

Spirit Thing

Bible Story: Spirit Thing (The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost) • Acts 2:1-41

Bottom Line: God gives you what you need to keep going.

Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NirV)

Life App: Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to guide your group's conversation today as you unpack a hugely abstract concept like the Holy Spirit. Fittingly, ask for the Spirit's guidance during today's Small Group time. Pray that kids will leave today encouraged that followers of Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that God wants to help them stay determined to finish what they start.

1. Early Arriver

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- Provide kids with a piece of paper and a marker.
- Ask the question: If you could be given any gift ever, what would it be?
- Encourage kids to draw their answer on the paper.
- As kids finish, allow them to share their picture with the group and describe what they drew and why they think it's the best gift ever.
- Keep these pictures for the Prayer activity at the end of Groups.

2. Tongue Twister Telephone

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to sit in a circle so you can play the game "Telephone."
- You will whisper a phrase into one kid's ear and that person will whisper it to the person sitting next to them.
- The goal is for each kid to continue the whispered phrase around the circle until the very last person attempts to say the phrase out loud.

- Make sure to tell your group whether they got the phrase correct, or let them know what the phrase should have been.

Tongue Twister phrases (feel free to use your own if you have some favorites):

1. The really rad rhinoceros ran out of raspberries.
2. Big bully Billy better be nice to Beatrice.
3. Sally's out of seashells, so she now sells sandwiches.
4. Purple platypuses pick pink peonies.
5. Hungry, hungry hippos shouldn't hang out by your homework.

What You Say:

"You all did a pretty amazing job at passing on those super funny sentences, but sometimes they were easy to get twisted, weren't they? What do you think it would feel like if you didn't know what your friend was saying all the time? (*Allow time for responses.*) **[Transition]** Today in our story, we are going to learn about a group of people who couldn't understand what the others were saying. **BUT** it was for a really cool reason!"

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

* 1. Holy Spirit Scramble

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: "Holy Spirit Scramble" Activity Pages, computer/tablet/phone with Internet access

What You Do:

- Divide kids into four teams.
- Give each team an Activity Page (each team should receive a different phrase and sign language instructions).
- Give teams a few minutes to try to learn their Bible story phrase in sign language. (The phrases are in English word order, not ASL, so they are easier for kids to understand and learn.)
- Phrases three and four are a bit more complicated than the other two.
 - Use a computer/tablet/phone with Internet access to show those teams the videos of their phrases. (For an example, visit: <http://bit.ly/2vC5SsJ>)
 - If needed, let the kids who have the first two phrases watch their videos as well.
- Once kids start to get the hang of signing their phrase, guide them to speak and sign their phrases in order.
- If kids quickly become "pros" at signing their phrase, let them pair up with another team and teach each other a new phrase.

Phrases in order:

1. The Holy Spirit gave power.
2. People believed in Jesus!
3. The disciples began their big job.
4. We can tell people about Jesus too!

What You Say:

“Teamwork makes the dream work, doesn’t it? Great job working together in teams to form the different parts of today’s Bible story. Today we learned that the Holy Spirit gave power to Jesus’ followers so they could speak in other languages and, therefore, make sure many teams, tribes, and tongues could hear about Jesus. Sure, the job that was before them was MASSIVE, but when **[Bottom Line] God gives you what you need to keep going**, you can do anything He asks you to do!”

2. Sticky Situations**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Sticky Solutions” and “Sticky Situations” cards (Activity Pages), sticky tack (or tape), blindfolds

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to line up approximately 15 feet from a wall in your Small Group area.
- Use the sticky tack or painter’s tape to attach the “Sticky Solutions” cards to the wall.
- Spread the cards out a bit so it’s easier for blindfolded kids to grab just one card.
- Blindfold the first kid in line and read them a “Sticky Situation” from one of the cards.
- Guide the first kid to walk toward the wall to retrieve a solution for their situation.
- Encourage the rest of the group to cheer on the blindfolded kid and help them navigate which solution they should choose, by telling them to go left, right, up, or down.
- Once they have retrieved a solution card, they can take off the blindfold. Give them the situation card you read.
- Allow each kid in your group to have a turn.
- Instruct kids to hold onto their situation and solution cards. Once all the situation cards have been paired up with solutions, gather kids around to talk about their specific scenarios.
- Ask:
 - What would it look like to show determination in that situation?
 - How can the solution you have help you keep going?
 - Has anybody ever been in any of these specific situations?

What You Say:

“Great job helping each other come up with determined solutions for those situations! Whenever a real-life sticky situation happens to me, I have to remind myself that **[Bottom Line] God gives you what you need to keep going** just like we had what we needed right there on the wall! Sometimes we forget that the stuff and people we have around us were all given to us by God! He provides the help we need and through His Holy Spirit, He gives us the strength we need to keep going. When I’m facing something hard, what helps me is to pause, think about what God has given me already, and ask Him for help to conquer the situation!”

[Make It Personal] (Share a time you were faced with something hard, how you wouldn’t have made it without God’s help, and how God gave you what you needed to keep going.)

3. Remember Your Verse

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Cheerios (or Froot Loops), pipe cleaners

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Provide each kid with a pipe cleaner and one piece of cereal for every word in the memory verse.
- Review the verse out loud together several times.
- Instruct your few to use the pipe cleaner to loop one piece of cereal onto the pipe cleaner for every word of the memory verse.
- The twist is, they can only use one hand. (If kids have a hard time with this and start to get really frustrated, let them help each other, but keep the “one hand” rule in place.)
- Once completed, help kids to tie their pipe cleaner onto their wrist like a bracelet and use it to practice their memory verse for the rest of the day.

What You Say:

“Whew! I didn’t know if we were going to get that done. That took some serious determination from you all, and you didn’t give up. Way to go! My prayer is that all day, you use this bracelet to not only remind you of our incredible memory verse, but also to remind you that no matter what you face, **[Bottom Line] God gives you what you need to keep going.**”

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Pictures from Early Arriver, markers

What You Do:

- Instruct your group to grab their pictures from their Early Arriver activity.
- Hand out the markers.
- Encourage kids to turn over their papers to the back and make a list of all of the things God has given them already.
 - Prompt them with examples such as: siblings, a place to live, friends, etc.
- Once kids are finished with their list, explain that although God doesn’t always give us everything we WANT, He does give us what we NEED to keep going.
- Pray over your group.

What You Say:

“God, there are a lot of times when we focus on the things we want You to give us instead of being grateful for everything You have already blessed us with! Today we simply want to come to You praising You for everything You have given us. We know that no matter what we face, You will give us what we need to keep going. Thank You for reminding us of this today!”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to show their families the “Best Gift Ever” paper and their list on the back. Remind them that this week they can choose to remember that **[Bottom Line] God gives you what you need to keep going.**