



God Inspires Us to Serve Others

Ephesians 4:1-16

The Holy Spirit is With Us

KEY VERSE:

"The Spirit of God lives in you." Romans 8:9 & 11, NIRV paraphrased

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you've completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the "Connect" reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...*(most of the time)*

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE**.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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: The Holy Spirit is With Us

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how the Holy Spirit is with us.

Say: Raise your hand if you sometimes need help. We all need help sometimes. When your brother or sister or grownup helps you, how does it make you feel? Happy? That's right! Well, we can help other people too! And, the best part is that God gives us the Holy Spirit to help others. The Holy Spirit helps us to be able to help and encourage others. He reminds us to love well. We can be kind and serve other people.

PLAY: Coloring Sheet Helping Hands

Supplies: 1 sheet construction paper, washable paint, paint roller, paper plate, classroom paper towels/sink accessible, classroom paint shirts

Directions: Have everything ready ahead of time. Roller, paint, paper, wipes.

Write "Helping Hands" across the bottom of the page. Put craft tag or write name on paper.

Working with one child at a time, roll paint across both hands and place them on the paper to make a handprint. Immediately wipe hands off. On to the next kiddo.

Say: *What beautiful hands you have. God made those hands to help others.*

While you are working with each child, talk about:

- How can we use our hands to help others?
- Who can we use our hands to help?
- Why should we help others?

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *Only God Can Do*
- *God is so Good*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!

This week, read about a story about God Inspires Us to serve others in *Jesus Calling Storybook Bible*

BIG IDEA:

When we love God and Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us gifts of things we can do for others to help them.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Inspires Us to Serve Others - The Fruit of the Spirit

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton has a white wrap around his leg. It's hard for him to move.

Say: Hamilton, what happened? Are you hurt? **He nods.** Who can help Hamilton? **Encourage the kids to take turns comforting him.** You friends are very kind. The Holy Spirit helps you to be kind. Let's listen to what our friend Paul says in the Bible. Do you remember that he used to be Saul and was very grumpy? God changed his heart and now he is very kind and loving.

Say: Let's read a special story in the Bible about the amazing way God helps us to serve others.

Kids can hold Hamilton to comfort him during story. If it becomes an issue, tell Hamilton it's time for him to go rest.

Read the The Fruit of the Spirit story from Jesus Calling Storybook Bible on page 248/

Say: The Holy Spirit gives us so many gifts of love and joy and peace. So many other things so that we can help others.

Say: Hamilton it's time for you to go rest. We hope you feel better soon. Kids, do you want to blow Hamilton kisses so he feels better? Bye, Hamilton. **Put him in his house.**

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that The Holy Spirit is With Us. (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

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.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: The Holy Spirit gives us gifts of kindness and love. How can you show kindness to someone today? **Let kids answer.** Yes, those are amazing ideas!

BLESSING (1 minute)

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.

Say: Our verse says, "The Spirit of God lives in you." *He gives you gifts that you can use to help others. Always remember to give love and kindness.*

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Cards for Senior Center

Supplies: paper to fold into cards, stickers, crayons, markers

Directions: Encourage kids to make cards for the Senior Centers we partner with through Acts Ministry. Fold paper in half. Encourage kids to decorate and make them beautiful to share with the elderly.

Say: *We are going to use the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us to help other people. There are some people who are sad and lonely. You can make a card to cheer them up.*

While you are working with each child:

- I wonder who will get your card.
- Let's pray for the person who will get your card. Lead them in a short prayer for that person.
- Make it as beautiful as you can.

PLAY!

Purpose: *Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"