



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.

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.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and I’m so excited that you’re here at [your environment’s name]! If this is your first time with us, you’re in for a fabulous time! We’re definitely ready for some fun!

“We’re talking about determination this month.

“Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you started.

“God can give you the determination you need to get UNstuck from any kind of sticky situation!

“Speaking of getting unstuck, we’ve got a sticky game to play. Are you ready for an awesome game? *(Pause for response.)* Me, too! Well, for this game, I’ll need three Small Group Leaders.

Call up the three pre-selected Small Group Leaders, and bring out your three other adult helpers (such as Worship Leaders) to help them get their tape ready for the game.

(To the leaders playing the game) “Each of you will need to be wrapped with three long strips of tape, but you’ll need to wrap it around you so that the sticky part of the tape is facing out.

The helpers get the three Leaders wrapped up in painter’s tape.

(To audience) “In just a minute, I’ll spread out a deck of cards for each contestant. Then our contestants will roll around and try to get the cards to stick to them. We’ll need all of you to laugh and clap and cheer as we see how many cards they can ‘stick.’ Is everyone ready? *(Pause for response.)* Okay! Let’s count it down. Three, two, one, go!

Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds. Spread out the three decks of cards in the area that you’ve cleared for the game. (The helpers can help you with this, too.)

Provide funny commentary during the game. Count the cards attached to the contestant if the winner is not obvious.

“That was the best! Great job, Leaders! It was so much fun watching you roll all over the place. You got a LOT of cards stuck to you, too. Seems like [leaders’ name] was able to secure the most cards. You can head back to your seats now.

Dismiss the contestants and helpers.

“The fun is just getting started. Let’s all stand up and get ready to worship God together.”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, friends! We’re picking up the story after Jesus had gone back to heaven and the people who believed in Jesus had gathered together for an important feast called Pentecost. Just days before this feast, Jesus had given His friends a very important job to do. He told them to tell everyone about Him—from Jerusalem to every country in the whole world.

“As we get into the story today, I’ll need some help from ALL of you. I need you to be a sound machine and make the sound effects. You’ll start when I do this.

Stretch your arms out to the sides (using your hands to do the “Come on; more” motion).

“Then—when I do this (*put your fingers over your lips*)—make sure YOU do that, too, because that’s our cue to stop the sound.

“Can you do that? (*Pause for response.*) Great! Let’s keep going.”

WIND AND FIRE

STORYTELLER: “As the believers were gathered for the feast, a sound came from heaven like a strong wind blowing.

“Can you all make a sound like a strong wind?”

Put your arms out to cue the kids to make “strong wind” sounds.

“That’s great! Keep going!”

Let them keep going for a few more seconds. Then put your finger over your lips to cue them to stop.

“Aaaaannnd stop. Great job!”

“Listen to what happened next.

Open the Bible to Acts 2:3 (NirV) and read.

“[The believers] saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them.”

DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

STORYTELLER: “The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit!

Open the Bible to Acts 2:4 (NirV) and read.

“They began to speak in languages they had never known before.

“It’s kind of hard for us to imagine what it would have been like to be there that day, when everyone started speaking different languages at the same time. But I’ve got an idea that might give us at least some idea. Since WE can’t all speak different languages, we’ll have to do something else. On the count of three, let’s all say our first, middle, and last name three times. One, two, three!

Give the kids a few seconds to do this. Use the hand motions to cue them to start and stop.

“That was a little confusing, wasn’t it? I couldn’t really hear any one person because everyone was talking and saying different things all at once. Well, there was an important reason why the Holy Spirit allowed the believers to speak in those different languages. And it actually wasn’t confusing at all.

“After the believers discovered that they could speak in different languages, they went out to join the crowds who had arrived in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. These crowds of people had traveled from many different places where lots of different languages were spoken. When they heard the believers speaking, they were shocked to hear them talking about Jesus in words they could understand!

"I know! Let's try something different. This time, on the count of three, let's all say, **[Basic Truth] 'I can trust God no matter what'**—three times in a row. Three, two, one, go!"

KIDS and STORYTELLER: "I can trust God no matter what. I can trust God no matter what. I can trust God no matter what."

STORYTELLER: "Wow. Was it easier to understand what everyone was saying that time? *(Pause.)* Of course! We were speaking in the language we can understand."

"Of course it didn't happen exactly like that. But still, we can imagine how it might have felt when the people arriving for the feast heard people speaking about Jesus in their own languages."

LOOK WHAT YOU DID

STORYTELLER: "Peter gathered the other disciples and spoke to the crowd. Here's what he said."

Open the Bible to Acts 2:22-24 (NirV) and read.

"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. But God raised him from the dead."

"Peter helped the people understand everything that Jesus had done. He helped them understand that Jesus really is God's Son—the Savior of the world."

"Everyone say, 'Ooooooooooh. Ahhhhhhhh.'"

Use the hand motions to cue the kids to start and stop.

KIDS: "Ooooooooooh. Ahhhhhhhh."

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "That day, THREE THOUSAND people believed in Jesus! They decided to follow Him and were baptized. With the help of God's Holy Spirit, Peter and the disciples had already begun the big job of telling people everywhere about Jesus . . . before they even left Jerusalem.

"Jesus had told His followers that a Helper would come to them, and now it had happened! The believers had the help of the Holy Spirit. They would never have to go alone.

"This story reminds us of something important.

[Bottom Line] "God gives you what you need to keep going.

"Can you say that for me?"

Use the hand motions to cue the kids to start and stop.

KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** "God gives you what you need to keep going."

STORYTELLER: "Let's pray and thank God for giving us exactly what we need."

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You for sending the gift of the Holy Spirit. We know that when we put our faith in Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit working in OUR lives, too—helping us to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and live Your way every day. Thank You for giving us the help we need to do the things You want us to do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It isn’t always easy to live God’s way. God knew that we would need help, so He gave us the Holy Spirit. When things get tough, we don’t have to rely on ourselves. When we believe and put our faith in Jesus, we receive the gift of the Spirit—and the Spirit helps us follow Jesus with the choices we make every day.

“You see, God has always had a plan to send a Helper. Jesus made a way for us to have a relationship with God, and because of Jesus, we can have the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us have determination to finish what we’ve started.

Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.

“The Holy Spirit helped the early believers in a big way. With the Spirit, they were able to begin the big job Jesus had given them. They had begun to tell the whole world about Him.

“This is what we need to remember today:

[Bottom Line] “God gives you what you need to keep going.

“Some of us have met people who have lived through really hard things. Many of those people will say things like, ‘I couldn’t have made it without God’s help.’ So when things get really hard in your life, or when you find yourself up against a real challenge, trust Jesus! If you believe in Jesus, you don’t have to do it alone. You have the Holy Spirit to help you!

“In Small Group, you’ll talk some more about how God gives us what we need to live with determination. I’ll see you next time!”