

Windy Painting

Kids use their breath and straws to create a work of art as they remember that God's Holy Spirit guides us.

Resource Type: Art

Story Name: The Holy Spirit

Learner Level: Ages 2-3

Supplies:

Newspaper

Paint shirts

Large sheets of white construction or watercolor paper

Eyedroppers

Washable tempera paint, thinned with water

Straws, one per kid

Marker

Set Up:

Cover the worktable with newspaper. Place supplies in a central location.

Instructions:

Today, we heard how the Holy Spirit visited the disciples on Pentecost. What did the Holy Spirit feel like to them? (*the wind*) We cannot see the wind, but we can feel it. Today, we are going make some really neat paintings – but – we won't be painting with brushes. We'll be painting with wind!

1. Help each kid into a paint shirt.
2. Hand out paper and eyedroppers to kids.
3. Show kids how to squeeze the bulb of the eyedropper to empty it, dip it into the paint, let go of the bulb to draw the paint into it, then squeeze out the paint onto the paper.
4. Note: some kids at this age only know how to suck from a straw. Before kids place a straw near their paint blobs, practice blowing through a straw as a class until all kids understand what to do. Be sure to show kids how to inhale only when holding the straw away from their mouths. **Now, pick up your straw and gently blow the drops of paint across your paper just like the winds of Pentecost that visited the disciples. If you want to make the paint go in other directions, you may turn your paper.**
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 with different colors.
6. When kids are satisfied with their designs, use a marker to print their names on the artwork. Set aside to dry.

Just like your breath moved the paint, the breath of the Holy Spirit moved the disciples on Pentecost. God's Holy Spirit helped guide the disciples, and God's Holy Spirit guides us!

If you have less time . . .

Ask kids to choose only one color of paint.

If you have more time . . .

Invite kids to take turns blowing paint back and forth on a large piece of posterboard to create a single, large piece of art to display in your classroom.

Pop! Goes the Holy Spirit!

Kids observe how wind carries bubbles as they remember that God's Holy Spirit guides us.

Resource Type: Activity

Story Name: The Holy Spirit

Learner Level: Ages 2-3

Supplies:

Bubble solution (pre-made)

Bubble wands, one per kid

Fan

Automatic bubble blower (optional)

Homemade bubble solution (optional)

Set Up:

Pour bubble solution into several smaller containers, if necessary. Determine the best location for blowing bubbles—the area should be breezy enough for bubbles to travel but sheltered enough so bubbles are easily blown. If the activity will be done outdoors, it is probably best to wait until right before class time to determine the site. Recruit additional volunteers as needed to leave the classroom safely. Inform the Christian Education Director of your plans prior to class. If you will be working indoors, set up the fan so that it can blow kids' bubbles around the room.

Instructions:

The Holy Spirit came as a wind to the disciples at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is always with us and helps to guide us and keep us safe. We can't see the wind, and we can't see the Holy Spirit . . . unless we find something that can show us how it moves. In our Bible story, the Holy Spirit was like wind. I wonder what can be moved by wind. Allow kids to respond. **Bubbles are moved by the wind! Let's blow some bubbles and watch the wind send them around and around.**

1. Begin the activity by blowing bubbles for the students. Invite kids to observe how the breeze carries the bubbles away.
2. Give each kid a bubble wand and some bubble solution. Allow the kids to spend time blowing bubbles. Invite them to watch all of the bubbles move around the room (or nearby area) as they remember the Holy Spirit coming as wind on Pentecost.

Just like the wind moved these bubbles, the Holy Spirit came as wind to move the disciples. God's Holy Spirit helped guide the disciples, and God's Holy Spirit guides us!

If you have less time . . .

Give kids less or no time to blow bubbles themselves.

If you have more time . . .

Before you blow any bubbles, have kids make their own bubble solution. Mix together:

1 cup (240 mL) distilled water

2 tablespoons (25 mL) Dawn® dishwashing liquid

1 tablespoon (25 mL) light corn syrup OR glycerin USP liquid (available in drug stores/pharmacies)

Prayer:

For our closing prayer today, we are going to thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us, and we're going to make it sound like the Pentecost story in our room! When the disciples all spoke in different languages, they all spoke at once and it was noisy! I'll start our prayer, then—when I ring the bell—I'd like each of you to start offering prayers at the same time. When I ring the bell again, I'd like all of you to stop saying your prayers aloud. Then we'll finish the prayer together. Please pray with me:

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to be there with us when we need it most.

Ring bell. (Children pray aloud individually, all at once.)

Ring bell. (Children stop praying aloud.)

Thank you for the Holy Spirit.

Amen!