

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit preschool lesson plan

Theme: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

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Scripture: John 14:15-26

“15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be[a] in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴ Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”
John 14:15-26 (NIV)

Lesson Objective: To introduce the children to “who is the Holy Spirit?”, especially in preparation for Pentecost Sunday.

Set up:

- ☺ Bring a big teddy bear (we have Mr Teddy)
- ☺ Bring a large piece of chiffon or other light material or a parachute to swish up and down over the top of the children (I used a large sparkly piece of orange chiffon)
- ☺ Set up your boxes in a nice big stack on a table at the front:
 - Box 1 – Fan
 - Box 2 – Hot water bottle (and cold water bottle) and 2 large love-hearts
 - Box 3 – Water bottle (e.g. Pump), small teapot and child’s teacups
- ☺ Make sure you have a CD player and music CD ready
- ☺ Get out your instrument boxes – but put these somewhere at the front, out of sight, until instrument time.

Session:

1. Smile and ask everyone to sit in a circle. (We put out little carpet squares so that the children know where to sit. Make sure you include the parents who come out with their little ones. Explain that everyone is going to be involved today.)

Welcome time

2. Introduce yourself and Mr Teddy. Sing a welcome song to Mr Teddy:

“Hello Teddy, you’re such a lovely Teddy, and yes we love you!”

Then one by one around the circle, get the children to tell Mr Teddy their names and then let them hold him as everyone sings for them (singing the same little song but with their name in it). This makes each child feel really special, and it is unthreatening to tell their name to Mr Teddy.

Beginning...

3. Pray (get the children to repeat after you)

*“Dear God,
Thank you for this day.
Please help us
to learn about you,
and know how much
You love us.
Amen.”*

4. Explain that this morning we are having music time. Get everyone on their feet, and tell them that there will be actions with the songs – but just to follow you if they don’t know it. Sometimes you can go through a few actions if you need to. For “Dancing Feet” I like to tell everyone to start in their beds, sleeping...

[Hint: Make sure that you give the children a “heads-up” of the actions by calling them out slightly before they come in the verses, eg. *“Oooo.. next we’re having clapping hands...has everyone go their clapping hands? Fantastic!”* Always praise the children when they are doing the right actions or trying really hard – they love to be encouraged.]

SONG 1: DANCING FEET

(Karen Henley, from 5 Little Ladybirds Album)

Give everyone a big clap at the end of the song to say, well done.

BOX 1: [Fan]

5. Bring down the first box to the circle – but don't open it yet.
6. Tell everyone that this morning we are thinking about the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised us. The Holy Spirit is part of God. There is God the Father, God the Son, who is Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.
7. Say, I've brought in some boxes today to tell you about what the Holy Spirit is like. Let's start with our first box – shall we see what's inside? YES! Drumroll...

OPEN BOX 1: FAN

8. Hold up the fan and swish it. Say, The Holy Spirit is like the wind...we can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel Him.
9. Swish the fan on each of the children so they can feel the wind.
10. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be a friend to us, to help us understand God and know the right thing to do. Just like the wind, we can't see Him, but we can feel Him and listen to Him.
11. Tell the children we are going to sing a song now with our instruments about listening to the music.
12. Get the instruments out and let the children choose. Get them to make a very loud noise and then... STOP! Get them to make a very quiet noise... and STOP! Praise them for how clever they are at listening to you. You can do this little exercise over a few times – they love it!

SONG 2: LISTEN TO THE MUSIC 1 2 3

(Sing this with instruments *a capela*, using: listen, softly, loudly, slowly, quickly)

13. Just like listening to the music, we have to learn to listen to the Holy Spirit.
 - Sometimes we need to go softly – maybe if someone's sick and we need to comfort them
 - Sometimes we can go loudly – when it's a happy joyful time
 - Sometimes it's time to go slowly – maybe it's time to rest, relax, sleep
 - Sometimes we can go quickly – when it's time to play or there is lots to do

BOX 2: [Hot Water bottle, Cold water bottle, 2 big Love-hearts]

14. Bring down the second box to the circle – but don't open it yet.
15. Remind everyone that this morning we are thinking about the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised us.
16. Say: I have another thing the Holy Spirit is like in my second box – shall we see? YES! Drumroll...

OPEN BOX 2: HEAT

17. Hold up the hot water bottle. Ask the children what it is... *a hot water bottle*... Can they see by looking which one is hot? *No!* Say, that's right, we can't see heat, but we can feel it. Let them feel each water bottle in turn – which one is hot?
18. Say, The Holy Spirit is like heat... we can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel Him. The Holy Spirit warms our heart with Jesus' love.
19. Jesus said if we do what He told us to do then we love Him. What did Jesus tell us to do? [Take out the two hearts one at a time as you say...] Jesus told us to love God and love other people. When we do this we show that we love Jesus and Jesus loves us and so does God the Father.

SONG 3: JESUS LOVES ME THIS I KNOW (v1 and 2)

(Kidzup

Sing this with simple actions for the children)

20. So, the Holy Spirit is like heat. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel Him. The Holy Spirit warms our heart with love and reminds us Jesus loves us.

And the Holy Spirit is like wind. We can't see the wind, but we can feel it. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, He helps us understand God and know the right thing to do.

BOX 3: [Bottle of Water, little teapot, tiny teacups]

21. Bring down the third box to the circle – but don't open it yet.
22. Say: I have one more box to show us what the Holy Spirit is like – shall we see? YES!
Drumroll...

OPEN BOX 3: WATER

23. Hold up the bottle of water. (Leave the other things hidden in the box.) Ask everyone: What is the Holy Spirit like? *Water*. Yes, the Holy Spirit is like water...
24. (Now pull out the teapot) ...and we are like a teapot!
25. Pour some water out of the bottle into the top of the teapot. Say, The Holy Spirit fills us up with life and love... But that is not the end – does water stay in a teapot? *No!* It needs to be poured out into... *cups*. (Get out the cups and start pouring out the water into the cups.)
26. This is the same with us and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit pours His life and love into us, and then we need to share that life and love with others.
27. If we keep pouring out water – what is going to happen? Will the water run out? No! Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would never leave us.
28. So here is the amazing thing. When we pour out our love to others, the Holy Spirit keeps filling us up again (use the water bottle to squirt more water into the teapot), so we never run out! The more we give, the more the Holy Spirit fills us up.

SONG 4: GOD MADE ME

(Janine Max, from *God Made Me* album)

Use with orange chiffon/parachute – have the children lie down under the material as you and some big helpers gently lift the fabric up and down, remind them that God made them and loves them, and made other people for them to love.

This will be a relaxing time for the children)

Finishing up (back in a circle):

29. (Pick up the fan) So the Holy Spirit is like the wind. We can't see Him, but we can feel Him. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, He helps us understand God and know the right thing to do.

(Pick up the hot water bottle) And the Holy Spirit is like heat. We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel Him. The Holy Spirit warms our heart with love and reminds us Jesus loves us.

(Pick up the water bottle) And the Holy Spirit is like water. He pours life and love into us so that we can share His life and love with others.

30. Pray to finish. Sing a goodbye song if you have one for your group.