

SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES



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:

Peter and Cornelius
(Acts 10:1-5, 9-17, 34-35)

POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- Who did God send to Cornelius to tell him to send men to get Jesus' disciple, Peter? *(an angel)*
- What did Peter see on the sheet during his vision? *(all kinds of animals that were considered impure and that Jews weren't allowed to eat)*
- What did the Holy Spirit tell Peter to do after he had the vision? *(The Spirit told him to get up, go downstairs, and go with the men who were looking for him.)*
- Whose house did Peter go to? *(Cornelius')*
- When Peter got to Cornelius' house, he understood the vision!
- What did the vision mean? *(Possible answers: God doesn't play favorites! God wants everyone to be in a relationship with Him, even non-Jewish people!)*
- God wants to be in a relationship with you! How does that make you feel? What do you want to say to God in response?

Welcome Question

- What is your favorite food? What is your least favorite food?
- Today we're going to hear about a time God told Peter to eat something that Peter didn't think he should. Peter discovered something new, and we will too.

Curiosity Questions

- What are some of your family's favorite foods? Do any of them come from a specific culture or part of the world?
- Do you have any friends, neighbors, or family members who are from a different culture or part of the world than you? What new things (like foods, activities, or holidays) from their culture have you tried?

Curiosity Activity: Healthy Or Not?

- Ahead of time, make a line with tape on the floor in the center of the room and decide which side of the line you'll designate for healthy food and which you'll designate for not healthy food.
- **We all eat food every day, but I wonder if we would all agree which are healthy foods and which are not. Let's play a game to see! I'm going to show you a type of food, and after I show it, you'll decide if it's healthy or not. Look down at the line on the floor. If you think the food is healthy, you'll go to this side of the line.** Indicate one side of the room. **If you think the food is not healthy, you'll go to this side of the line.** Indicate the other side of the room. **If you think the food is somewhere in the middle, you can pick a spot on the line that's not on either side!**
- **Let's give it a try!** Show the first [Healthy or Not? Sheet](#). **Are apples healthy or not healthy? Go to the side of the room that describes your choice.** Give kids time to move. Then advance to the next sheet.
- Continue through all the sheets giving kids a chance to move to one side of the room or the other each time. For your reference, here is a list of the items pictured on the slides: apples, potato chips, taco, lasagna, cereal, ice cream, and carrot. There are no answers to reveal; simply allow kids to move to wherever they think is appropriate on the line.
- **Everyone doesn't always agree on what is healthy and what is not. That's because food isn't good or bad, or right or wrong, in and of itself; it's just food. (Though based on our bodies' needs, some foods help us feel and function better than others!)**
- **In today's part of God's big story, Peter learns not to give anything—food or people—unnecessary labels because God made them all. And because God made all people, He wants a relationship with everyone.**
- Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES.**

Word of Wonder Activity

- **Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series talks about how the Holy Spirit helps us to share about Jesus. Let's say the verse together.** Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Invite kids to read Acts 1:8 several times together.
- Have your group gather in a circle. After reading the verse several times together, invite kids to sit in a squat position, ready to pop (or jump) for a popcorn-style recitation of the verse.
- **Now that we've practiced our Word of Wonder a few times, let's see how we do when we say it together as if we're jumping kernels of popcorn. When I point to the first person, that person will pop up by jumping up out of his squat and saying the first word of the verse. The next person will pop up and say the next word in the verse. We'll continue to go around our circle, popping up and saying the words of the verse until we finish. Let's get ready to pop!**
- Indicate which direction around the circle you want kids to recite the verse; then have them jump up and say one word of the verse, one after another, until they have recited the whole verse.
- For a bigger challenge, have kids try to go around the circle as fast as possible. Time the group and see if they can beat their own time!

Responding in Worship: Reflect And Create

- Ahead of time, write “Holy Spirit” on the whiteboard (or a sheet of paper).
- Gather the kids together and give each kid a sheet of black construction paper or cardstock and a white crayon or piece of chalk.
- **Today we learned how God was pleased with Cornelius, a man who was not Jewish but loved God. God showed Peter that Cornelius could have a relationship with God. God invites each of us to have a relationship with Him too! And when we follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit, who is His powerful, wise, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit is God! And the Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes.**
- **Each of you has a sheet of black cardstock and a white crayon (or a piece of chalk). First, write “Holy Spirit” in the middle of your paper.** Show kids the words “Holy Spirit” on the whiteboard (or hold up the paper with them on it).
- **Now let’s spend some time thinking about the gift of the Holy Spirit. How amazing it is that God gives each of us the Holy Spirit! If you trust and follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit is within you at this very moment! Around the edges of your paper, you can draw or write what comes to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit. After a few minutes, we’ll pray together.**
- After a few minutes of creating and reflecting, invite kids to stand up and hold their pictures close to their hearts as you say a response prayer together.
- **While you hold your pictures over your hearts, I’m going to say a few words reminding us of what we learned today. After each statement, you’ll reply, “Come, Holy Spirit, come.”**
- **God, we thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to everyone who believes.**
 - Help lead kids in saying, “Come, Holy Spirit, come.”
- **Your Holy Spirit helps us tell others of Your goodness and love.**
 - Kids reply, “Come, Holy Spirit, come.”
- **You will never leave us; You are always with us.**
 - Kids reply, “Come, Holy Spirit, come.”
- **What an amazing truth: God wants a relationship with us and will never leave those who trust and follow Jesus!**

SMALL GROUP PRAYER

It’s amazing to know that the God of the universe wants a relationship with each of us! He sent His powerful, wise, and loving presence—the Holy Spirit—to Cornelius, and He continues to send His Holy Spirit to anyone who believes in Him so that His followers will always have God to guide them. Let’s talk to God in prayer, thanking Him for sending His Holy Spirit.

Invite kids to brainstorm the different ways the Holy Spirit works in the lives of those who believe. Encourage those who would like to pray to thank God for sending His Holy Spirit to everyone who believes and for the Spirit’s work in our lives. Then encourage kids to share their own prayer requests and to pray for one another.