

# SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS US TO SHARE GOD'S STORY



## 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 Sends the Holy Spirit (Pentecost)  
(Acts 2:1-6, 14, 36-41)

## POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- What did the disciples hear when the Holy Spirit came? What did they see? *(They heard a sound like a strong wind. They saw something that looked like flames resting on top of each person.)*
- Who got up in front of all the people and told them the message of Jesus? *(Peter)*
- When the people asked what they should do, what did Peter tell them? *(Ask God for forgiveness, be baptized, and commit to being a follower of Jesus. Then they would receive the Holy Spirit!)*
- What holiday were the people celebrating when the Holy Spirit came? Why do you think this is significant? *(Pentecost, the holiday when people celebrated the first crops of the harvest season. The Holy Spirit coming would be the beginning of a great spiritual harvest when many people would become Jesus-followers, starting with three thousand that day!)*
- How did the Holy Spirit empower Peter and the disciples? *(Possible answers: The Holy Spirit gave them courage and boldness to share Jesus' message; the Holy Spirit helped them speak in other languages.)*
- How does the Holy Spirit work in Jesus-followers today? How has the Holy Spirit changed you?

## Welcome Question

- **When have you had to speak in front of people? How did it make you feel?** Allow kids to share their examples. Some feel nervous to speak in front of others, and some enjoy it. Help them think about why this is the case.
- **Sometimes it's hard to speak in front of others. Today we're going to learn about how God sent His Spirit to help His followers share His big story with others.**

## Curiosity Questions

- When do you have to be bold or brave?
- Have you ever shared parts of God's big story with others? Tell about it.

## Word of Wonder Activity

- In this activity, kids will do motions for key words in the Word of Wonder. Consider writing the verse on a whiteboard that all the groups can see or writing it on a posterboard for each group. Underline these key words and phrases: power, Holy Spirit, Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, earth.
- **Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series are Jesus' words to His disciples. He promises they will receive the Holy Spirit, and on the day of Pentecost, that's exactly what happened! Let's say the verse together.** Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Encourage kids to read Acts 1:8 several times together.
- If using, point to the whiteboard or posterboard with the Word of Wonder on it and challenge kids to do certain motions when they say the underlined words. (When we move our bodies, our minds remember things better!) Introduce them to these motions:
  - power: blow gently on hand and reach outward
  - Holy Spirit: point up
  - Jerusalem: take one small step forward
  - Judea and Samaria: take one medium step forward
  - earth: take a very large step forward
- Start by inviting all the kids to say the verse together and do the motions. If your group is up for a challenge, have your group stand in a large circle. Invite kids to go around the circle as quickly as possible, with each person saying just one word from the verse. Whenever a key word is said, everyone can do the motions.

## Responding in Worship: Mission Journals

- **Today we heard in God's big story about how the Holy Spirit filled those who believed in Jesus and empowered them to share His story. Peter got up and boldly shared about Jesus to thousands of people. Does anyone remember what Peter did the night before Jesus died on the cross? Give the kids some time to think and respond.** Remind the kids that Peter was so scared of what people might think of him or do to him that he pretended he didn't even know Jesus. Three different times, Peter denied that he even knew Jesus. (If you have time, you can look this up and read it from Luke 22:54–62.)
- **Peter went from being scared to admit he knew Jesus to standing up in front of thousands of people so that they would know the good news about Jesus. The difference was that Peter was empowered by the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit lives in us today if we know Jesus! And the Holy Spirit can give us power to share God's story with others!**
- **Let's spend some time reflecting on our mission as Jesus-followers to share Jesus with others and praying for the Holy Spirit to empower us.**
- Set out writing and coloring utensils and give a Mission Journal to each kid. Invite kids to write their name next to "My Name" on the front cover. Then spend a moment reading each page together.
- Give kids several minutes to write and draw in their journals as they reflect and pray quietly.
- After a few minutes, give kids who would like to share an opportunity to turn to a neighbor and show them their journal.
- Encourage kids to take their journals home and to continue praying each day for the Holy Spirit's help as they share Jesus and His love with others.

## SMALL GROUP PRAYER

God sent His Holy Spirit to empower us to share His truth with others. Let's take some time to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to fill us with boldness and wisdom.

Ask a few of the kids to share some situations where they may feel nervous or afraid to share God's story. Spend some time inviting kids to pray, asking God to empower them through the Holy Spirit so that they can share His story with those who need to hear it.