



God is With Us – The Holy Spirit

Acts 2 & Luke 24; Matthew 28:16-20

God Statement: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

KEY VERSE: “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6, NIRV)

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: Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life!

SAY:

Have you ever gotten a really special gift? Turn to the person next to you and tell them about it. Why was it so special? **After kids have shared with one another, have a few kids share with the class.** Today, we’re going to learn about a very special gift that Jesus gave His disciples, and anyone who believes in Him. Do you know what that special gift was? **Let kids respond.** I’ll give you a hint, it’s something you can’t necessarily see, but

you can feel. **Let kids guess.** Here's another hint: it's part of the trinity, the three parts of God. That's right, it's the Holy Spirit!

Do you remember what our God statement is right now? **Let kids respond – Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.** We've learned how Jesus is the only way to God because of what He did on the Cross and through Him we have new life! That's the truth of the gospel and the Easter story. The Holy Spirit is God with us! It's God's helper to us. How do you think the Holy Spirit can help us? **Let kids respond.** We're going to learn more about the Holy Spirit later, but first, let's do this activity.

MAKE:

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

God is With Us Puzzle

Supplies: puzzle (one per child), markers, snack size sandwich bags

Say: *Today we get to learn how God is always with us. He loves us, He is with us ALWAYS. Let's make a puzzle to take with us today, to remind us of this great truth about God!*

Directions: Pass out one puzzle per child and have them color the puzzle using markers or crayons. When they complete their puzzle they can separate the pieces and place them in a snack size bag to take home.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

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

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- The Way

- Happy Day

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says “hot” or “cold” to give them clues if they’re getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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

**“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”
(John 14:6, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the “What’s It” is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: JESUS

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Oh! Who's this? **Let kids respond.** It's **Jesus!** Hmm... I wonder what this has to do with our story today. Let's find out! Do you know what time it is? It's time for us to dive into God's Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 is With Us

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 this time.

Supplies: None

After Jesus died and rose again, He sent His disciples a very special gift. Do you remember what the gift was? **Let kids respond – the Holy Spirit.** Jesus sent them the Holy Spirit, which gives God's people the power to love others just as God loves us. The Holy Spirit is God with us – let's say that: God with us.

Remember, sometimes we talk about the Holy Spirit like the wind – we can't see the wind, but we can feel and hear the wind. That's kind of how the Holy Spirit works – we can't see this gift, but we can feel and sometimes hear it.

Let's take a moment and be really still. Take a deep breath in, and another. Sit still for a moment. **Encourage kids to be still.** Sometimes, we have to quiet our bodies to hear from the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave His disciples very clear directions of what to do once He left – go and make disciples, go and share the good news. What is the good news? **Let kids respond – That Jesus died and rose again for us!**

But, the best part is that Jesus didn't ask His disciples, or us, to do this by ourselves. He's given us what? The Holy Spirit, God With us, to help us.

PRAYER ACTIVITY:

Remember last week we talked about who we can share God's love with? Well, we're going to take time to ask the Holy Spirit to help us share God's love this week. It can feel hard to try and love others or tell them about Jesus all the time, but that's why God sent the Holy Spirit, God with us, to help us! We just have to ask for help!

Let's say this prayer together: ***Have kids repeat a couple words at a time after you.***
Dear God, thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, please help me love others this week and show them God's love! Thank you for loving me, God. Amen.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

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 – Give A Goat with Compassion International

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.

Woodmen Kids is focused on raising money to help give goats to people around the world through Compassion International! Do you know why people around the world might want a goat? ***Let kids answer.***

If needed, show the Compassion Goat video provided in the PowerPoint.

This is our LAST week to donate money to reach our goal! Let's look at our tracker to see how many goats we've raised so far! (*reference poster on the wall*)

Let's take some time to praise God through prayer for how He has provided for this project!

Invite a couple kids to come up and pray for the families who will receive a goat through our giving and thank God for providing.

******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.

May you use God's gift of the Holy Spirit, God with us, to share God's love to others this week.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

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: Acts 2 and Matthew 28**
 - a. **Jesus told His disciples to make disciples of all nations. What does this mean?** (To share Gods word with others. To share about Jesus with everyone.)
 - b. **Where did Jesus go after He talked with his disciples on the mountain?** (To Heaven).
 - c. **After Jesus went back up to Heaven, what did God send down to those who were followers of Jesus?** (The Holy Spirit)
3. **God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, always. This means God is always with us. We know that we can always talk with God. What is something you would like to tell or share with God today?**

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.

PLAY: **Way, Truth, Life (Duck, Duck, Goose)**

Supplies: none

Directions: Have children sit in a circle. Choose one child to be "it". Have them go from one child to the next and say "way, truth, way, truth, way, truth LIFE" when they say "life" that child jumps up and tries to tag them while the child that is it runs around the circle to get to the open spot. (This game plays like "duck duck goose").

Say: Today we get to remember how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is always with us and we get to have the Holy Spirit with us ALWAYS. Let's play a game to help us remember this great truth!

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.