

God's Spirit Changes Everything

Bible Passage: Matthew 28:16–20; Acts 1—2

(Day of Pentecost)

May 31, 2020

Ooey Gooley (for younger and older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Disposable tablecloth or tarp
- Bowls (1 small and 1 medium-sized)
- Cornstarch (at least 1 c.)
- Water (1 c.)
- Hand wipes or paper towels
- Optional: food coloring

SET UP

Spread the tablecloth or tarp on the table. Pour the water into the small bowl and one cup of cornstarch into the bigger bowl. Place the bowls and the other supplies on the table.

RELATE

Show the children the two ingredients. Tell them that when water is added to the cornstarch, the cornstarch will completely change! Then pour the water into the cornstarch and mix the ingredients with your hands. You can add more cornstarch for a different consistency. If you have food coloring, mix it in for added fun.

Reflect: God's Spirit Changes Everything

Encourage kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

Questions

- **What is a disciple?** John 13:35; John 8:31
- **Before He left, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do?** Matthew 28:18–20
- **Why is making disciples of all nations important?** Romans 10:13–14
- **How does God empower believers to disciple all nations?** Acts 1:4,5,8
- **Why do we need the Holy Spirit?** John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26
- **Who can be baptized in the Holy Spirit?** Joel 2:28; Acts 2:39
- **How has the Holy Spirit changed your life?**

Who Is the Holy Spirit? (for younger kids)

Children will use modeling clay (or play dough) to ponder the Holy Spirit and how He leads us and changes us.

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Disposable tablecloth or tarp
- Modeling clay or play dough (1 lump per child)
- Hand wipes or paper towels

RELATE

The Bible uses many images to represent the Holy Spirit, including wind (Acts 2:2), fire (Acts 2:3), oil (2 Corinthians 1:21–22), water (John 7:37–39), and a dove (Matthew 3:16).

Give each child a lump of clay or play dough. Have each child close her eyes and think of one image or symbol that stood out to her. Then encourage her to sculpt that image out of the clay. Encourage the children to take their sculptures home as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit gently works on their hearts, sculpting them to be more like Jesus.

Who Is the Holy Spirit? (for older kids)

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pens or pencils

RELATE

God sent the Holy Spirit to fill believers. The Holy Spirit changes everything. He teaches us what God wants us to know, empowers us to serve God, and changes us from the inside out so we can show the world how loving God is.

Have the children use the Bibles to look up the following Scriptures that describe who the Holy Spirit is and what He does. For younger kids, read the verses aloud while the kids follow along. For older kids, have volunteers take turns reading the verses while the others follow along. After reading each verse, discuss what the verse says about the Holy Spirit and what He does for us.

- Genesis 1:2; John 15:26; Acts 5:3–4 (The Holy Spirit is God/part of the Trinity)
- John 16:12–14; 1 Corinthians 12:3 (The Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus)
- Romans 8:26 (The Holy Spirit helps us and prays for us)
- 1 Corinthians 2:13 (The Holy Spirit teaches us)
- Ephesians 3:16 (The Holy Spirit strengthens us)
- Galatians 5:22–23 (The Holy Spirit inspires us to be more loving, joyful, peaceful, etc.)
- Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20 (Prays through us in tongues when we don't know how to pray)
- 1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (Gives us the gifts of the Spirit)

BLESS

RELATE

Invite children to make up motions to go along with Ephesians 3:16–19 as you read the verses over them. If you want, decide on the motions that you'll do as a group. Otherwise, allow the kids to choose their own motions.

Read Ephesians 3:16–19:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Finally, have the kids form a circle as you finish with the following blessing:

May you be filled with God's Spirit so you know how wide and long and high and deep Jesus' love is for you. May you see God's Spirit at work in you, in our church, and in your conversations with those who don't yet know Jesus, so they can hear your story and believe in Him.

Leader Devotional

Inspire

One of the most powerful and meaningful experiences in my spiritual life was the day I began learning about the Jewish roots of Christianity. I discovered that the command to “go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19) was much more than inviting people to ask Jesus into their hearts. A disciple was someone who gave up everything to follow a rabbi. A disciple lived with his rabbi, memorized the things the rabbi said, ate with him, and walked like he walked. A disciple’s goal was to be just like his rabbi.

I found it all very beautiful. And also intimidating. For me to love Jesus the way a disciple truly should seemed like a challenging task. But God doesn’t leave us to do this on our own. He sent the Holy Spirit—the third member of the Trinity, God Himself—to fill us, to guide us in His truth, and to empower us so we can live as witnesses of God’s love for all mankind. Just as God filled the disciples in the Upper Room with the Holy Spirit, so He will fill us too. We can live as Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus. What a beautiful gift from God!

Equip

In the Old Testament, the day of Pentecost marked the completion of the barley harvest and the start of the wheat harvest. In Acts 2, the day of Pentecost marked the fulfillment of Joel 2:28, as God carried out His promise to “pour out my Spirit on all people.” That day, the arrival of the Holy Spirit drew a large crowd. Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly spoke the gospel and three thousand people came to faith in Christ. Pentecost marked the beginning of a new harvest of souls, a harvest empowered by the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knew His followers needed the empowerment they could only receive by being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Right before His ascension, Jesus commanded His church to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19), but He also told them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. . . . in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:4–5).

Jesus’ admonition to His followers is for us as well. Each believer needs a personal day of Pentecost, a day when they are filled with the Holy Spirit as Jesus’ followers were in Acts 2.

Why Should I Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31).

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9).

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8),
- a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28),
- an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42),
- and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

As you prepare for this lesson, think about your role in the Great Commission. Have you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit so He can empower you? If not, take time to seek for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. If you have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, take time to consider how well you are allowing Him to empower you. Are you growing in the fruit of the Spirit? Are His gifts operating in your life? The Holy Spirit is ready and willing to provide all the power you need. Just ask and receive. Then pray and believe that kids in your ministry will be filled with the Holy Spirit as well.

The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28).

Ongoing Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit: A Spirit-filled believer displays the presence of the Holy Spirit in his life by displaying the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. It is not easy to love the unlovely, to be joyful in the midst of a trial, to be peaceful when life is going awry, to be faithful when reward seems unlikely. But God's Spirit empowers Spirit-filled believers to be living witnesses with their attitudes and actions as well as their words.