

# He Can Hear You Now

## UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Priorities/Pentecost

**Scripture:** John 14:25-26

**Memory Verse:** John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

## The Children's Sermon

Today is the day that we celebrate God sending His Holy Spirit to be with us so that we are never without God. We call this day Pentecost, or sometimes, "The Birthday of the Church." Through His Holy Spirit, God is always with us, and we can talk to Him anytime, any place, and we will never have to worry that we will run out of minutes or be disconnected!

Let's pray: Dear God, Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be with us all of the time. Please help us to remember that we can talk to you any time and anywhere because you are always with us. AMEN!

Now, let's dive a bit deeper into our Pentecost sermon. Imagine a world where you have a superhero friend who is always with you, ready to help you, guide you, and make you feel loved and safe. That's kind of what the Holy Spirit is like! On Pentecost, we celebrate the day God sent this amazing friend to be with us forever.

A long time ago, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, that He had to go away but would send a helper to be with them. They were probably a bit scared and sad to hear Jesus was leaving. But then, something amazing happened! On Pentecost, they were all together when suddenly, they heard a sound like a strong wind, 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 their helper, just like Jesus promised!

This Pentecost sermon isn't just a story from a long time ago; it's about us too. The Holy Spirit didn't just come to be with those first friends of Jesus; He came to be with all of us. That means you and me! We have this incredible friend who is always with us, helping us to make good choices, comforting us when we're sad, and making us feel loved.

Sometimes, we might feel alone or scared, but the message of our Pentecost sermon is that we're never really alone. The Holy Spirit is like a whisper in our hearts that says, "It's okay, I'm here with you." Whether we're worried about a test at school, feeling sad because we lost our favorite toy, or just feeling lonely, we can talk to the Holy Spirit, and He will help us feel better.

Now, you might wonder how we can talk to the Holy Spirit. It's simple! Just like talking to a friend. You can say what's on your mind, ask for help, or even just say thank you for the good things in your life. And the best part? The Holy Spirit always listens, even if we whisper or think our words.

Our Pentecost sermon teaches us that the Holy Spirit also helps us to be better friends, brothers, sisters, and children. He helps us to share, to be kind, and to show love to

others. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we can spread joy and love just like the first disciples did on that first Pentecost.

So, on this special day, let's remember the amazing gift God has given us. Let's be thankful for the Holy Spirit, our superhero friend who is always with us. And let's try to listen to Him and follow His guidance every day.

Let's pray again: Dear God, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us to remember that we can always talk to You through Him. Help us to listen to His whispers and to follow His guidance to be kind, loving, and joyful every day. Thank you for always being with us. AMEN!

And that, my friends, is the heart of our Pentecost sermon. Remember, no matter where you go or what you do, you're never alone. The Holy Spirit is always with you, ready to help, guide, and love you. Let's celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, with joy and thankfulness for this wonderful gift.

## Bible Memory Verse

**John 14:26 - But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

You Will Need:

- Plain white t-shirts (one per child)
- Fabric markers or fabric paint
- Stencils of doves or flames

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set up a workspace with enough room for each child to work on their t-shirt.
- Create or print out a simple explanation of the Holy Spirit's role as a helper and teacher, based on John 14:26, to share with the children.

Do This:

1. Start by explaining the memory verse to the children, focusing on the role of the Holy Spirit as our helper and teacher. Use the simple explanation you prepared.
2. Give each child a plain white t-shirt and let them choose their fabric markers or paint and stencils. Explain that the dove or flame represents the Holy Spirit, as described in the Bible.
3. Encourage the children to decorate their t-shirts with the dove or flame stencils and to write the memory verse somewhere on the t-shirt. As they work, remind them that the Holy Spirit is always with them to help and teach them, just like Jesus promised.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Paper and pens for each child
- A Bible or printed copies of John 14:25-26
- Red, orange, and yellow tissue paper
- Glue and scissors
- Dove templates (for Pentecost symbol)
- A large world map or globe

Get Ready:

- Cut the tissue paper into flame shapes beforehand.

- Print or make a dove template for each child.
- Set up a reading area with the Bible or printed scriptures for easy access.

Do this:

1. **Introduction to Scripture**: Start by reading John 14:25-26 together. Discuss the importance of the Holy Spirit as a helper and how He teaches us and reminds us of Jesus' teachings. Emphasize the context of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples.

