

LARGE GROUP



SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 28; ACTS

WONDER TRUTH:
JESUS SENDS THE HOLY
SPIRIT

Countdown Clock

**5 minute countdown clock with music to let kids know it's large group time

Leader Introduction

Hello friends, my name is _____, and it's so good to see you today! Let's start by checking out our ping pong jar. What do we need to do to earn a ping pong ball?

Allow kids to answer: Bring a friend, say Word of Wonder, bring your Bible, bring an offering.

Great job! Now, why do we bring an offering?

Allow kids to answer.

That's right! Everything we have is a gift from God. When we give money, it helps us do special things on Serve the City days. We use the money to help people in our neighborhoods and to show them God's love.

Giving is one way we can help others and tell them about Jesus!

Thank you for giving! Let's have a fun time today!

Let's start by doing our Declaration together. Remember these are truths from the Bible we can hold onto always.

Declaration Video

Worship

Bible Time Rhyme

I open my Bible and What do I see? God's Big Story, Waiting for Me!

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the books Matthew and Acts.

God's Big Story

We learned about how Jesus died and then came back to life. Can you say, "Jesus"? *Pause to allow the kids to respond.*

Today we're learning what happened after Jesus came back to life! Let's find out from the Bible what happened!

Jesus died and came back to life. *Hold up the balloon.*
Then Jesus spent time with His disciples.

He ate and drank with them and let them touch His hands so they would know He was alive again.

After 40 days, Jesus told His disciples to meet Him on a mountain. *Make the balloon move around as if talking and walking up a mountain.*

There, Jesus shared an important message—He was going to go to heaven to be with God and would come back one day.

Jesus gave His disciples a special mission to do while He is gone. They should tell people all about Him and His love.

Stand with your hands on your hips. **Whew! That sounds like a really hard thing to do! Jesus knew His followers would need some help, so He promised a helper—the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit would help His followers share the message of Jesus with everyone.

Jesus went to heaven, and He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help His followers. The Holy Spirit would come and help His followers share God's story.

And then, before their eyes *(let go of the balloon and allow it to float to the ceiling or bop it up to the ceiling if not filled with helium),*

Jesus rose into the air and disappeared in the clouds to heaven! The disciples went to Jerusalem, and there they waited for the Holy Spirit.

We'll hear more about that in our next story.

But this special job was not just for the disciples back a long time ago. Jesus gave this special mission to all of His followers—that's us too!

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us with this mission! The Holy Spirit helps us share God's story.

Watch God's Big Story

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to help kids connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:
Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

We see the Holy Spirit working all throughout the Bible! In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit empowered people like Joseph, Moses, David, and Isaiah to give God's messages. Then in the New Testament, Jesus promised that the same Spirit will be with His followers as they share His story. When we follow Jesus, the same Holy Spirit is with us and in us!

WORD OF WONDER:

ENCOURAGE THE KIDS TO SAY IT WITH YOU

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.
- _____

PRAYER JOURNAL:

LEAVE THESE QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS TO DO IN PRAYER JOURNALS:

- Who gives us power? (God; the Holy Spirit)
- What special job or mission will God help us do that we learned about today? (share His story with others)