

# The Holy Spirit

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Acts 2:1-4, 36-42**

Lesson Focus  
**We can celebrate the church.**

### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Center Time</b> Kids use clay to make pretend birthday cakes, wrap pretend birthday gifts, and color Bible story pictures.	Coloring Pages 	Red play clay, birthday candles, cardboard boxes, wrapping paper, kid-friendly scissors, tape, blank paper, markers or crayons
<b>Circle Time</b> Kids sing a welcome song and use scarves to make wind.	None	Scarves
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids wave scarves gently as they pray.	None	Scarves

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>The Holy Spirit Storytelling</b> Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.	Spark Story Bible	None
<b>One God, Three Parts</b> Kids learn about the three parts of God.	None	Felt, scissors, felt board
<b>Wind and Flames</b> Kids add flame stickers to the leaflet.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Move Like the Wind</b> Kids move like the wind in today's story.	Leaflets	None
<b>Sing to the Church</b> Kids sing "Happy Birthday" to the church.	Leaflets	None
<b>Make a Cake</b> Kids frost cupcakes or cookies and celebrate the birthday of our church.	None	Unfrosted cupcakes or sugar cookies, frosting, birthday candles, plastic knives, hand wipes, spoon, napkins, plates, cups, water

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Good-bye Time</b> Kids tell about one thing they did today.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Scarf
<b>Prayer Time</b> Kids wave leaflets to make wind while they pray.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Center Time

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You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, dim the lights. Act as if the wind is blowing you to each of the centers, and ask kids to finish their center activities and let the wind blow them to Circle Time.

### **Play Clay Cakes**

Roll play clay into individual balls. Place one ball in front of each chair at the play clay center. Place two to three birthday candles in each ball. As kids explore the play clay, show how to flatten the clay using your palm. Pretend to make birthday cakes and blow out the candles.

### **Gift-Wrapping Center**

Place all the supplies on a kid-sized table. If the wrapping paper is on a large roll, cut it into smaller pieces for easier handling. Tear off pieces of tape and hang them off the sides of the table so kids are not dependent on an adult for tearing tape. Ask adults only to support kids' wrapping so kids have the experience of wrapping the gifts instead of helping the adults wrap.

### **Coloring Center**

Have coloring supplies available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

### **Spark Resources**

Coloring Pages



### **Supplies**

Red play clay  
Birthday candles  
Cardboard boxes  
Wrapping paper  
Kid-friendly scissors  
Tape  
Blank paper  
Markers or crayons

## Circle Time

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**Welcome, friends! Let's sing our welcome song. I wonder who is here today.** Sing this song to the tune of "Here We Go, 'Round the Mulberry Bush."

Spark Resources  
None

**Now it's time for Spark Time,  
Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
Now it's time for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

Supplies  
Scarves

**Our friends are here for Spark Time,  
Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
Our friends are here for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

**[Name]'s here for Spark Time,  
Spark Time, for Spark Time.  
[Name]'s here for Spark Time,  
We hear about God's love.**

Continue until all kids and adults are named.

Give everyone a scarf. **In today's story, a wind comes and blows through the house. Let's stand up and make wind with our scarves.** When it's time to move on, say, **"Stop the wind!"** You could play a version of the game Red Light, Green Light with the scarves, saying, "Wind!" and, "No wind!"

## Prayer Time

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Ask kids to wave their scarves like a gentle wind while you pray. **Everyone repeat after me.**

Spark Resources  
None

**Dear God,  
Bring your Holy Spirit wind  
To us today.  
Amen.**

Supplies  
Scarves

# Open the Bible (15 minutes)

## The Holy Spirit Storytelling

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**Jesus' disciples were having a party when some strange things started to happen. Let's find out what was going on.**

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to The Holy Spirit on pages 502-503. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make faces like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

**In today's story, was the wind loud or soft? (*loud*) After the wind came through, what appeared over everyone's head? (*flames of fire*)**

**Today is the birthday of the church. What are some ways we celebrate a birthday?** Allow all answers.

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bible

Supplies  
None

## One God, Three Parts

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Cut a piece of felt into a large triangle, and cut the triangle into three parts. The cutting may be done ahead of time or in front of the kids. Keep the kids in the storytelling circle, and set up the felt board so all can see. **Today's story is about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a part of our God. Our God has three parts.** Hold up three fingers. **The first part is God the Father.** Put a piece of felt on the felt board. **The second part is Jesus.** Place the second piece of felt on the felt board. **The third part is the Holy Spirit.** Place the third part of the triangle on the felt board to complete the triangle. **Each part of God has a different job. God created us and loves us. Jesus taught us how to love and forgive others, and the Holy Spirit gives us energy to spread love and forgiveness everywhere we go.**

Point to the completed triangle. **What shape do you see? Can you make the triangle?** Take the parts off the felt board and let kids work together to make the triangle again. Talk about each part of God as they put the pieces on the board, and move the pieces into the correct position as necessary.

