthday part! Let's watch the story now and see what happened.

[Listen to the story](#) based on Acts 2:1-21

Discuss:

1. Who was the special guest at the disciples' party? (the Holy Spirit)

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2. How did the disciples know they had received God's gift of the Holy Spirit? (A strong wind blew, there was a loud noise. It looked like flames of fire had touched everyone but no one was burned).

Amazing things happened when the Holy Spirit came to the disciples. Suddenly people could speak different languages! What must that have sounded like?

Let's try an experiment to find out how different languages sound. We're going to learn to say "Peace to you" in different languages (if you know another language, you can use that for this example). Teach the group to say one or two of the following: Paix a vous (pays uh voo) – French, Rauha teille (rowha tay-ley) – Finnish, or Pace pentru tine (pacha pentroo teenay) – Romanian.

Say "Peace to you" in different languages. You can overlap them with each other to get the effect of the people in that room.

Activate Faith

"Spirit Streamers" Craft

Kids create streamers that blow in the wind as they remember to share the Spirit.

Supplies: Rulers, duct tape or other strong tape, curling ribbon, ribbons, crepe paper streamers fabric strips, etc. Handle material like a shower ring, dowel or unsharpened pencil.

Set Up: Cut streamer materials into lengths of 12-24 inches. Plan to use 3-4 per child.

Instructions:

Say: Today, we are learning about Pentecost. How did the Holy Spirit come to the disciples during our story? (*Fire, wind, and spoken word*) Can you see fire? (*Yes.*) Can you see wind? (*No.*) Today, we are going to make something that will help us "see" the wind and remind us that even though we can't see it, the Holy Spirit is very powerful and it is always with us. We will use the streamers we make to praise the Lord with our dances!

1. Have each kid choose 3 or 4 pieces of material or ribbon for his or her streamer.
2. Invite each kid to select a handle, then use tape to secure one end of each streamer to the handle.
3. When kids are finished constructing their streamers, ask them spread out in the room and practice using them. Show kids how to move the streamers up and down, side to side, in circles, like a snake, zigzagging, and making figure eights. Play some music to get the kids dancing with the Spirit.

I know that the power of the Holy Spirit was in each of you as you danced today! I hope that every time you dance or move with your streamer, you'll remember to share the Spirit!

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Balloon Ball – Activity

Show the children the “flat” balloon, then blow it up and tie it. Give each child a small paper plate and toss the balloon in to the air. The children must work together to try and keep the balloon in the air by waving their plates back and forth. Play for a short time then talk about it. What kept the balloon in the air? What gave the balloon it’s shape?

Just as the air gave the balloon its strength and shape, and the wind from the paper made it move, the Holy Spirit can help each of us and is with us every day. That’s God’s gift to us.