

WEEK 4: EMPOWERED

MINISTRY IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS! THE BEST WAY TO BUILD THOSE RELATIONSHIPS IS THROUGH CONVERSATION. AS KIDS ARRIVE, BRING THEM INTO THE CHAT USING THE CONVERSATION STARTERS BELOW. BEING HEARD HELPS KIDS FEEL CONNECTED AND CONVERSATION WILL HELP BREAK THE ICE! MAKE SURE YOU GET IN ON THE FUN AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS TOO!

Conversation Starters

1. What was the best part of your week?
2. What was your least favorite part of your week?
3. When was the last time someone helped you with something? Did it make things easier?
4. When was the last time you helped someone out with something?
5. Has anyone ever tried to help you with something but it made things worse?
6. Have you ever tried to help someone but accidentally made things worse instead?

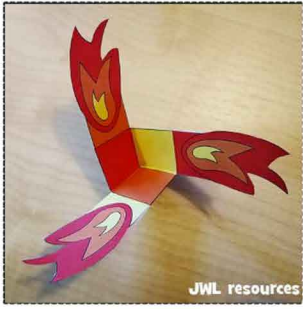
ONCE THE MAJORITY OF THE KIDS ARRIVE, INVITE THEM TO TAKE PART IN THE GROUP GAME/GROUP ACTIVITY SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.

Opening Group Activity

Check out the craft instructions on the next page (original located at <https://www.jesus-without-language.net/pentecost-acts-2-craft-1-2/>) and print enough copies for your group, supplying scissors for everyone. Have each member of the group make the craft before transitioning to large group time.

Say: Today we are talking about the Holy Spirit. Can anyone guess why we made this craft? We will find out exactly why in large group!





JWL resources

You'll need:

Scissors.



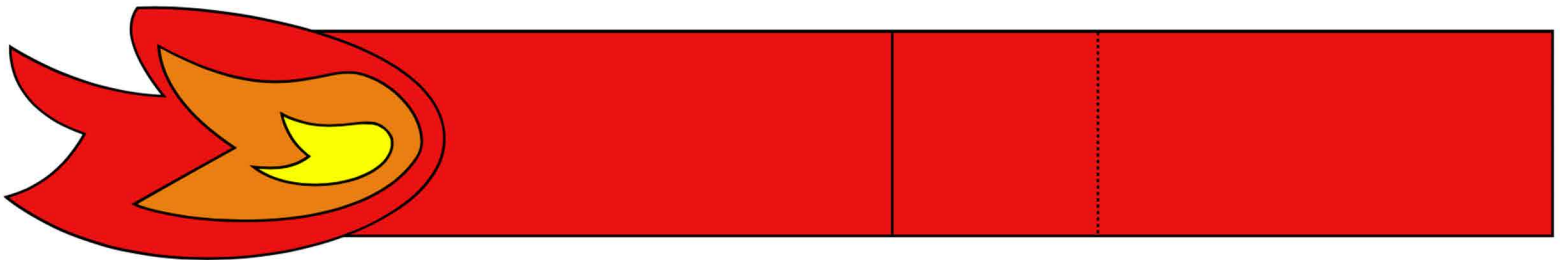
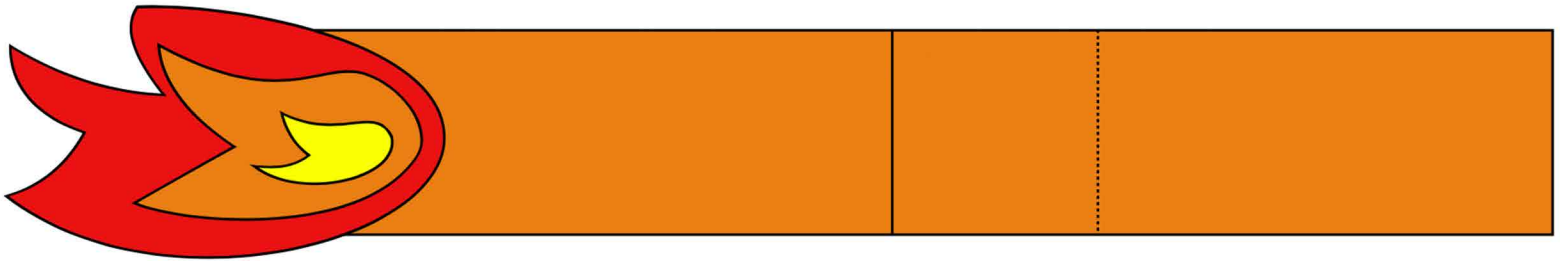
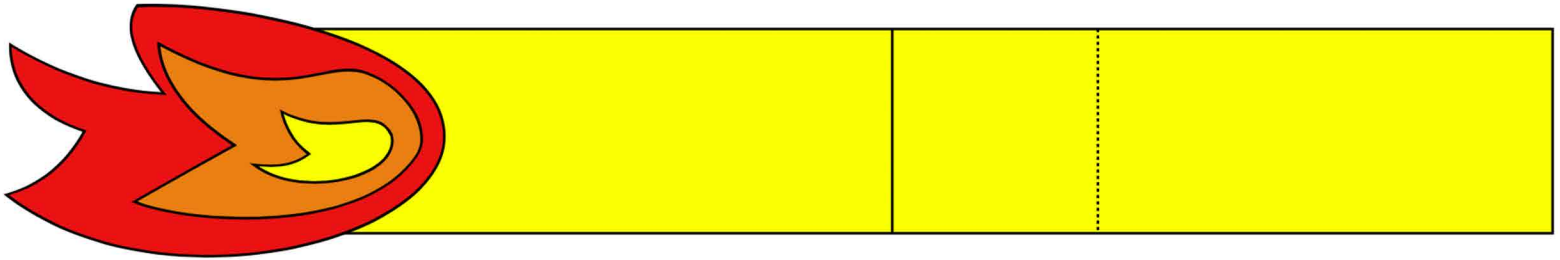
Instructions

