



## Spirit Thing

**Bible Story:** Spirit Thing (The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost) • Acts 2:1-41

**Bottom Line:** God gives you what you need to keep going.

**Key Question:** What helps you keep going?

**Memory Verse:** *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* Galatians 6:9 (NirV)

**Life App:** Determination—Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

### **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

*Host enters.*

**Welcome**

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (Scoob, Artemis Fowl, etc.), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

## **Opener**

**HOST:** “Hey, Hey, Hey! Great to see you all. If you were here last week, you might remember that this month is all about getting UNStuck! Sometimes we find ourselves in sticky situations and the only way out is to keep going with a little determination. And just like last week, we have another sticky game we think at least a couple of you will love! This one's called Slimy Sticky Feet”

**CG:** “*Slimy Sticky Feet*” Title Slide

“Who's ready? I need two volunteers who believe they have some good foot work.”

*Choose two volunteers, and bring them up front and introduce them to the rest of the kids.*

**HOST:** “Here's how you play: First, you'll need to take your shoes and socks off. That's right—in this big, plastic tub, we have more slime than maybe you've ever seen before. More than that, mixed into the slime are several sandwich baggies filled with different objects. Your goal is to use your feet **ONLY** to rescue the most baggies from the slime. That's right, when I say go, both of you will sit and **WITH YOUR FEET ONLY** dig into the slime and pull the baggies out. Whoever finds the most objects wins. Got it? Any questions? Great! On your mark, get set . . . GO!”

**SFX:** *Upbeat Game Music*

*Host counts objects as they come out. Know how many total objects and declare a winner. These objects will be used during the story, so make sure they stay on the stage. Have towels ready for contestants to clean up their feet and legs.*

**HOST:** *(After)* “What an awesome game. Now, let’s all stand and worship together!”

*Host helps take props out of bags during Worship.*

## Worship

*Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.*

### COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

#### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everyone! So good to see you here today! I have a question for you: have you ever had a situation where you thought you could do something by yourself only to realize that you had made a pretty terrible judgment call and there was no way you’d be doing this thing on your own?”

*Tell a story similar to the following personal story or use “Imagine” language to tell the same story.*

“One time when I was moving from one house to another, I decided to get started a little early with the packing. I was able to get the moving truck I had rented early, and I thought, ‘How hard could it be to load this up?’ So I started carrying boxes *(Act it out.)*, and moving lamps and pictures . . . up and down . . . and up and down the stairs.”

“And then there was the couch. I thought, ‘How hard could it be to load up a couch?’ Not hard—if you have other people! But I was on my own, remember? *(Act out.)* So there I was, trying to put the couch on my back . . . and then drag it . . . and then push it . . . And I’ll tell you what. By the end of the first load, I was spent. I was done. And I didn’t even get the couch on the truck!”

"I just couldn't keep going. I realized there was just no way that I would get the couch on the truck by myself. That was a job that was impossible without the help of others."

## TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "You know, there are a lot of times in life when we rely on something else to help us get through. Maybe we're tired, so we grab some caffeine. Maybe we're bored, so we grab a game. Or maybe we're moving, so we grab some friends to help. But what about when what we're facing is bigger than these sorts of things and the answer to what or who can help isn't so obvious? What happens when we hit the point when we feel like are just done? If we haven't felt like that yet, we will face a time when we will. It would be good for us to figure out what we can do. And when we need to figure out what to do in difficult situations, the best place to start is the Bible where we can read about some incredible people who faced challenges and relied on God for help. Let's take a look at one of those moments now."

*Throughout the "Truth" section, you'll be using the props from the game. Take these out of the baggies and place them on a table in front of you.*

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Last week, we heard Jesus give instructions to His disciples before He went back to heaven. He told them to WAIT, because God's very Spirit was going to come and fill them to give them power. There must have been a lot of anticipation about what that moment would be like. Today, we pick up in the Book of Acts where we left off last week."

"Now there's something you need to know as we get started. God's people, the Israelites, have a long history of celebrating festivals and holy days. These important events connected them to the history of their people . . . like, for example, when God rescued them out of Egypt. Many of the festivals also centered around the harvest, as the people were dependent on God to provide for them through their land, and so the harvest was a sign that God had provided, and because of this they would celebrate!"

"Pentecost was one of these festivals. Jewish families all over the world would come to Jerusalem to celebrate. Pentecost was a celebration of the harvest . . ."

*Prop: Cup of Flour*

“But it also was a time to commemorate when God gave the Ten Commandments to Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai.”

*Prop: Tablets that represent 10 Commandments*

“Jerusalem was PACKED with travelers and tourists ready to celebrate! That is where our story begins. Check this out from Acts 2.”

*(Read from Acts 2:1, NIV) ‘When the day of Pentecost came, all the believers gathered in one place.’*

“Now it doesn’t exactly say WHERE they were gathered, but we have a pretty good guess. Later in the story, we are going to see that there are a LOT of people there. And in Jerusalem, if you are celebrating a festival with a LOT of people, most likely you’ll be near here . . .”

*Prop: Picture of the Jerusalem temple*

“The temple in Jerusalem. This massive structure, the house of the Lord, had been renovated by King Herod just before the time of Jesus. It was the gathering place for Jews from all over the world. And things start to get strange very quickly.”

*(Read directly from Acts 2:2, NIV) ‘Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting.’*

*Prop: A fan*

“But that’s not all. *(Read directly from Acts 2:3, NIV) ‘They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them.’*”

*Prop: Matches*

“Wind? Fire? This is getting pretty intense. And if that isn't strange enough, check out what happens next! (Read directly Acts 2:4, NIV) ‘All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this.’”

