

The Holy Spirit

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: The Holy Spirit—Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-4

Memory Verse: Acts 2:4 - 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

The Children's Sermon

Imagine holding a hot, spicy cinnamon ball in your mouth. At first, it feels super hot and you might want to spit it out because it's not comfy at all. But after a while, you get used to it, and it starts to taste sweet. This is a bit like how it feels when we first learn about the Holy Spirit. At first, it's a bit strange and hard to understand, but the more we learn, the better it feels.

The Holy Spirit is a special gift from God. It's like having a best friend who is always with you, helping you make good choices and feel brave when you talk about Jesus. Even when others might think you're a bit odd for loving Jesus so much, the Holy Spirit helps you keep going.

Sometimes, when we try to share our love for Jesus with our friends, they might not understand and think we're weird. But the Holy Spirit is like that hot cinnamon ball. Even though it's tough at the beginning, if we keep going, it gets easier and sweeter. The Holy Spirit whispers to us, encouraging us to keep sharing Jesus' love, even when it's hard.

Our friends might still think we're a bit strange, but they'll start to notice that we're making good choices and good things are happening in our lives. That's the Holy Spirit at work! It's like the hot ball has turned sweet, and the Holy Spirit's guidance feels comfortable and nice.

Now, let's talk about a special story from the Bible. It's about the Pentecost sermon Holy Spirit Acts 2:1-4. This story happened a long time ago, right after Jesus went to heaven. His friends, the disciples, were all together in one place. Suddenly, something amazing happened! They heard a sound like a strong wind blowing, and they saw what looked like little flames of fire that came and rested on each of them. That was the Holy Spirit coming to be with them, just like Jesus promised.

After the Holy Spirit came, the disciples could do amazing things! They started speaking in languages they didn't even know before, so they could tell everyone about Jesus, no matter where they were from. This was the very first Pentecost, and it was super special because it was when the Holy Spirit came to help Jesus' friends share His love with the whole world.

The Holy Spirit is still with us today, helping us just like it helped the disciples. It's like having a superpower that helps us be brave and share Jesus' love, even when it might feel a bit scary at first. Remember, even if your friends think you're a bit different for loving Jesus, the Holy Spirit is always with you, making you strong and helping you make good choices.

So, next time you feel a bit unsure about talking about Jesus or doing the right thing, think about that hot cinnamon ball. Remember how it starts off hot and uncomfortable but then becomes sweet? That's what it's like when we let the Holy Spirit help us. It

might be a bit tough at first, but it gets easier and sweeter, and we can feel happy and confident because we're doing what God wants us to do.

Let's say a prayer together: Dear God, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to be our helper and friend. Please help us to listen to the Holy Spirit's whispers and be brave when we talk about Jesus. Help us to remember the story of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit helped the disciples. We want to be like them, sharing Your love with everyone. Amen.

So, kids, always remember that the Holy Spirit is like that sweet part of the hot cinnamon ball. It's there to make you strong, help you make good choices, and feel confident in sharing Jesus' love, no matter what. And just like the disciples on that first Pentecost, you can do amazing things with the Holy Spirit's help.

Bible Memory Verse

Acts 2:4 - 'All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

You Will Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Construction paper (preferably blue or white)

Get Ready:

- Cut the red, orange, and yellow tissue paper into flame shapes.
- Cut the construction paper into the shape of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit.

Do This:

1. Have each child choose a piece of construction paper and a glue stick.
2. Encourage the children to glue the tissue paper 'flames' onto their construction paper around the dove to represent the Holy Spirit coming down as flames on the disciples.
3. While they work, discuss the significance of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to speak in different languages to spread the Gospel. Encourage the children to memorize Acts 2:4 as they create their artwork.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Scissors
- Clear tape
- Small electric fans or hairdryers (1 per group)
- Printable tongues of fire template
- Bibles or printed copies of Acts 2:1-4
- World map poster
- Sticky notes and pens

Get Ready:

