



God Inspires Us to Serve Others – Spiritual Gifts

Ephesians 4:1-16

God Statement: The Holy Spirit is With Us

KEY VERSE: “But you are not ruled by the power of sin. Instead, the Holy Spirit rules over you... The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.”
(Romans 8:9 & 11, NIRV, paraphrased)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God Inspires Us to Serve Others

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God inspires us to serve others.

SAY:

What’s our God statement right now? *Let kids respond.* The Holy Spirit is With Us! What’s the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is part of the trinity, and God gave us the Holy Spirit as our helper. Well, today we’re learning about how God inspires us to serve others. Let’s think about that statement – God inspires us to serve others... What do you think that means?

We're going to learn about something called spiritual gifts. Do you like getting gifts? Well, these aren't the same kind of gifts that you might be thinking of, but they are really special. God gives each of us special abilities and strengths that we can use to serve others! We'll learn more about these spiritual gifts later, but for now, let's play a game!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Who Has the Gift?

Supplies: small gift box

Say: *We just talked about how we're learning about spiritual gifts today. Remember, spiritual gifts aren't the same as a toy that you got for your birthday or that cool new hat, but we'll learn more about that later. For now, we're going to play a game called "Who Has the Gift?"*

Directions: Have children stand in a circle with their hands behind their back (facing the middle of the circle). Have one child stand in the middle of the circle. The child in the middle will close their eyes. Play music on Plex/Spotify and have the children pass the small gift box behind their backs around the circle as fast as they can, but as QUIET as they can. When the music stops, the child in the middle will try to guess who has the special gift. Have children take turns being "it" in the middle of the circle.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide.****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

New Testament Books of the Bible

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Our current Bible Challenge is for kids to memorize the Books of the NEW Testament right now. Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a “Bible Challenge” card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

****After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Worship” slide.****

KEY VERSE

Host

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**“But you are not ruled by the power of sin. Instead, the Holy Spirit rules over you... The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.”
(Romans 8:9 & 11, NIRV, paraphrased)**

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Inspires Us to Serve Others

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: worship response chalkboard or whiteboard, string worship response station, small paper, markers, chalk

Prepare ahead: Draw a large outline of a church on the chalkboard/whiteboard. It should fill the board and leave room for the kids to draw inside.

God's Spirit gives us gifts because He loves His church. Ephesians 4:12 calls the church Christ's body. Why does it call the church His body? That's kind of silly... **Let kids respond.**

Those are all great ideas. Jesus isn't here on earth anymore. Right? But we are Jesus' followers, and it's like we can be His hands and feet, His body, to help serve and love others! When we use our gifts to serve others, we're helping the church grow.

Let's take a few minutes to remember that we're all part of the body of Christ and that we have gifts to use to serve others.

As the music plays, grab a piece of paper and marker, and think about the gifts God has given you to use to serve others. When you have thought of one way you can use your gifts to serve others:

- **TWINE/WIRE RESPONSE** - Draw or write it down and clip your paper to one of the string boards.
- **CHALKBOARD RESPONSE** - Then go to the chalkboard and draw yourself inside the church, to signify that you are a part of God's body and want to use your gifts to build the church up.

Encourage leaders and children to come forward when they're ready.

After everyone responds, pray together, that God would continue to show us how we can serve His church, in order that more people would hear about Him, be drawn to Him, love Him and make His name great!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Cure Surgeries

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Are any of you going to Summer Day Camp this year? Well, every year for camp, we highlight a specific mission project that we work together to raise money for. This year at camp, our mission project will be CURE Surgeries in Zambia, Africa.

Play video provided in powerpoint.

Say: Think about this question – when you break your arm or have a really bad tummy ache or get a bad cut, what do you usually do? What do your parents or guardians do? *Let kids respond.* If it's really bad, likely your parent or guardian will take you to see a doctor to help you get the problem fixed/healed. Well, kids just like you in other countries can't just go to a hospital or doctor's office to get help... They don't have one close by or they don't have enough money to get help.

Say: This is where CURE International comes in. Not only does CURE help provide life-changing surgical care, but also the hope of Jesus Christ and His love to each kid who comes through their doors. You can help be a part of #healing4life when you bring in offering on weekends or to camp over the next couple of weeks.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Let's bless each other today. Find someone nearby to bless. Ask them if you can put your hand on their shoulder. Look them in the eye and say:

Friend, may you always remember that God gives you gifts to serve others. Go and serve!

Then encourage kids to switch and say the same blessing.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

As part of Remember & Celebrate, use this time to chat with kids about all they have to be thankful for and enjoy a snack together.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/Recap today's story: Ephesians 4: 1-16**
3. **How does God call us to act/be?** (Patient, gentle, kind, humble).
4. **God wants to help us and use us to do great things. What does God want to build up?** (The body of Christ).
5. **God wants us to serve others. By doing this, we can bring others to Him and help them to know Jesus! What is one gift God has used in you, or one way you can serve others?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Ephesians 4:1-7**
How does God call us to act/be? (Patient, gentle, kind, humble)
3. **Read scripture: Ephesians 4:12**
God wants to equip us and use us to do great things. What does God want to build up? (The body of Christ).
4. **What is the body of Christ?** (His Kingdom and all of His children).
5. **God wants us to serve others. By doing this, we can bring others to Him and help them to know Jesus! What is one gift God has used in you, or one way you can serve others?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – How Can We Serve – Matching Page

Supplies: 1 matching shape page/packet per child

Directions: Pass out one packet per child. Have them cut out the shapes with “ways we can serve examples” and have them paste them onto the serving poster (matching each shape). As they cut and paste the serving ideas, discuss each idea and ask children ways they can help others.