2. **Craft Activity - Pentecost Flames**: Have each child use the red, orange, and yellow tissue paper to create flames. They can glue these flames onto the dove templates to symbolize the Holy Spirit coming down as flames during Pentecost. While crafting, engage them in a conversation about how the Holy Spirit helps prioritize our lives according to God's will.

3. **World Map Activity**: Place the world map or globe in the center of the room. Ask the children to think about how the Holy Spirit helps spread the message of Jesus around the world. Have them write a prayer or a message of hope on their paper and then come up and place it next to a country on the map. They can pray silently or out loud for the Holy Spirit to work in that part of the world.

This activity combines creative expression with learning Scripture, emphasizing the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding and teaching us, and encouraging a global perspective on faith.

## Snack Activity: Holy Spirit Fruit Salad

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (grapes, strawberries, blueberries, apples, oranges, bananas)
- A large bowl
- Cutting board and knife (to be used by the teacher or an adult)
- Small bowls and forks for serving

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits thoroughly. Prepare a clean surface for cutting the fruits.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading John 14:25-26 together. Discuss how the Holy Spirit helps us remember Jesus' teachings and guides us in our lives.
2. Explain that each fruit will represent a different aspect of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).
3. As you cut each type of fruit, discuss which aspect of the Holy Spirit's fruit (from Galatians 5:22-23) it could represent and place it into the large bowl. For instance, strawberries might represent love for their heart shape, and bananas might represent joy for their smile-like curve.
4. Once all the fruits are mixed together, serve the Holy Spirit Fruit Salad in small bowls. As the children eat, encourage them to share a time when they felt the Holy Spirit guiding them or helping them remember something important Jesus taught.

## Game Activity: Whispers of the Spirit

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of John 14:25-26
- Pieces of paper with the verse John 14:25-26 written on them
- A blindfold

Get Ready: Before the activity, write out John 14:25-26 on several pieces of paper. Create a simple maze or obstacle course in your activity area using chairs, cones, or whatever safe items you have available. This will represent the journey of life and the role of the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Do this:

1. Divide the children into teams of two. One child will be blindfolded, representing a believer walking through life. The other will not be blindfolded and will represent the Holy Spirit.
2. The child representing the Holy Spirit will guide their blindfolded partner through the obstacle course using only the words of John 14:25-26. This emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit as a guide and teacher through the word of God.
3. After each pair completes the course, discuss how the Holy Spirit helps us navigate life's challenges and teaches us all things, just as Jesus promised in the scripture. Encourage the children to share how they felt being guided only by the words of the scripture and the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

## Craft Activity: Holy Spirit Wind Chimes

You'll Need:

- Red, orange, and yellow construction paper
- String or yarn
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Markers or crayons
- Sticks or dowel rods

Get Ready: Read John 14:25-26 together and discuss the role of the Holy Spirit. Talk about how the Holy Spirit helps us remember Jesus' teachings and guides us in our lives.

Do this:

1. Cut the construction paper into flame shapes to represent the Holy Spirit that came at Pentecost. Each child should make several flames.
2. On each flame, have the children write different aspects of the Holy Spirit's role as described in John 14:25-26, such as 'Helper', 'Teacher', and 'Reminds us of Jesus' words'. They can also write prayers asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance.
3. Punch a hole at the top of each flame and tie a string through it. Then, tie the other end of the string to the stick or dowel rod, spacing the flames out like wind chimes.
4. Hang the Holy Spirit Wind Chimes somewhere where the wind can catch them. Every time they move in the wind, it can remind the children of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

## Prayer Activity: Whispers of the Spirit

You'll Need:

- A Bible or Bible app
- Sheets of paper
- Pens or pencils
- A quiet, comfortable space

Get Ready: Familiarize yourself with John 14:25-26, focusing on the promise of the Holy Spirit teaching and reminding us of Jesus' words.

Do this:



1. Begin with a group reading of John 14:25-26. Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit as our Helper, who teaches us everything and reminds us of everything Jesus has said.
2. Hand out sheets of paper and pens or pencils. Ask each student to quietly reflect on their week ahead and write down their priorities, worries, and hopes.
3. Encourage the students to silently pray over their list, asking the Holy Spirit to help them align their priorities with God's will and to remind them of Jesus' teachings when making decisions. They can write down any thoughts or feelings that come to mind during this prayer time.
4. Conclude with a group discussion about how the Holy Spirit can guide us in our daily lives, using examples from the activity.