

3-6 | April 26

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 (NirV)*

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Floor tape
- Paper straws
- Cotton balls

EveryChild Supplies:

- Paper plates*

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name with a high five or fist bump.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Create a start line and a finish line on the floor with tape.
- Give each kid a straw and a cotton ball.
- Encourage the kids to line up at the start.
- Explain that they are to move their cotton ball to the finish line using only the “wind” from their straw. No hands allowed!
- On “Go,” instruct them to blow their cotton balls across the floor.

What You Say:

“That was a lot of huffing and puffing! You used your breath to make wind to move the cotton balls. In our true story from the Bible today, something happened that sounded like a mighty rushing wind! It was a very special gift from God. Let’s go see what it was.”

EveryChild Pro-Tips

- *If blowing through a straw is difficult for a kid, allow them to use a paper plate to fan the cotton ball across the line instead.*

[Lead kids to do worship and watch today’s video lesson]

2. Bible Story Extension

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.***”

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *Encourage kids to work in pairs and support one another.*

3. Grouped Together

What You Need:

- Stickers of different shapes (circle, square, triangle, heart)

What You Do:

- Place a different shape sticker on each kid's shirt. Make sure there are groups of at least 2-3 for each shape.
- Tell the kids they are to find their "shape family," but they can't look at their own sticker!
- They are to ask friends questions like, "Am I round?" or "Do I have four sides?" to figure out what they are.
- Once they guess their shape, they are to find the other kids with the same shape sticker and stand together.
- Explain that in the story, people from all over the world spoke different languages, but the Holy Spirit helped them all understand the good news about Jesus.

What You Say:

"You found your groups! In our story, a crowd, made up of visitors who had traveled to Jerusalem for Passover, was confused. They came from all over: Mesopotamia, Cappadocia, Asia, Egypt, Rome, and many more areas. They spoke many different languages. And yet the believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, were speaking in a way that each of those visitors could understand!

"God wanted everyone, every person in every single group, to hear about His love! So the Holy Spirit gave Jesus' friends exactly what they needed so that the people there could hear about God's love. The Holy Spirit still helps us today! He goes through every single bit of life with you and will give you exactly what you need in that moment. He is God in you—He is God closer than close!

"So ask Him for anything you need. You can say, 'Holy Spirit, I am scared of the dark right now. Can You help me?' and He will. You can say, 'Holy Spirit, my friend is sad and needs to feel Your love. Can You give me the right words to say?' And He will! God goes through everything with you through His Spirit. You are never, ever alone, and that can give you joy! **[Bottom Line] The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**"

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *Offer a small menu of choices (e.g., "You might be a circle, square, or a triangle") to reduce frustration.*

4. Pray

"Dear God, thank You for the Holy Spirit. Thank You that You help us to be kind, patient, and joyful. Please help us this week to show Your love to others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."