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

***The Holy Spirit? - The Helper.***

***PAWPRINTS***

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.

#### ***Youtube video - the story of pentecost.***

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

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

#### ***Equipment***

Small cups, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar. A children’s Bible that has the story of Pentecost or Acts 2: 1-13 or use the download, Watch, wait and Pray.

Begin by performing a short experiment:

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

After they have guessed, show them: it fizzes up!

You could let the children do this themselves. Get some small cups 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.

Say that 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.

Say that 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.

#### ***BUBBLY HEARTS***

#### ***Equipment***

A paper with a template of a heart for each child, Ice cream tubs, red paint, bubbles, water, straws, scissors.

Mix red paint and a little water with a squirt of washing up liquid in a small tub – a take-away box or a small ice cream tub would work well. Children can share one box (but give them their own straw), and blow the bobbles up again between each child’s turns.

Give the children straws and let them blow into the paint mixture. Bubbles should rise above the top of the box. A piece of paper can now be put on top of the bubbles, pressed slightly and then removed. The bubbles should have stained the paper so you have a red bubbly pattern.

You can finish the activity here, or let the children cut out their hearts later in the session when the paint is dry.

The Point: To create a heart that looks warm.

***Bubbling up with prayer: 3 activities.***

1. Five fingers of prayer.

Talk to the children about who their favourite people are. Let them tell you their stories. Say that God doesn’t have favourites – we are all his favourite! Some people choose to know God and some people don’t but God loves them all the same. He really wants everyone to know Him and how much he loves them.

We are going to use our fingers to pray – that’s talk to God – and ask him to help people to understand how much he loves them. This is something that the Bible says that the Holy Spirit whispers into the deepest part of us. (Romans 8:16) We can pray this for people who don’t know him – that they would understand how much God loves them – and also for people who already know him – that they would understand even more!

Ask everyone to hold their hand in front of them with the fingers pointing up. Ask them to look at their thumb and imagine one of their favourite people. Ask them to imagine how that person would look and feel if they really knew how much God loves them. Do this with the other four fingers.

Ask the children if they think they could do that kind of praying by themselves at home this week.

1. Bubbly prayers.

#### ***Equipment***

Vinegar, bicarb of soda, a bowl, towels.

If you did the vinegar and bicarb Bible activity, you can use this as a follow up.

Make a larger amount of bicarbonate and vinegar mixture in a bowl. Say that when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, they were excited about everything Jesus had done and they wanted to tell their friends all about it.

Say that the Holy Spirit can excite our hearts in the same way today.

Invite the children to put their finger into the bicarb mixture and then go to a space to pray that God will fill their hearts with excitement and love so that they tell their friends about Jesus. As they say “amen” they can wipe their fingers clean with a towel.

1. Handprint prayer reminder.

#### ***Equipment***

Paint, card, baby wipes, sharpies.

Remind the children of the five people they prayed for using their fingers. Help everyone to make a handprint on a piece of card. When the paint is dry, they can use sharpies to decorate each finger like their five special people. You might want to have the hand painting part as a welcome station at the very start of the session so that they are dry by the time you want to decorate them like people.

Alternatively, if you don’t want to do paint, just draw round the children’s hands.

The Point: A reminder of the prayer activity.

***Worship:*** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oXkxRNEy8XA&list=RDoXkxRNEy8XA>

Sing along!

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>