

Family Activity

Elementary

Purpose: God sent His Holy Spirit to live in us. The Holy Spirit changes us and teaches us what God wants us to know. This is a time to search scripture and see how the Holy Spirit can and does work in our lives!

Supplies for Activity:

- Bible
- Play dough or clay

Activity:

- Parents/Guardians: Open your Bibles and look up the following scriptures that describe who the Holy Spirit is and what He does. After reading each verse, discuss as a family what the verse says about the Holy Spirit and what He does for us.
 - o John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4 (The Holy Spirit is God/part of the Trinity)
 - o 1 Corinthians 2:13 (The Holy Spirit teaches us)
 - o Romans 8:26 (The Holy Spirit helps us and prays for us)
 - o Ephesians 3:16 (The Holy Spirit strengthens us)
 - o Galatians 5:22 (The Holy Spirit inspires us to be more loving, joyful, peaceful, etc.)
- Now, give each child a lump of clay or play dough. Tell them the Bible uses many images to represent the Holy Spirit, including wind (Acts 2:2), fire (Matthew 3:11), oil (Hebrews 1:9), water (Revelation 22:17), and a dove (Matthew 3:16). *Be sure to emphasize that these elements (wind, fire, oil, dove, etc.) **represent** the Holy Spirit... i.e., not all doves ARE the Holy Spirit.*
- Have each child close their eyes and think of one image or symbol that stood out to them. Then encourage them to sculpt that image out of the clay. Encourage the children to place their sculptures around the home as a reminder that God's Holy Spirit gently works on their hearts, sculpting them to be more like Jesus.

Family Worship Response

Elementary

Purpose: Before Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He said to His disciples, "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." (John 16:7)
The Advocate or Holy Spirit is God. And He comes into our lives when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and receive Him as Lord of our lives. The Holy Spirit changes everything in the way that we live. He guides us, prays for us, comforts us, gives us boldness to do God's will, flows God's love through us, and He is always with us. We are never alone! We're going to take some time today to experience the presence of God's Holy Spirit and listen to what He wants to say to us.

Supplies for Activity: *for each person*

- Journal or paper (younger students can draw a picture)
- Pen, crayons, or markers
- Bible

Activity:

- Go outside. This can be in your yard, a park, or other beautiful setting.
- You may choose to direct your children this way:
"Did you know that God is always speaking to you? Sometimes, we can hear His voice through the Bible or people, but other times, we can hear His voice through His beautiful creation. God's Spirit usually speaks to us in our thoughts and not aloud. Let's take a few moments to listen to God's voice.
Before we listen, let's settle our minds and invite God's Holy Spirit to speak to us by praying: 'Come Holy Spirit!'"
- Allow a few moments of silence for the children to hear God. Pray the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts of your children.
- Then ask the children a few questions such as:
 - "What do you feel God is saying to you?"
 - "Why do you think it's important to take time to listen to God?"
 - "How do you want to respond to God's Spirit living inside you?"
 - "What is the best way for you to hear God speaking?"
- Model this by sharing some of your own experiences.
- Once you and the children have had space to share how the Holy Spirit may be speaking, sing a song of praise!

Family Discussion

Elementary

God Statement: Holy Spirit Changes Everything

Family Verse: He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever holy and awesome is his name. Psalm 111:9

Blessing: Encourage children to close their eyes as you speak the final blessing over them:

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."

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

Discussion Questions:

1. Before He left, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do? Matthew 28:18-20
2. What is a disciple? Matthew 28:18-20
3. Why is making disciples of all nations important? Psalm 86:9; Matthew 24:14
4. How did receiving the Holy Spirit change things for the disciples and the early church? Acts 2:42-44
5. Why do we need the Holy Spirit? How does He help us? John 14:16-17a, 26; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26
6. How has the Holy Spirit changed your life?

Prayer Time: Take time for prayer requests or praise reports (something you are thankful that God has done). Afterwards, take time to pray as a family.