Spark Resources  
None

Supplies  
Felt  
Scissors  
Felt board

## Wind and Flames

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Invite kids to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **The disciples were all gathered at a party. A strong wind blew through the house. Then each disciple had a flame of fire touching him, but no one burned! They all started speaking different languages! It was the birthday of the church. What an amazing story!**

**Is something missing from the picture on the leaflet?** Pause. **Some of the disciples are missing flames. Let's finish the picture.** Hand out the round flame stickers (save the rectangular sticker for Good-bye Time) and let kids place the flames on their leaflets.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

None

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

### Move Like the Wind

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Ask kids to turn over their leaflets. Point to the wind pictures. **Today's story says that a strong wind blew in the place where the disciples were gathered. How does the wind move?** Pause for responses. **Does the wind twirl? Does the wind fly? How would your leaflet move in the wind?** Hold up the leaflet and flap it and encourage kids to do the same. **We can't see the wind. But the wind sure does move things around!**

**Now let's try moving our bodies like the wind. Everyone stand up and move like the wind.** Demonstrate moving like the wind. After a few minutes quiet the wind by squatting down and putting your finger to your lips. When you speak, whisper. **How does the wind sound? Does it blow? Does it howl? Let's practice sounding like the wind.** Demonstrate making wind noises. **I wonder if we can move and sound like the wind in today's story. Let's try it!**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

None

### Sing to the Church

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Bring kids back to the table and point to the birthday cake on the leaflet. **Pentecost is the birthday of the whole church all around the world. The church was born on the day the Holy Spirit visited the disciples. The Holy Spirit is God's way of being connected with people on earth. It was the Holy Spirit who helped people to build the church everywhere. We can't see the Holy Spirit, just like we can't see wind. But just as the wind moves things, the Holy Spirit moves people to spread the church! Let's sing "Happy Birthday" to the church.** Sing "Happy Birthday."

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

None

## Make a Cake

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*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

**Since it is the birthday of the church all around the world, we'll celebrate with a birthday treat.** Hand out the wipes and ask kids to wipe their hands. Then give one cupcake or cookie on a plate to each kid, and place a plastic knife and napkin next to each plate. Place a dollop of frosting on each plate. **Today we are going to frost our treats.** Pick up a cupcake or cookie and demonstrate how to frost it. **Everyone has a knife. Use your knife to put some frosting on your cupcake/cookie. Spread the yummy frosting around. Then put your knife down and eat your yummy treat!** Give each kid a cup of water to enjoy with the treat, and hand out more wipes for cleanup when kids are done eating.

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Unfrosted cupcakes or sugar cookies  
Frosting  
Birthday candles  
Plastic knives  
Hand wipes  
Spoon  
Napkins  
Plates  
Cups  
Water

## Send (5 minutes)

### Good-bye Time

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Have the kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. **What did we do today? When I give you the scarf to hold, tell me one thing we did today.** There are no right or wrong answers. If a kid is not interested in the activity, please honor his or her feelings. Give all kids rectangular flame stickers to put on their clothing after they have had a chance to recall something they did today. **Here is a Holy Spirit flame for you, [Name], to remember that God's Holy Spirit is always with you.** Kids don't have to say anything to get a sticker. Allow kids to put the stickers on themselves.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home, because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. You and your family can make and enjoy a birthday cake for the church! Be sure to sing "Happy Birthday."**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Lesson Stickers

### Supplies

Scarf

## Prayer Time

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**If we wave our leaflets above our heads, they make wind! Wave your leaflets and listen to our prayer.**

**Wind, wind come our way,  
Send us home when we pray:**

**Three parts,  
One big heart.**

**Thank you, God, for parts and hearts.  
Amen, amen, amen.**

**Let's repeat our prayer. This time pray with me while you wave your leaflets.**

Be sure to send leaflets home with the kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

Family Pages



### Supplies

None