

# Growing with God

Kids design grass pals and observe God’s miracles firsthand as they remember that the Spirit comes to people of every language.

**Resource Type:** Art

**Story Name:** The Holy Spirit

**Learner Level:** Grades 3-4

## Supplies:

Grass seed

Baking pan

Fine point permanent markers

Plastic cups, 12-ounce (355 mL) size

Potting soil

Large bowl or bucket

Serving spoons

Construction paper scraps or shape stickers

Glue sticks

## Set Up:

Soak grass seeds in water overnight by sprinkling it into the bottom of a baking pan and moistening with just enough water to cover. Make a mark on the side of each plastic cup to show ‘half’ level.

## Instructions:

**God can make amazing things happen! In our story today, God made the Holy Spirit appear as fire and wind. The Holy Spirit even caused people to speak in new languages! There is no limit to the things that God can do. God transforms people and nature. God makes things happen each spring when we see new life in nature. What are some things that God has made happen outside our classroom window in the past few weeks? Today, you are going to create something to remind you that God makes things happen each and every day!**

1. Direct each kid to add soil to the halfway mark in a plastic cup.
2. Mix 1 tablespoon (3 grams dry, 10-15 grams moist) of grass seed and some of the remaining soil in the large bowl.
3. Invite kids to place the grass seed mixture into their cups, leaving ½ inch (1-2 cm) at the top.
4. Spoon on a 1/8- to 1/4-inch (3-6 mm) layer of plain soil as a top layer.
5. Gently water the soil.
6. Invite kids to use stickers, paper, and permanent markers to create a face on their cups. The growing grass will create the “hair” for each face.
7. **Let’s use the power of prediction. When we predict, we try to figure out what will happen. What do you think God will cause to happen in our cups?** (The seeds will grow.) **What do you think the grass will look like?** (hair) **How long do you think it will take?** Allow time for kids to respond.

**Even something as simple as grass growing is an amazing miracle. Place your cup in a window, water the soil, and as you watch your grass grow, remember that the Spirit doesn’t just come to us—it comes to people of every language!**

## If you have less time . . .

Fill the bottom layer of each cup and mix the seed/soil mixture prior to class time.

### **If you have more time . . .**

Invite kids to spend more time decorating the faces on their cups.

# **Bible Charades**

Kids play Bible charades and learn the Holy Spirit as they remember the Spirit comes to people of every language.

**Resource Type:** Activity

**Story Name:** The Holy Spirit

**Learner Level:** Grades 3-4

### **Supplies:**

Blackboard or posterboard

Chalk or markers

Index cards

Pen

### **Set Up:**

Compile a list of 20 stories and characters that the class has studied in Sunday school this year or in previous years. Copy the list onto the blackboard or onto a piece of posterboard large enough for the entire class to read. Make a second copy of the list of characters and stories by writing each one on a separate index card.

### **Instructions:**

**We know that through the power of the Holy Spirit, God can make incredible things happen. On Pentecost, God sent the Holy Spirit and made it possible for people who spoke different languages to understand each other. Today, you are going to experience how difficult it is to communicate with someone without using spoken words.**

1. Divide the group into 2 teams.
2. Invite one kid from the first team to be the first actor.
3. Hold the deck of 20 index cards in your hand. Ask the actor to draw one of the index cards and act out the story or character for his or her team.
4. Tell the first actor's team that they have three chances to guess what story or character is being acted out by their teammate. If that team guesses correctly within the first three guesses, they earn two points. If they do not guess correctly, the other team has one chance to guess and can earn one point for a correct guess.
5. Ask for an acting volunteer from the second team and continue the game, alternating turns between two teams.

**It must have been difficult for the disciples to share Jesus' message with others when they couldn't speak anyone else's languages. We can be glad that the Spirit comes to people of every language!**

### **If you have less time . . .**

Play this game as a whole class, not in teams. Reduce the number of chances for guessing and/or reduce the amount of time the kids have to guess the correct answer.

**If you have more time . . .**

Invite kids to make their own lists of stories and characters that the opposing team will have to act out for its members.

**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!**