

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
- Plastic fruit or a small ball
- Worship loop on Jellyfin

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you are going to play “Hot Potato,” but with a piece of fruit!
- Start the music and pass the fruit around the circle.
- When the music stops, instruct the kid holding the fruit to stand up and do a joyful dance.
- Start the music again and keep playing.

What You Say:

“You guys are great at passing the fruit! It’s fun to play games with friends and fruit. In our true story from the Bible today, God gave His friends a special gift who helped them have joy and share it with others. Let’s go find out who it was!”

2. Headband Story

What You Need:

- Bible
- Sentence strips
- Prepared paper flames
- Stapler
- Clear tape
- Glue sticks
- Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Read Acts 2:1-4 out loud to the group. Explain that this is part of the story of Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit.
- Give each kid a sentence strip. Measure it to fit their head and set it down.
- Retell the story of Pentecost. Remind the kids that the Holy Spirit came like a strong wind and looked like little flames of fire on the disciples' heads!
- Give each kid a flame cutout to glue or tape onto their headband.
- Set out the coloring supplies to decorate their headband.
- Staple the headbands closed so they can wear them.
- Place tape over the exposed edges of the staple.

What You Say:

“As the believers waited and prayed, a rushing sound, like wind, suddenly filled the whole house! Then tongues of fire appeared in the room, separated, and moved to rest over each believer. The wind and fire were signs that each believer had been filled with the Holy Spirit.

“God gave another sign too: these men and women began speaking in languages that they hadn’t known before! A crowd gathered because they heard their own languages being spoken. They were hearing about God’s Big Story in a way they could understand!

“God had sent His very Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to be with each believer. And the Holy Spirit is with all Jesus-followers now too! These headbands with flames remind us that **[Bottom Line]** **the Holy Spirit gives you joy** and helps you. The Holy Spirit is God’s special gift to us!”

EveryChild Pro-Tips:

- *For kids who struggle with gluing or taping, allow them to point or place items while an adult or buddy secures them.*
- *Some kids may dislike the feeling of a headband on their head. Allow them to hold it, clip it to a backpack, or turn it into a bracelet instead.*

3. Grouped Together

What You Need:

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

What You Do:

- Place a different shape sticker on the back of 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.”