Say: *Today we learned that Jesus uses our gifts for His ministry! What are some ways we can serve others? Let’s look at some examples and do an activity to remind us of ways we can serve others like Jesus.*

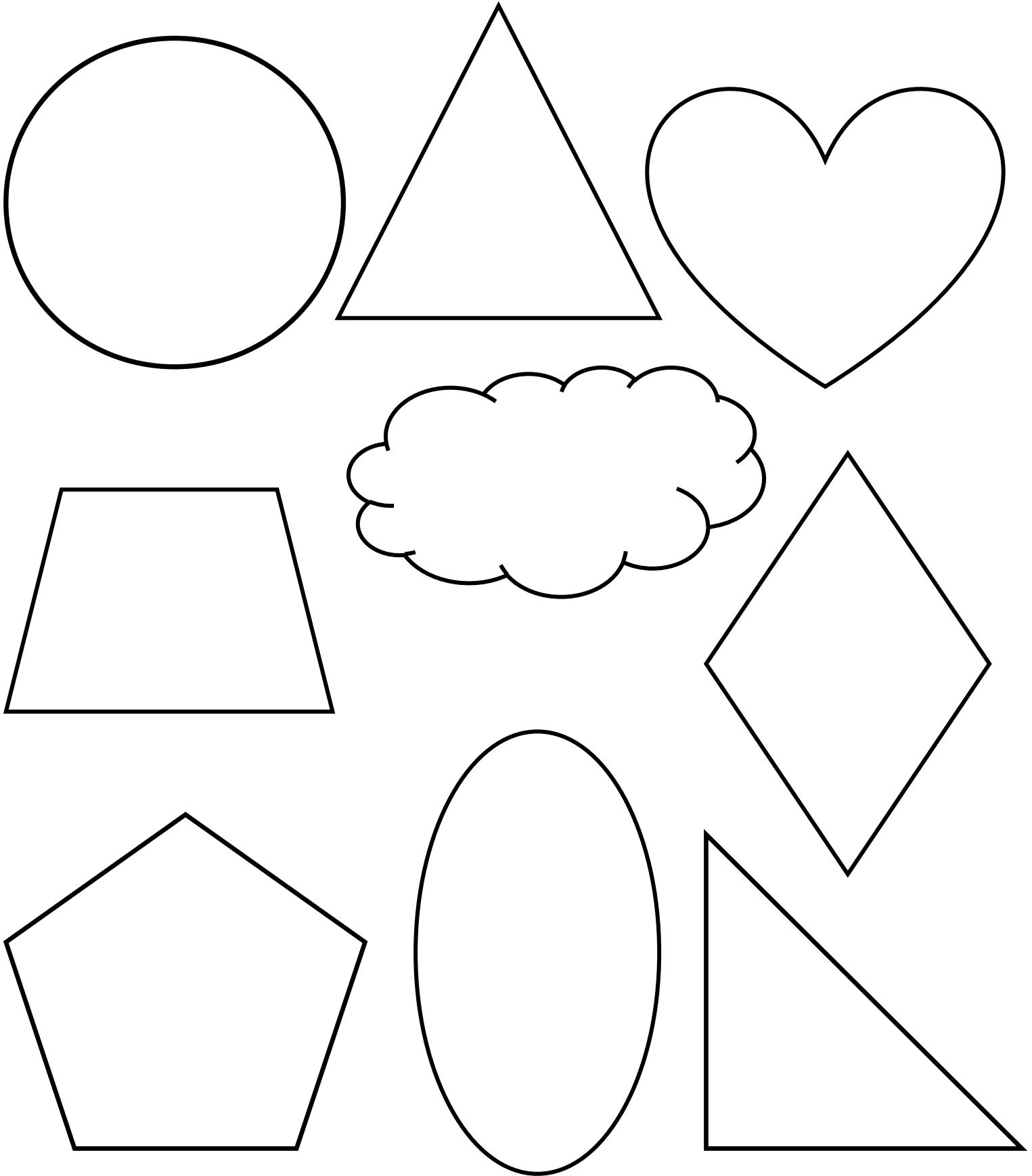
CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

Ways that I can serve others like
Jesus!



cut out each shape and match and glue it to the corresponding shape page.

Say a kind
word to
someone
else!

Send a
card to
someone

Raise \$
for a
charity!

Collect/donate food for
a food bank

Bless a person
or family who
is going
through a
difficult time

Donate
clothes
or toys

Talk to a new
child at school
(say hi to
someone new)

Do
something
nice for
an animal

Help
someone
with
outdoor
work