Younger Preschool April 26

Bible Teaching: The Holy Spirit Arrives

Bible Passage: Acts 2:1–41

Summary:

The disciples gathered on Pentecost. They heard a mighty rushing wind from heaven. Tongues of fire appeared above their heads, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gave them the ability to speak in foreign languages. People from various nations were amazed. Peter explained that this was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy and preached about Jesus' death and resurrection. 3,000 people believed and were baptized, marking the birth of the church.

Today's Brite Idea is: The Holy Spirit lives in believers.

Monthly Memory Verse: (John 3:16)

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.

Monthly Big Question: How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Play It

Preschoolers naturally love to play, so turning everyday tasks into games can be a game changer for classroom management! When you “gamify” simple activities like cleaning up, lining up or passing out snacks, kids become more eager to participate and follow directions. For example, turn cleanup time into a race: “Can we get all the toys in the bin before I count to 10?” Or challenge kids to walk like sneaky ninjas as they line up quietly. Even something as simple as choosing a snack helper with a fun drumroll can keep things engaging. Games capture kids’ attention, motivate positive behavior and make your classroom feel more joyful and structured. Plus, when kids are focused on playing the game, they’re less likely to get distracted or restless!

Navigating a Broken World: Universalism

Universalism is the belief that everyone will eventually be accepted by God and go to heaven. A Barna research survey found that 25 percent of Christians agree that all people will eventually be saved or accepted by God.* While it is true that God cares about all people and desires for them to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), that doesn’t mean that all people will go to heaven regardless of what they believe or if they are a “good person.” Listen for kids’ misconceptions and point them toward the truth of the gospel that only those who have trusted in Jesus will have eternal life. Assure kids that God loves all people and everyone has the chance to believe in Jesus and be saved. But also instill in them the knowledge that salvation is not a universal right. Anyone can be saved, but it is only through belief in Jesus and nothing else that we are saved.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

Preschool Glossary:

Arrived: to come to
Pentecost: a Jewish festival
Languages: a way to speak to others

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

What's in the Bag?
Supplies: Small bag, 5 toys

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

The Holy Spirit Arrives (Acts 2:1–41)
Supplies: Bibles, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

Memory Verse Song
Supplies: Music player, Memory Verse Song, musical instruments (1 per kid)

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

Holy Spirit Flame
Supplies: Take-Home page, printable page, red and yellow fingerpaints, paper plates, baby wipes

What's in the Bag?

Belong Activity

Supplies: Small bag, 5 toys

Prep: Put the toys inside the bag.

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's play a game called, "What's in the Bag?" Something is hiding inside this bag.
2. *Hold up the bag and shake it gently with excitement.*
3. **Say:** Let's see if you can help me guess what it is!
4. *Reach your hand into the bag and describe the toy*.
   Example: This toy feels round…and bouncy! What do you think it could be? (bouncy ball)
5. **Ask:** What do you think is inside?
6. *Let kids guess. Then show the item*
7. *Let them touch the toy briefly, then move on*.
8. *Repeat for the remaining items with simple clues like:* This one has wheels! (car)

Activity Wrap-Up: That was so much fun! You did a great job guessing all the toys. Today we will hear a true story from the Bible. Let's get ready to listen!

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

The Holy Spirit Arrives
(Acts 2:1–41)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Acts. The disciples were all together on the day of **Pentecost.** Jesus had promised that their helper, the Holy Spirit, would come. So they were waiting and waiting.

Say: Suddenly, they heard a very loud sound. It was like a really strong wind and filled the whole house! Can you make a big wind sound with me? Ready? 1, 2, 3…whoosh! Then they saw little flames of fire over each person's head.

Say: The Holy Spirit was here! The disciples were able to do something they could not do before. They spoke in other **languages**. They could say words they didn't know. Say "Hola" and "Bonjour." Those words mean hello in other **languages.**

Say: People from all around listened. They were surprised the disciples were speaking in words they understood. They asked, "How could the disciples know how to speak in their **language**?" The disciples talked about the wonderful things God had done.

