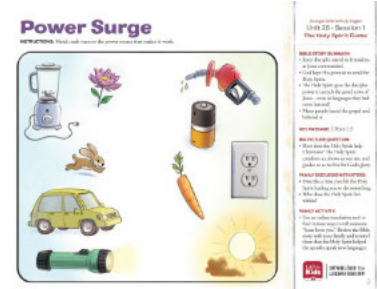




Lesson	The Holy Spirit
Bible Passage	Acts 2
Story Point	God is with us
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible



KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

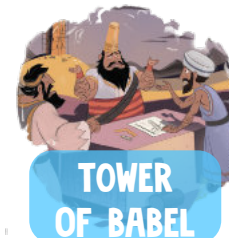
Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He instructed the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come upon them. So the disciples went back to Jerusalem, where they waited and prayed for 40 days.

The time came for the Jewish festival called Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks. As with the Passover festival, Jews from all over the Roman Empire would be at the temple in Jerusalem.

During this festival, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in Jerusalem. They heard a sound like a violent, rushing wind. When the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers, they were able to speak in foreign languages. They went out into the city and began to preach, and the Jews from all over the world were amazed. These men were from Galilee, but they were speaking in languages the visitors could understand.

Some of those who heard this thought the disciples were drunk. But Peter explained that God had kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. He reminded them of the prophet Joel's words: "I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity" (Joel 2:28). The Holy Spirit is how God dwells **with us** as believers.

The disciples told about God's plan. The Holy Spirit convicted the crowd and they asked, "Brothers, what must we do?" Peter told them to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus. That day, three thousand people received salvation!

With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could share the gospel with the entire world. (See Acts 1:8.) God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As you teach children, emphasize that the Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



10 min **Take Off**

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to work together to name as many languages as they can. Ask if anyone knows more than one language. How might it feel to be in a place people speak different languages? How might it feel to hear someone speaking your own language there?

Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Transition to Bible Story:

Today's story takes place in the New Testament after Jesus returned to heaven. When Jesus was with His disciples, He promised to send His Spirit - the Holy Spirit - to be with His followers after He left them. Let's learn more about what it was like when God kept this promise!

(OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Acts 2**. The book of Acts comes right after the gospels in the New Testament and tells us what happened to Jesus' followers after Jesus ascended to heaven.

Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

Before the Holy Spirit came, Jesus' disciples were locked in a room, afraid of the religious leaders who had crucified Jesus. After the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples rushed out to begin boldly sharing about Jesus. Nothing about the disciples themselves had really changed. They didn't have a sudden burst of new knowledge or wisdom; what they had was the Holy Spirit in their lives! The Holy Spirit gave the disciples boldness to proclaim the good news. He gave them wisdom to remember what Jesus had taught them. He even gave them power to speak in languages they had never studied or learned! He is the amazing fulfillment of Jesus' promise that God would be with believers forever.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. That means He is fully God just as Jesus and the Father are fully God. He is the Helper Jesus promised to send. He lives with all believers and gives us the power we need to live for God's glory. How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and guides us as we live for God's glory. Without the Holy Spirit, no one could love and obey God, and with Him anyone can have a huge impact to change the world for God's glory.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were gathered together. All of a sudden, a sound came from heaven. Then tongues appeared like flames of fire, and they rested on each of the disciples. The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in languages they didn't even know!

Now, Jews were in Jerusalem who had come from every nation. They heard the disciples' voices in their own languages, and they were amazed!

Peter stood up and reminded the people of something the prophet Joel had said long ago: "God says, 'I will pour out My Spirit on all people ... Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Peter said, "Even though God planned for Jesus to die, you used lawless people to nail Him to a cross and kill Him. But God raised Jesus from the dead."

Then Peter said, "Jesus is alive! He went up to heaven to be with God the Father." Peter continued, "When you killed Jesus, you killed the Messiah!"

The Holy Spirit convinced the people that Peter was telling the truth. "What must we do to be saved?" they asked. Peter told the people to repent—to turn away from their sins and to turn to God. Everyone who believed Peter's message was baptized.

That day, about three thousand people joined Jesus' followers.



Christ Connection: God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find **Acts 2**. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is **with us**.
2. **How is God with us on Earth now that Jesus is in Heaven?** through the Holy Spirit
3. **What did the Holy Spirit enable the disciples to do as they shared the gospel?** Speak different languages so that each listener could understand it (Acts 2:6).
4. **Which prophet from the Old Testament did Peter quote to explain the miraculous events the Holy Spirit was causing?** Joel (Acts 2:16-21).
5. **What did Peter tell the people that they needed to do to be saved and receive the Holy Spirit?** Repent - trust in Jesus (Acts 2:38).
6. **What can the Holy Spirit do in our lives?** Give us God's power to do what God asks us to do, to share the gospel with boldness like Peter did, to grow the fruit of the Spirit in us (love, joy, peace, etc).



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

WITH US

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Tongue Twisters

Challenge the kids to say tongue twisters repeatedly. You may use the suggestions here, or search online to find more.

Goggles topple purple circles circling toppled cycles.

Yellow bellied lizard gizzards bellow belly giggles.

Red headed Beth bets beds against bird baths.

- Today we learned about the time the Holy Spirit arrived to Jesus' disciples. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak languages they didn't even know! That's much more impressive than saying a tongue twister without jumbling the letters!

Wind Power

Invite the kids to form pairs. Give each kid a straw and hold a series of races where kids compete head to head to see who can blow their table tennis ball the farthest with a single breath.

- Wow, you all made some mighty wind with your breath and a straw. You blew those table tennis balls clear across the room! Today, we learned about an even greater source of power that also has some things in common with wind!

Experience a Windy Race

Designate a start and finish line. Place a table tennis ball at the start line. Show a child how to wave heavyweight paper back and forth to produce wind. Lead her to aim the wind and guide the table tennis ball toward the finish line. Play until each child has had a turn.

- A wonderful thing happened to Peter and Jesus' other disciples in today's Bible story. They were together in a house, when they suddenly heard a sound like a rushing wind coming from heaven.

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Languages Gathered

Write the names of different languages on separate strips of paper. Based on the number of kids in your group, write one language for every two or three kids. Also include a strip with the words, Every language! Put the strips in a paper bag.

Invite kids to play a game similar to fruit basket upset. Choose one kid to stand in the middle of the room. The rest of the kids sit in chairs in a circle. Assign two or three kids to each language. The kid in the center pulls a language from the bag and announces it. Anyone assigned that language must find a new chair. The center player also finds a chair. The player left without a chair pulls the next slip. If a kid draws Every language! everyone finds a new chair.

- Long ago, people speaking many different languages gathered in Jerusalem. Something amazing happened to Jesus' disciples so that when they spoke, all the people could understand them!

Gospel Sharing Practice

Use "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" to guide kids through the gospel. Encourage them to practice sharing the gospel with one another to prepare for any opportunity they may have to share with a person who doesn't yet know Jesus. Consider using the following motions to help kids learn:

God rules—Motion as though setting a crown on your head.

We sinned—Use your forearms to make a large X over your chest.

God provided—Rotate the X slightly so it looks like a cross.

Jesus gives—Move cupped hands outward from belly as though giving a gift.

We respond—Raise both hands into the air as in praise.

- The gospel is too good to keep secret. When we love God and understand what He has done for us, the desire to tell others will grow inside us until we can't stay silent! With the Holy Spirit's power, we can tell the world about Jesus.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their Travel Guide**.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're ready for Sunday!

