

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

BIG IDEA

Jesus shares an awesome secret: that he is going away but will send the Holy Spirit – the best friend we could ever have – to be with us always.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Create a scavenger hunt by writing a list of about 10 things available around your house that you can use to symbolise the Holy Spirit – e.g. oil (anointing); dove (peace); bottle of water (living water); torch (light); cotton balls (cloud); a blankie or favourite toy (comforter); candle (flame); map (guide); hair dryer (breath of God and rushing wind). Try to get a range of symbols – you can probably think of others! Place the list of items in the Faith Box

Get a tray, a tea towel and paper and pens

Get a balloon for each child

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start (except the tray)

INTRO

Jesus knew that soon he would be going away and his followers would need to follow him in a new way. But God had a special plan that meant they would not be left alone.

After Jesus had returned to God, he sent the Holy Spirit to be with us all the time, anywhere and everywhere!

QUESTIONS

Can anyone think of some words that describe the Holy Spirit?



GAME

Scavenger Hunt

GIVE CHILDREN THE WRITTEN LIST OF ITEMS FROM THE BOX. Set the timer to five minutes for them to gather everything on the list.

EXPLORE

Jesus promised that when the Holy Spirit came he would be a wonderful helper for us. He would remind us all the time that God is our awesome father, loving us and smiling on us. Also, he would give us strength to do the things Jesus told us to do.

How Good Is Your Memory?

PUT THE COLLECTED ITEMS ON A TRAY and go around the family letting each person choose one and then explain how it symbolises the Holy Spirit.

Now cover the tray with a tea towel. Hand out paper and pencils for everyone to try to remember what was on the tray.

Lift up the tea towel and see which items you remembered.

As you go through them talk about what each one symbolises.

READ

"Now at last they were beginning chapter one of the Great Story ... in which every chapter is better than the one before." - CS Lewis, The Last Battle

“ The disciples were not the only ones who saw Jesus after He came back to life. One time, more than five hundred people saw him! Forty days after he came back to life, Jesus came to the disciples in Jerusalem again. He told them, “Stay here until I send you the Holy Spirit. He will fill you with power from God in heaven.”

Then Jesus walked with them to a place near the village of Bethany. And while he was blessing them, he began to rise into the air until he went behind a cloud and no one could see him anymore!

While the disciples stood there trying to see him two angels came. They were dressed in white. The angels said, “Why stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has gone to heaven. But he will return someday, just as you have seen him go.”

So Jesus’ followers returned to Jerusalem. They went there to wait until the Holy Spirit came. ”

John 14:16-19, 25-26

Classic Bible Story Book, Kenneth N. Taylor, page 237, Tyndale House © 2009

EXPLORE

EVERYONE WRITES ON A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER a way that the Holy Spirit works in our lives. e.g.

He reminds us of the things Jesus taught us.

He comforts us.

He helps us to pray.

He gives us courage to live God's way.

He guides us.

Now place your piece of paper inside a balloon before blowing it up and tying the knot.

Hang the balloons in your dining area.

PRAY

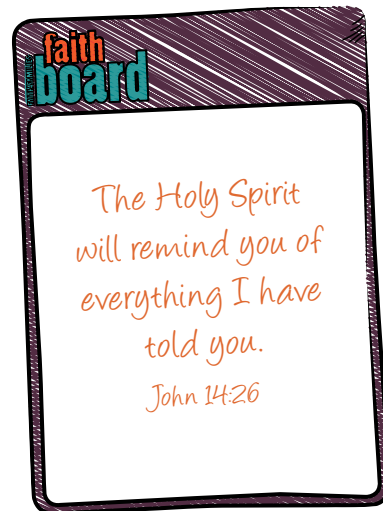
Thank you God for sending the Holy Spirit to guide us each day. Help us to learn to listen to your Spirit more and more, so that we follow you and live to please you. Amen.

LIVE

Each meal time take one balloon down, then let someone pop it and read the piece of paper that is inside.

Talk about how God's gift of the Holy Spirit being with us all the time makes a difference to our day.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 *'Different Ways to Listen' Game*

Listening to the Holy Spirit is like learning to listen in a new way.

Have 2 sets of the same blocks (e.g. lego bricks) in two bags – e.g. 3 red square blocks, 4 yellow oblong blocks and 2 blue semicircular blocks in each bag.

Have one person leave the room and another build something with one set of the blocks.

Hide the construction underneath a tea towel; bring back the child who has left the room and give them the second set of blocks.

Tell him/her that they now need to listen to the instructions to build a particular structure. Ask the builder to put their hands behind their back and to give only verbal instructions to the first child whose task is to build a replica of the construction under the tea towel. (They might need to have a few peeks to remember what it looks like!)

2 *Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would be our guide and friend*

(You will need: a TV/globe/atlas and a toy with a band aid on it placed in the room.)

Let's have a try at discovering how the Holy Spirit can guide us...

A parent leads a conga line with everyone else following behind, holding the waist of the person in front of them.

Weave around the room making a big deal about avoiding anything dangerous (e.g. a heater or power point).

Point out the TV or atlas and remind everyone about a country where there has been a recent disaster. Suggest they pray briefly for the situation. Then lead them toward the toy with the band aid and encourage them to pick it up and care for it with a cuddle.

Then guide the line back to the table to discuss how The Holy Spirit makes us notice things.

Talk about how the leader was like the Holy Spirit in each of the places you stopped, and in each of the dangers you avoided.

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- *A packet of marshmallows*
- *10 Cotton balls*
- *Drinking straws*