

# SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: JESUS PROMISES TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT



## WORD OF WONDER:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- Acts 1:8

## GOD'S BIG STORY:

Jesus Gives the Great Commission and Ascends  
(Matthew 28:16-20,  
Acts 1:1-11)

## POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- What was the special mission, or task, Jesus gave the disciples before He went to heaven? *(To tell people about Jesus, His love for them, and that He died and rose again so that every person can have a relationship with God forever)*
- That's a big mission! Who did Jesus promise to send as a helper to His followers? *(The Holy Spirit)*
- Who is the Holy Spirit? *(The Holy Spirit is God—our powerful, wise, and loving helper.)*
- Who does God give the Holy Spirit to? *(Every person who follows Jesus, including us)*
- How does the Holy Spirit help people today? *(Possible answers: The Holy Spirit helps us understand what Jesus taught; reminds us that Jesus loves us; helps us know what to say to help others; helps us to be kind, loving, joyful, etc.; helps us to be brave.)*
- How has the Holy Spirit helped you?

## Welcome Question

- What is a task you needed help to complete?
- There are some things in life that are too difficult to do alone! Today in God's big story, we'll learn about Jesus' plan for helping His followers complete a really big, really hard mission!

## Curiosity Questions

- Do you think it's easier to accomplish big tasks by yourself or with helpers? Why?
- Who depends on your help? How do you help them?

## Curiosity Activity: Four Elbows!

- Ahead of time, print the [Four Elbows Game Cards](#) onto cardstock and cut them out. Shuffle and stack the cards.
- **Let's play a game today that's impossible to play by ourselves! It's called Four Elbows.**
- Hold up the stack of Four Elbows Game Cards. **On each of these cards is a number and a body part. I'll pull a card and read it out loud, and you'll try as quickly as possible to form a group with other people that includes that number of that specific body part. For example, how many elbows do you have?** Pause for kids to respond. **So, if a card says, "Four Elbows," how many people will be in a group?** Pause again. **Yes, a group of two people have four elbows!**
- Begin the game by pulling a Four Elbows Game Card, reading it aloud, and giving kids time to organize themselves into groups.
- If some kids aren't able to form the correct size group, that's OK—everyone can keep playing! (The numbers for each round won't always work out evenly.)
- Play as time allows or until all 12 cards are used.
- **Do you think you could have played Four Elbows by yourself?** Invite responses. **You're right! There's simply no way any of us could have played this game alone! Today in God's big story, we'll learn about a very difficult mission Jesus gave His followers before He went back up to heaven. There's no way Jesus' followers, including us, could do it on their own! Thankfully, Jesus promised to send someone to help!**
- **Today's Wonder Truth is JESUS PROMISES TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
- The Holy Spirit is God, and He lives inside each of us who follow Jesus, giving us power to do things that seem impossible!

## Word of Wonder Activity

- Ahead of time, print a set of the [Word of Wonder Wall Sheets NIV](#) onto cardstock for each small group. Cut the pages in half along the cut lines. Then tape each set to the wall at approximately the kids' height. For groups with younger kids, tape the sheets in verse order. For groups with older kids, tape them in random order to make the activity more challenging. Each small group should have its own set of wall sheets.
- **Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series talks about how the Holy Spirit gives us power to share about Jesus. Let's say the verse together.** Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Introduce kids to Acts 1:8 by reading it several times together.
- Invite kids to line up facing the wall where the Word of Wonder Wall Sheets are taped. The first person in line will find the first words of the verse and toss a ball at that sheet as everyone reads the words together. They will continue through the line, with each person tossing the ball at the next part of the verse and everyone in the group reading that part of the verse together.
- Play several rounds, challenging kids to go faster each time.

## Responding in Worship: Wind Chimes

- **We learned in God’s big story today that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples long ago, and He promises to send the Holy Spirit to each of us who follow Him! What do you know about the Holy Spirit?** Allow kids to share what they know freely! If needed, remind them that the Holy Spirit is God—our powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Holy Spirit is one part of the Trinity—three persons who are all one true God: the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God’s presence, given to every Jesus-follower.
- **The Bible uses the word picture of wind to describe the Holy Spirit. How do you think the Holy Spirit is like wind?** Again, invite kids to share freely. **Yes! We can’t see the Holy Spirit, kind of like how we can’t see the wind. But sometimes we can sense that the Holy Spirit is with us, like we can feel the wind. Let’s make wind chimes to help us remember that Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to His followers, including us, to help them complete God’s mission—to tell others about Jesus and His love!**
- Hand out six strands of string and a twig or craft stick to each kid. Be sure there is a bowl of beads within reach of each kid. Walk kids through these steps:
  - Tie knots at the bottom of five pieces of string. Invite other leaders to help kids who need assistance tying knots.
  - String beads onto the five strings that are knotted at the bottom. Encourage kids to choose bead colors that remind them of the Holy Spirit.
  - Tie the loose end of each string to the twig or craft stick. The strings should be tied close enough to each other that the beads on each string knock against the others when the wind blows them. If you have craft bells or colorful ribbons, invite kids to attach them to their wind chimes to make them look and sound even more vibrant.
  - Tie the final string across the top from one end of the twig or stick to the other to be used as a hanger.
- **We can’t see the Holy Spirit, and we can’t see the wind, but just like we can see and hear the effects of the wind on these wind chimes, the power the Holy Spirit gives us shows us that the Spirit is real and is with us! Take yours home and hang it where it can blow in the wind, and when it does, remember that Jesus promises to give you the Holy Spirit!**



## SMALL GROUP PRAYER

God gives the Holy Spirit to every Jesus-follower! That means that when we follow Jesus, we have the Holy Spirit—who is God—in us and with us. The Holy Spirit helps us to do the mission Jesus gave His followers: to tell the whole world about Jesus and His amazing love—starting with our friends, family, and neighbors who don’t know Him. Let’s pray for people in our lives now!

Ask kids to share prayer requests and praises, focusing on those in their circles who don’t know Jesus and His love for them. Encourage them all to think of at least one friend, family member, or neighbor who is not a Jesus-follower who they would like to pray for. Then spend time praying for each person mentioned.