- Cut the tissue paper into flame shapes using the template.
- Set up stations with fans/hairdryers, tissue paper flames, and tape.
- Place the world map poster on a wall accessible to all participants.
- Write down different countries on sticky notes.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Pentecost:** Begin by reading Acts 2:1-4 together. Discuss the significance of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Highlight how the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages.
2. **Create a Wind and Fire Scene:** Divide the students into small groups and give them the tissue paper flames, tape, and access to a fan or hairdryer. Instruct them to tape the flames to the fan or around the hairdryer nozzle (safely and with supervision) to simulate the tongues of fire described in Acts 2:1-4. Turn on the fans or hairdryers to see the flames flutter and move, symbolizing the Holy Spirit's presence.
3. **Speak in Different Tongues:** Explain how the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in languages they did not previously know, to spread the Gospel to all nations. Use the world map and sticky notes with different countries written on them. Have each student pick a sticky note, identify where that country is on the map, and then say a simple greeting in that country's primary language (e.g., "Hello" in Spanish for Spain). This activity emphasizes the global impact of Pentecost and the role of the Holy Spirit in spreading the Gospel.
4. **Reflection and Prayer:** Conclude with a group reflection on the importance of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the church today. Encourage students to think about how they can be messengers of God's love and truth, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Close with a prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit to fill each one and equip them to share God's love with the world.

Snack Activity: Pentecost Flames Fruit Platter

You'll Need:

- A large platter
- Strawberries
- Mangoes
- Pineapple
- Red grapes
- Knife and cutting board
- Toothpicks

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits thoroughly. Peel the mangoes and pineapple. Ensure an adult is present for the cutting process.

Do this:

1. Cut the strawberries, mangoes, and pineapple into flame shapes. This represents the flames of the Holy Spirit that descended upon the apostles during Pentecost as described in Acts 2:1-4.
2. Arrange the fruit flames on the platter in a way that they seem to emanate from a central point, mimicking the descent of the Holy Spirit. Use the red grapes to create a border around the edge of the platter for a finished look.
3. Place toothpicks in the fruits so the kids can easily pick them up. Discuss how the Holy Spirit empowers and nourishes our spiritual lives, much like the fruit nourishes our physical bodies.

Game Activity: Pentecost Wind Rush

You'll Need:

- A large open space (either indoors or outdoors)
- Several lightweight scarves or streamers
- A Bible

Get Ready: Read Acts 2:1-4 to understand the story of Pentecost. Arrange the open space to ensure there's enough room for children to move around freely without bumping into each other or any obstacles.

Do this:

1. Begin by gathering the children and reading Acts 2:1-4 together, emphasizing the sudden coming of the Holy Spirit like a mighty wind and tongues of fire.
2. Explain that they will be re-enacting the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Each child will represent a disciple, and the scarves or streamers will symbolize the Holy Spirit coming upon them.
3. On your signal, which represents the sound of the mighty wind, children will start running around the space with their scarves or streamers flowing behind them. Encourage them to feel the movement of the 'wind' and the 'fire' as they move.
4. After a few minutes, call 'Pentecost!' and everyone must freeze in place, holding their scarves or streamers high above their heads, symbolizing the moment the Holy Spirit filled the disciples.
5. Discuss the importance of the Holy Spirit in guiding and empowering us today, drawing parallels between the disciples' experience at Pentecost and our own lives.

Craft Activity: Pentecost Wind Twirlers

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- String
- Hole punch

Get Ready: Read Acts 2:1-4 together and discuss the coming of the Holy Spirit and the significance of Pentecost. Explain how the wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit's power and presence.

Do this:

1. Cut the construction paper into long strips, about 2 inches wide and 12 inches long. Each child will need about 6 strips (2 of each color).
2. On each strip, have the children write or draw symbols of the Holy Spirit, such as flames, doves, or the words 'Holy Spirit.' Encourage them to also write words or phrases from Acts 2:1-4 that stand out to them.
3. Punch a hole at one end of each strip. Gather all the strips together, aligning the holes, and tie them together with a string. Make sure there's enough string to hang the twirler.
4. Twist the strips around a pencil or a marker to curl them slightly, then hang the twirlers where they can catch the wind. As they spin, they'll remind the children of the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Prayer Activity: Wind and Fire: A Pentecost Prayer Experience

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- A large room or outdoor space

Get Ready: Cut the tissue paper into flame shapes ahead of time.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Acts 2:1-4 aloud to the group. Discuss the significance of the Holy Spirit coming like a wind and fire, emphasizing how the Holy Spirit empowers us today.
2. Give each child several tissue paper 'flames' and markers. Ask them to write or draw prayers on the flames asking for the Holy Spirit to work in specific ways in their lives, their family, and the world.
3. Once everyone has written their prayers, gather in a circle in your large room or outdoor space. On the count of three, everyone will throw their tissue paper flames into the air, symbolizing the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As the 'flames' fall, encourage the children to pick up a flame that isn't theirs, read the prayer, and pray for that request silently.