***Sunday school materials 07/06/2020***

***The Holy Spirit? - Feel the Power!***

***FOOTSTEPS.***

Last week we celebrated Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit - The birthday of the Church. This week we’re going to have a think about who the Holy Spirit is! How does it work in our lives? When we ask the Holy Spirit into our lives, we are asking for guidance and Jesus’s presence in our lives. People experience the Holy Spirit in different ways; for some it is the ‘still, small voice’ that we read about in the Old Testament in Kings. For others they experienced the warmth of the Holy Spirit which causes them to be more open to the love and a thirst of knowledge of Jesus.

As the Holy Spirit warms our hearts, so he encourages us to tell other people about Jesus. It is – or should be - a reflex action: we can’t help telling people about Jesus’ love because it is the most important thing to us, and also we feel that we want to tell others because the Holy Spirit gives us compassion on them and we want them to know God for themselves.

***Power source!***

#### ***Equipment***

Pens and paper

Discuss how many different types of power sources you can list, you might like to make a list so that there are no duplications or to help kids to think.

Examples of power sources could be solar energy, wind energy or electricity.

Discuss the use of these sources of power, how it is made etc. Then ask what ‘powers’ human beings? (food and water).

Explain that today’s session is about a different ‘power source’ that can ‘power’ humans – The Holy Spirit. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit empowers them in many ways, including guiding them and directing them to change their behaviour and thoughts.

The Point: To introduce the idea of the Holy Spirit as a source of warmth and power to Christians.

#### ***Youtube video - the story of pentecost. (EH OH Jesus story! Just a reminder)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

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#### ***FIZZING OVER***

#### ***Equipment***

Small cups, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar. The story of Pentecost in Acts 2: 1-13 or the PDF attached with the Bible story

Begin by performing a short experiment:

Place some bicarbonate of soda in a small cup. Ask what they think might happen if you add some vinegar?

You could let the children do this themselves. and put half a teaspoon of bicarbonate in one and a couple of centimetres of vinegar in another. Ask them to tip the vinegar into the soda and see what happens. (Obviously, do this on a tray).

Comment on how the mixture fizzes up.

Now read the story of Pentecost from Acts 2 1-13 or from the download Watch, Wait and Pray.

When the Holy Spirit filled the disciples it was like the vinegar and bicarbonate: they felt all fizzed up and excited, and they had to tell everyone about Jesus.

If we ask him, the Holy Spirit can fill us with that warmth and excitement too.... so that we are full of excitement about what Jesus has done, and we have to talk about him.

The Point: To show how the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples – and how he can transform us.

***The Fragrance of Jesus!***

Link to video <https://vimeo.com/259712132>

Introduce the video by saying that the speaker is Shane Claiborne. Shane is a Christian author and activist who is one of the founding members of 'The Simple Way', a group of Christians who have intentionally planted themselves in a community in North Philadelphia, USA, in order to share the love of Jesus with others in practical ways - their activities include planting gardens, running a store and feeding people who are hungry.

It is probably worth explaining that, in the video, Shane talks about the time he spent with Mother Teresa (1910-1997), also known as St Teresa of Calcutta, who was famous during the last century for her service to the poor in India.

Watch the video together.

Ask if they can remember anything about what Shane said about the prayer he used to pray with Mother Teresa ("Every prayer would be about Jesus filling us with Himself. One of the prayer we would pray would be 'Jesus, may every person I come into contact with feel the love in my soul, may I leave your fragrance everywhere I go.'")

What do you think that Shane means about 'Jesus filling us with Himself'?

What do you think he meant about leaving "fragrance everywhere I go."? (Clue: unlikely to be his aftershave!)

Ask read together Acts 2:1-13 (give appropriate context to this). Explain that Shane's description of 'Jesus filling us with Himself' is a modern day equivalent of what happened to the early followers of Jesus on the day of Pentecost.

Share 2 Corinthians 2:15 "For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing" and explain that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit we take Jesus with us wherever we go and that has the power to impact other people. Our prayers and our actions can help warm the hearts of those who are currently 'cold' towards Jesus.

***FULL OF POWER - EXTREME Bible study.***

#### ***Equipment***

Large sheet of paper, Bibles, post it notes, Bible references printed out on slips

Before the session begins, draw as heart, as big as you can onto the paper.

Read Romans 8:11 which tells us that through the Holy Spirit the same power that raised Jesus from the dead can live in us! It's worth pausing a moment to let this truth sink in as it's potentially a bit mind blowing. What's your initial response to this verse? (Thankfulness? Amazement? Confusion? Disbelief?).

Explain that you are going to explore more about this amazing power which God has given us access to by looking at some Scriptures which describe who the Holy Spirit is.

Read out this list of passages and what it says the Holy Spirit does, or have them written on slips of paper - and ask which the kids would like to look up.

Read (or get someone else to read) the passage chosen and ask them to write down what it tells us the Holy Spirit does to guide or lead Christians on a post it note and stick it on the large heart:

John 16:8 (the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sins.)

John 16:14 (the Holy Spirit guides us.)

Ephesians 3:16 (The Holy Spirit strengthens us.)

2 Corinthians 3:17 (The Holy Spirit brings freedom.)

2 Corinthians 3:18 (The Holy Spirit transforms us.)

1 Corinthians 3:16 (The Holy Spirit lives in us.)

Titus 3:5 (The Holy Spirit renews us.)

1Corthians 12: 8-10 (The Holy Spirit gives gifts.)

Acts 1:8 (The Holy Spirit empowers us.)

Ephesians 4:3-4 (The Holy Spirit unites us.)

Explain that you have used a heart to write on because one the Holy Spirit brings transformation to those who receive him and warms the hearts of those who are currently 'cold' towards God and Jesus.

Explain that the Holy Spirit could help them to tell other people about Jesus or to invite a friend to church or similar (when it’s possible again). It’s not easy and they need to be very sensitive and gentle in how they ask but remind them that they do have access to the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, so most likely that's enough power to give them courage to ask!

***Memory verse craft - pop up card.***

#### ***Equipment***

A4 Card, smaller pieces of card, pens, glue etc. PowerPoint slide displayed so that everyone can see it.

Prior to the session, look on line how to make a pop up card, you can see how to at the following link:

<https://tinkerlab.com/simple-diy-pop-up-cards-for-creative-kids/>

Display the PowerPoint slide. The memory verse is:

The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.

(John 14:26)

These are the words of Jesus. He was telling his disciples what would happen at Pentecost.

Show how to make a pop up card, write the memory verse onto the small piece of card and to stick it in the middle of the card on the pop up bit (alternatively, you could have the verse printed and cut out in advance so children just need to make and decorate the card).

They can then decorate the rest of the card.

The Point: To help young people remember a key truth about who the Holy Spirit is.

***Worship:***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBKT_aTbG6A>

Then for something silly to get stuck in your head all day… when we have the Holy Spirit living in us he changes us! The “fruit of the Spirit” are the things that God grows in us through the Holy Spirit!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rezg4jYFoj0>