*Prop: Translation book*

“So let's unpack this for a moment. We have wind and fire. But what is happening? Some kind of strange storm? Not quite. All throughout the Bible, wind has been a picture of God's presence. In Noah's ark, the wind blew and the waters receded so the ark could settle down. At the Red Sea, the wind blew and God parted the waters so the Israelites could pass through on dry ground. And fire is also a symbol of God's presence. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. He led the Israelites through the desert through a pillar of fire. He appeared on Mount Carmel to Elijah as a fire that lit the sacrifice.”

“So here in Jerusalem at Pentecost, what is happening? Well, God is showing up! And that's exactly what we read. ‘They were filled with the Holy Spirit.’ God was there among them, and immediately, miraculous things start happening. God gave them the ability to speak in other languages that they didn't previously know. Let's keep reading.”

“(Read directly from Acts 2:5-6, NIV) ‘Godly Jews from every country in the world were staying in Jerusalem. A crowd came together when they heard the sound. They were bewildered because each of them heard their own language being spoken.’”

“We have people in Jerusalem for the festival, and they don't speak the same languages. They are foreigners. And all of the sudden, they start to hear their own language being spoken. It draws them in, and they're amazed! But what is the point? Check out what they say.”

“(Read directly from Acts 2:11b, NIV) “‘. . . We hear all these people speaking about God's wonders in our own languages!’””

“This is the point. There are a lot of people here who speak a lot of different languages. How will they ever be able to share with them about Jesus if they don’t know their language? And then all of the sudden, miraculously, people are hearing their own language with the Story of God being declared.”

“Well, Peter, one of the early church leaders, sees a great opportunity here. He, along with the other apostles, stepped up and spoke to the crowd about what is going on.”

*Prop: Little megaphone*

“Peter began by quoting an Old Testament prophet named Joel. Remember, the Jewish audience would have been very familiar with this prophet. *(Read directly from Acts 2:16-17a, NIV)* “Here is what the prophet Joel meant. He said, ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Holy Spirit on all people.’”

“In other words, Peter says that this was something God promised would happen! And then, Peter begins to share about Jesus. *(Read directly from Acts 2:22-23, NIV)* ‘Fellow Israelites, listen to this! Jesus of Nazareth was a man who had God’s approval. God did miracles, wonders and signs among you through Jesus. You yourselves know this. Long ago God planned that Jesus would be handed over to you. With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. You nailed him to the cross.’”

*Prop: Cross*

“This was the bad news. ‘You killed Jesus!’ That seems harsh, right? But Peter then immediately says, *(Read directly from Acts 2:24, NIV)* ‘But God raised him from the dead. He set him free from the suffering of death. It wasn’t possible for death to keep its hold on Jesus.’”

*Prop: Broken/Open handcuffs*

“Peter then spoke of mighty king David and how God had promised that a Messiah, a Savior, would come from David’s family. But who would it be? He certainly didn’t want them to miss this! *(Read directly from Acts 2:36,*

*NirV) ‘So be sure of this, all you people of Israel. You nailed Jesus to the cross. But God has made him both Lord and Messiah.’”*

*Prop: King’s crown*

“When the people heard Peter’s words, they felt something powerful deep in their hearts.”

*Prop: A heart*

*“(Read directly from Acts 2:37b, NirV) ‘They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?””*

“They can’t undo what they did to Jesus. But the reality is that Jesus was alive again, and because of this, they could still make the right decision about Him.”

“Peter told them to turn from their sins and ask for forgiveness. He called them to be baptized in the name of Jesus. To become a part of God’s family. And the crazy thing? Check out how many people responded to the message . . .”

*“(Read directly from Acts 2:41, NirV) ‘Those who accepted his message were baptized. About 3,000 people joined the believers that day.’”*

*Prop: Paper with “3,000” written on it*

“3,000 people! That is crazy! Three thousand people who changed their mind about Jesus and put their faith in Him that day . . . who believed He was the Messiah who died and rose again.”



"I have a feeling that if you had told the apostles that morning, 'Hey guys, today you're going to help 3,000 people become followers of Jesus and join the church,' they would have told you that you were out of your mind! That seems like an impossible number. But remember, it wasn't that long ago that Jesus had gathered his disciples together and told them that they would spread the message of Jesus to Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. At the time, that seemed crazy, too. Well, here they are, still in Jerusalem, and the ends of the earth are starting to come to them! God is already giving them what they need, His power and His presence through His Spirit, to help them keep going in this great mission they are on!"

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "You know, it is easy to read these stories and think, 'Well, sure, of course Peter or John can do something like this; they knew Jesus!' But the truth is these stories are less about the apostles and more about God working through them. And the same Spirit that filled Peter, the same Spirit that filled the believers that day is the same Spirit that fills US today. That can be hard for us to believe sometimes, but it is true!"

"We might face times when we feel like we don't have the strength to keep going. Like, maybe there's somebody at our school or in our family that is really hard to show kindness to. We keep trying but they never return that kindness. It would be easier just to give up and avoid them. But the Holy Spirit's power and presence in us helps us keep going even when it is difficult."

"Or maybe you're feeling discouraged because no matter how hard you try at something—a sport, a class, a skill—you just keep coming up short. You feel pretty bummed out and want to quit. But God's power and presence in us helps us keep going even when we feel like giving up."

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Today as you go to groups, think about this:

*CG: Key Question Slide*

**"What helps you keep going?** For some of us, we might need encouragement from friends or family. Others might listen to a song, and we find the energy to keep going. But no matter where we find the strength to keep going, the first place we should go is God. Pray and ask God to give you the strength you need to get going.

You'll talk more about all of this in Small Group, but before you head there, let's pray and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help us! Let's pray."