Say: But some people were not amazed. They teased the disciples. They did not think it could be real. Peter said to the crowds, "This is real! God promised it would happen!" Peter told the people about Jesus and how He had died on the cross and rose again. The people wanted to believe in Jesus.

Say: Peter said, "Believe in Jesus! Be baptized!" 3,000 people chose to believe in Jesus that day. That is a lot of people! How far can you reach out your arms? This was the start of the Church. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples tell everyone about Jesus and what He had done!

Wrap-Up:
Big Question: How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!

Memory Verse: (John 3:16)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- For God *(point up to the sky)*
- so loved *(hug yourself)*
- the world, *(make a circle above your head)*
- that He gave His only Son. *(extend arms out)*
- John 3:16 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: The Holy Spirit came.
We: The Holy Spirit can help us.
Me: The Holy Spirit can help me.

Memory Verse Song

Believe Activity

Supplies: Music player, Memory Verse Song, musical instruments (1 per kid)

Prep: None

Leader tip: If you don't have enough instruments, encourage kids to clap, stomp or pat their knees to the beat.

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that the Holy Spirit lives in believers, and that is something to sing and celebrate.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's sing our memory verse and use instruments to make a joyful noise to God!
2. *Hold up the Bible*.
3. **Say:** Our verse comes from the Bible and says, *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son. (John 3:16)* Can you say that with me?
4. *Pass out instruments to each kid.*
5. **Say:** Let's play along as we sing the verse together. You can shake, tap or drum your instrument while we worship God!
6. *Start the Memory Verse Song and lead the kids in playing along. Clap, tap or bounce to the beat to help guide rhythm. Repeat the song as attention allows.*

Activity Wrap-Up: You did a great job making music and singing our verse! We can celebrate that Jesus loves us and the Holy Spirit is our Helper!

Holy Spirit Flame

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, printable page, red and yellow fingerpaints, paper plates, baby wipes

Prep: Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page on cardstock (1 per kid). Put a small amount of paint on paper plates (1 per 2 kids).

Leader Tip: Keep paint amounts small to reduce mess—finger painting is more about fun than full coverage!

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Today we learned that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us! Let's make a flame craft to remind us of the Holy Spirit coming on Pentecost.
2. *Pass out a printable page to each kid.*
3. **Say:** You can use your fingers to paint the flame using red and yellow paint. Let's see your beautiful flames!
4. *Let kids finger paint freely, mixing and dabbing colors inside the flame shape.*
5. *Use wipes to clean their hands afterward.*
6. *Write the kid's name on their paper and set aside for parent pick up.*

Discussion Questions:

- Who helps us follow Jesus?
- Who loves us?
- Is the Holy Spirit our helper?
- Where does the Holy Spirit live now?

Pray Together: Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus, and thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3–4 centers around the space for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the space, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Sensory Bin:** Get a small bin and fill with torn yellow, orange and red paper. In the bin, hide small figurines of people and have the kids search through the "fire" to find the "disciples."
- **Language Matching Game:** Create cards that have a picture on them; heart, God, disciples, joy, fire, anything related to our story. Create two cards per picture—one card has the English word, and the other has the word in a different language. Have the kids match the picture.
- **Creation Station:** Provide construction paper and coloring supplies. Have kids trace their hand. On the rest of the paper, have kids draw pictures of how the Holy Spirit helps us, such as loving others, being joyful or being kind.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time or while waiting for parents.

Say: The disciples gathered for a holiday called Pentecost. They heard a mighty rushing wind from heaven. Fire appeared above their heads, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gave them the gift to speak in different languages. People were amazed they could understand the disciples in their own language. Peter shared this is what the Old Testament said would happen. Peter shared about Jesus' death and how He rose again, defeating death. 3,000 people believed and were baptized. This was the start of the Church.

How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!