

A colorful illustration of Jesus, with a beard and wearing a green robe, standing in the center of a courtyard and gesturing with his hands as he speaks to a group of people. The group includes men and women in various robes, some sitting on the ground and others standing. The background shows a building with arched doorways and trees.[illegible]

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.

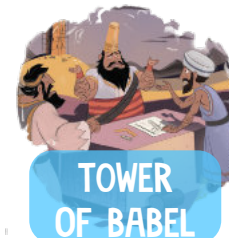
After your study ask yourself:

- 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



JOB



TOWER OF BABEL



TABERNACLE



BALAM & BALAK



THE ARK RETURNS



ELIJAH & MT CARMEL



EZEKIEL



FIERY FURNACE



HOLY SPIRIT



PHILIP & THE ETHIOPIAN



PAUL MET JESUS



PRODIGAL SON



CHILDREN OF GOD

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

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

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!

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!

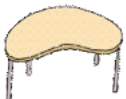
With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could share the gospel with the entire world. (See Acts 1:8.) God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior. As you teach children, emphasize that the Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more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

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

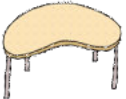
Morning Routine



Stay with this order.
Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.
Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.

	Take Off VBS song Prayer BPQ & A		5 Min
	Journey Worship & Wiggles Psalm 23 Bible Story Discussion		15 Min
	Flight Lab Bible Story Activity		10 Min
	Free Play Inside or on playground		10 Min

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside

	Pilot's Log Prayer Take Home Page Settle & Review		5 Min
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5 min Take Off

Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning

Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing. Have your co-pilot check attendance.

Song

Do a VBS song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson.

Summer Truth: We can explore the nature of God

This week we will look at the story of **Holy Spirit**

Summer Psalm

Practice the **Psalm 23 song during Worship & Wiggles**

Encourage and build excitement for memorizing, we will video the children on Sunday, August 30th

Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc...
Set expectations for the children: “my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap”

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

Bible Connection Ideas

Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

Fingerplay Ideas

Open Shut them:

Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*), I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

- The Bible tells us true stories about God. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Ezekiel. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is on page 266 in the It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

- When Jesus ascended into Heaven, He made a promise that the Helper was coming to assist believers in sharing about Jesus. Days later, the disciples were gathered in a room when the sound of rushing wind came, and the Holy Spirit arrived. The Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity and is how God dwells **with us**, believers today.

What movement-based activity can I use?



Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions.

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see? God is WITH US**
2. **What sound did Jesus' disciples hear fill the house where they were meeting? (a strong, rushing wind)**
3. **What happened to Jesus' followers when they heard the sound? (They were filled with the Holy Spirit.)**
4. **How is God with us on Earth now that Jesus is in Heaven?** (Through the Holy Spirit)
5. **How can we know what God is like? We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible**

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

Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'

Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

The Holy Spirit Came — Acts 2

People came from far away to the city of Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. Jesus' disciples were meeting together. All of a sudden, a sound like a strong, rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house. The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers. When they started talking, they sounded different. They could speak in languages they didn't even know!

Other Jews came to see what was going on. They had come to Jerusalem from many other places, and they spoke different languages. But all of them could understand what Jesus' disciples were saying!

Peter stood up to talk to the crowd. "You saw the miracles Jesus did," he said. "God planned for Jesus to die. Then God raised Jesus from the dead! Now, Jesus is sitting beside God in heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to us."

Then Peter said, "Jesus is the Lord and Messiah! You killed Him on a cross!" The people knew Peter was telling the truth. "What should we do?" they asked. "Turn away from your sins and be baptized," Peter said. "God will forgive your sins, and you will get the Holy Spirit too."

That day, about three thousand people turned away from their sins and were baptized. They all believed and became followers of Jesus.

Christ Connection: God sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised. Now Jesus' disciples had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! God gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

The Holy Spirit Came — Acts 2

Card 1: After Jesus went to heaven, He told his friends to wait for a Helper—The Holy Spirit. All of Jesus' friends were together in a house. Suddenly a sound like a rushing wind came from heaven. The Holy Spirit filled all the friends.

Card 2: The Holy Spirit helped them speak in languages they did not even know. A large crowd of people heard the sound and came to them. Peter stood up to speak to all the people.

Card 3: He said, "People put Jesus on a cross, but God made Jesus alive again. We have seen Him! Jesus is the Messiah, the One God promised to send!"

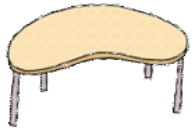
Card 4: When the people heard these words, they asked, "What should we do?" Peter said, "Tell God you are sorry for your wrong choices. Trust Jesus, and you will get the Holy Spirit!" That day, thousands of people trusted in Jesus. The Holy Spirit is how God dwells **with us** as believers.

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

Bible Storytelling Tips

Use sound effects: Find sound effects for rushing wind and a word or greeting spoken in a couple of different languages and play them during the story

Add to the scene: Tape a large sheet of paper to a wall at children's eye level. In the center, draw a group of men gathered together. Point to the men when mentioning the disciples gathering together in the Bible story. Add more figures to the scene as the Bible story progresses.



15 min Flight lab

Learning the story in an interactive way

Choose from below or use your own idea-however the Lord leads.

Then go into free-play.

Build a House with Blocks

Set out a variety of blocks. Invite children to work together to build a house.

- In today's Bible story, Jesus had returned to heaven. Jesus' disciples were meeting together. All of a sudden, a sound like a strong, rushing wind came from heaven and filled the house. Listen to the story to hear the more amazing things that happened afterward, and how the world changed forever that day!

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. Listen to the story to hear who came along with the wind sound.

Listen to Another Language

Invite a guest who speaks another language to visit your group. Ask him or her to retell the Bible story in another language. Allow time for children to ask how to say different words in the language.

Alternatively: Use an electronic device to play simple words from the Bible story (*Jesus, wind, Spirit, good news*) in a different language. Pick one or two words to speak and invite the children to repeat after you. **God sent the Holy Spirit just as He promised.** The disciples had everything they needed to make more followers of Jesus! When they started talking, the disciples could speak in languages they didn't even know!

Add More People

Idea 1: Provide each child with two people figures. Sit the children in a circle. Walk around the circle and guide children to add a figure to a basket at a time. Talk about the Bible story.

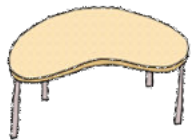
Idea 2: Tape a large sheet of paper to the wall. Draw a simple house outline. Provide magazine cutouts of people for children to tape to the house. Be sensitive to family situations. Talk about the Bible story as children play.

- God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' friends. Peter told people that Jesus is alive. Many people believed the truth about Jesus! **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US** hear and believe the good news.

Blow Boats Over Water

Provide a plastic bin with an inch of water, plastic boats, and straws. Encourage each child to use the straw to blow his boat. Talk about the Bible story.

- The friends heard a sound like a rushing wind. God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' friends. **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US.**



5 Min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to go home

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today's lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (playdough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.

PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connect strips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

Pointing to a Globe — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. 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 or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

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.

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.)