- Cut each strip
- Fold so the solid black line is on the outside.
- Keeping it folded, fold again so the dotted line is on the outside.

We need to interlock these folds:

- Open out the yellow strip.
- Wrap the orange strip round the yellow one.
- Wrap the red strip round the orange one wrap.
- The loose yellow strip round the red one.
- Thread the end of the yellow strip through the orange loop.

Drop from a height and watch it spin.



WEEK 4: LARGE GROUP TEACHING

Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to week four of The Great Invitation! Whether you know it or not, we have ALL been invited to take part in something great - the Great Commission. Three weeks ago we were introduced to this idea by the host of The Great Invitation, the game show where four contestants accepted the invitation to see if they are ready to do something great. So far we have seen Carol, the orange contestant, win the first round of challenges and Ben, the green contestant, win the second round. Who do you think will win this week? Do you think it will be Orange? Pink? Green? Blue? Well let's see.

Video

Play "The Great Invitation: Episode 4"

Game

"Cotton Ball Challenge"

Supplies: 4 large spoons, 4 large bowls, and enough cotton balls to cover the playing area.

We now have our third winner - BEN! Way to go team green! Green team, do you think you can win our in-person challenge today too? Let's find out! I need two volunteers from each team, one boy and one girl. Make sure you haven't already had a chance to come up and play.

Today we are going to recreate the cotton ball challenge! We will first do all the boys and then all the girls. Let's have the girls go first!

Blindfold each girl and give them a spoon and a bowl. Play music for 1 minute and let them see how many cotton balls they can get into their bowl. Count the number of cotton balls each one has. Next, have the boys play and add the number of cotton balls to their teammates score from round one. Whichever color team has the most cotton balls wins.

Let's give our participants and winners a round of applause as they head back to their seats!

WEEK 4: TEACHING (CONTINUED)

Object Lesson

Supplies: Tea bag, round pan, match/lighter, scissors

Check out this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kInWnfWHP98>) or search "How to Make a Flying Ghost Emily's Wonder Lab" on YouTube.

Cut the top off the bag, empty the contents, unfold the bag into a cylinder, and stand it straight up in the pan.

