

Today's Suggested Schedule—April 26, 2026

Bible Story: Pentecost/Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41; Galatians 5:22-23

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

Conversation Starter: When have you experienced joy in your life?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZj> for a visual on some of the activities.

ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING SMALL GROUP (20 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Early Arriver /

Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (30-35 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

- Introduce Monthly Theme Poster
- Review Monthly Memory Verse Poster
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster
- Teaching (Video)
- Review Weekly Bottom Line Poster

SMALL GROUP (25-30 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Reinforcement Activity

Prayer Journal

TAKE HOME

Devotional Page

Social

Providing Time for Fun Interaction

15 minutes

Opening Activity

Made to Move

What You Need:

- Plastic cups
- Ping-pong balls
- Party blowers
- Table
- Timer (or smartphone or watch)

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Divide the group into teams.
- Give each kid a party blower.
- Explain the challenge: Using *only* the air from the party blower (no hands!), they are to knock the ping-pong balls off the cups.
- They are to get close enough for the party blower to extend and hit the ball.
- Time each team to see how fast they can knock all three off.

What You Say:

“That was a blast! It took a lot of air power to play that game. In our true story from the Bible today, the disciples experienced a different kind of power, something that sounded like a mighty rushing wind. It was the arrival of the Holy Spirit! Let’s go find out how that changed everything.”

LARGE GROUP

What You Need: TV, Pre-Loaded Video Content

What You Do:

1. Introduce/Remind kids about the
 - a. Monthly Theme
 - b. Monthly Memory Verse
 - c. Today's Bottom Line
2. Play Worship Songs
3. Allow kids to grab a snack
4. Play Teaching Video
5. Review Today's Bottom Line

Lead your group to the Small Group activity.

Groups

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

1. Bible Story Extension

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Create

What You Need:

- Bible
- “Pentecost Comic Strip” Activity Page
- Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Read Acts 2:1-4 out loud to the group. Explain that this is part of the story of what happened at Pentecost when God sent His Holy Spirit.
- Give each kid a comic strip page from the “Pentecost Comic Strip” Activity Page.
- Instruct the kids to draw the pictures for each panel.
- The captions should outline the story:
 1. The disciples were waiting and praying together.
 2. Suddenly, a sound like a mighty wind filled the house!
 3. Something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues separated and came to rest on each of them.
 4. They started speaking in different languages!
 5. Peter told the crowd about Jesus.
 6. 3,000 people decided to follow Jesus that day!
- Encourage the kids to be creative with how they show the wind and fire.
- Let them share their comics with a partner.

What You Say:

“Your comics really bring the story to life! Can you imagine being there? It must have been so amazing. The Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to do things they couldn’t do before—things like speaking new languages and being bold enough to preach to thousands.

“That same Holy Spirit, God’s very Spirit, lives in us today! When you choose to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you. But it takes practice to learn to listen and follow God’s Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit speaks to you in nudges throughout your day, sometimes He brings words to your mind, sometimes He will make words in the Bible jump right off the page, and you know they’re just for you. Sometimes He speaks through worship song lyrics that shoot straight to your heart.

“There are a lot of different ways that the God who goes with you everywhere will speak to you! He will send truths from heaven right to your heart! **[Bottom Line] The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**”

2. Discussion Questions

Talk about God | Bible Story Review

Made to Connect

Uses Minimal Supplies

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What's the difference between being happy and having joy?
- What's one thing you want to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with today?
- Before that Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit, the believers were waiting without knowing what would happen. How would YOU feel waiting for something God promised but didn't explain?
- Why does God choose to work through us instead of doing everything Himself?
- Since the Holy Spirit lives in you as a follower of Jesus, what are some ways you hear His voice?

3. Verses to Take with You Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity

Made to Play

What You Need:

- Bibles
- Sticky notes
- Blindfold

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Blindfold one kid.
- Spin them around gently.
- The goal is for them to stick a "pointer" sticky note (or just their hand) onto the sticky notes on the wall that have phrases of the Memory Verse on them.
- Whatever note they touch, the group is to read that phrase loud and joyfully!
- Then, take the blindfold off, and continue the same process with another kid.
- After each kid who wants to has had a chance to go, encourage the group to work together to put the notes in the correct order on the wall.
- Read the whole verse together.

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! This verse is a command—'Be joyful!' But it's also a promise. We can be joyful because we belong to the Lord. It's not about forcing a smile when we're sad; it's about knowing deep down that God loves us and He is with us. It's easy to forget that we have such an amazing Helper, but remember this: the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in you. It's breathtaking! And the more that you remember that the Holy Spirit is with you, the more your life will be filled with joy ... even in the middle of difficult times. God's Spirit gives you joy that lasts."

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect

What You Need:

- Posterboard cross from Week 1
- Sticky notes
- Writing supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sticky note and a writing supply.
- Say, “The Holy Spirit is our Helper. He wants to help us with the things we struggle with.”
- Ask the kids to write down or draw one thing they need the Holy Spirit’s help with this week. It could be “Patience with my sister,” “Courage at school,” or “Joy when I’m sad.”
- Invite them to stick their note on the cross.
- Explain that sticking what they need to the cross is a way of giving it to Jesus and asking His Spirit to handle it.

What You Say:

“Look at all these requests. God hears every one of them. You don’t have to carry these things alone. The Holy Spirit is right there with you, ready to help. The Holy Spirit is God in you, always. He is your constant friend. Let’s pray.

“God, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to be our Helper. We can’t be patient or kind or joyful at all by ourselves. We need You. Please help us with the things we wrote on the cross. Help us know You are with us all of the time, and help us to show Your fruit to the world. We know that **[Bottom Line] the Holy Spirit gives you joy**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”