Say: Today we will be learning about the day that God's Holy Spirit filled the disciples and followers of Jesus. This day was known as Pentecost. The Bible tells us that on that day, it looked like tongues of fire rested on each person who was there that day and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. I bet it was a CRAZY thing to witness! It might've looked something like this:

Light the top of the tea bag. As the flame burns down, the ashes of the tea bag will lift up into the air.

Say: This is just like how God's Holy Spirit fills us! It can help fill us up and give us strength and guidance as we tell others about God.

Bible Lesson

If you had the choice of cleaning your room alone or having your friend come over and help you - which would you choose? If you had the option to take a test without the textbook or WITH the textbook - which would you choose? Why would we do anything alone if we could have help?

When you first hear about the Great Commission, it can seem scary and overwhelming. But, the good news is, we are not alone.

Soon before Jesus died on the cross, he began to warn his followers that he would not be around for much longer. This saddened and worried his disciples - what would they do without Jesus? The Bible tells us that Jesus knew how this made his followers feel and he said:

"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7)

WEEK 4: TEACHING (CONTINUED) & WORSHIP

Bible Lesson (continued)

This helper that he is talking about is the Holy Spirit! After Jesus died on the cross, rose again, and went to heaven, God's followers were gathered together when;

"Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:2-4)

All of a sudden, God's followers were speaking in different languages. That would be like you all of a sudden speaking in French! There were Jews from every nation staying nearby when this happened. When they realized they could all understand what the disciples were saying, a crowd gathered. They were in shock! How could this be happening? Some of them tried to come up with an excuse or explanation. But Peter stood up and told the crowd all about Jesus, what He did, and how the Bible told everyone that the Holy Spirit would come. Because of this, the Bible says that about three thousand believed what they heard and made God the ruler of their lives!

So after Jesus gave the Great Commission and went back to heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit - our Helper - so that we wouldn't have to do it all alone. The Holy Spirit helps us to know what is right and wrong, it helps us to understand the Bible, and it empowers us to tell others about God. And that's not all!

After the day of Pentecost, those who believed in Jesus came together and started the first church. They worked together, helped each other out, and gave so that others could hear the Good News. So not only do we have the Holy Spirit, but we also have the Church. This is why churches send groups of people out on mission trips, host VBS and other camps, and meet every week. So that we can work together to accomplish the Great Commission.

Worship

Let's all stand and sing our worship song together. This will help us memorize Matthew 28:19-20 while we Worship God!

Play "Go" by Seeds Worship.

Dismiss to Small Groups

I will pray for us and then we will go back to small groups so we can discuss what we just learned.

WEEK 4: SMALL GROUP

Small Group Time

Discussion

1. What challenge do you think you could've won today?
2. What challenge do you think you would've lost?
3. Who do you think will win the final challenge before the grand finale?
Look up Acts 2:2-4 together to help kids find answers.
4. What happened when the Holy Spirit showed up? (*A violent wind filled the whole house and tongues of fire rest on each of them.*)
5. What happened next? (*The disciples began to speak in other languages.*)
6. How would you react if you were in a foreign country and all of a sudden understood what everyone was saying?
7. How does technology help us tell people about Jesus even if they don't know the same language?
8. What can we pray and ask before we tell someone about Jesus? (*We can pray and ask for the Holy Spirit's help.*)
9. How can your friends at church help you spread the gospel?
10. How does it make you feel knowing that you don't have to do the Great Commission alone?

Group Game

Say: If the Holy Spirit had not helped the disciples speak in different languages, then the 3000 new believers would've heard gibberish and not been able to hear the Good News! Let's play the game "Gibberish" to see what that might've been like.

Gibberish:

Supplies: Cards from the game "Mad Gab" or create your own with index cards and suggestions from the internet. Search "Mad Gab Flashcards" for ideas. Make sure all clues are age/church appropriate.

Show the group a card that has gibberish on it. Anyone can guess what the card is supposed to say, but must raise their hand first. Kids will be allowed to guess based on the order in which they raise their hands until someone guesses correctly.

WEEK 4: SMALL GROUP (CONTINUED)

Bible Verse Review

Help everyone find Matthew 28:19-20 in their Bibles. Read the verse together and then give anyone who wants the chance to practice saying the verse from memory.

Pick Up Time

Play more rounds of Gibberish, or have the kids make up their own Gibberish clues.

