



Date: _____
Series: Holiday---New Year
Winter Year 1, Lesson 32

New Beginnings... Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Take Home Point: *This New Year—be filled with the Holy Spirit. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Ephesians 5:15-20

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:18b, "...Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

We will help kids know:

- The Holy Spirit is God's spirit, who brings us to faith and dwells in us.
- They can open their lives to receive him, especially when they give him their praise and thanksgiving.
- Giving thanks to God opens our hearts to better receive what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives.

We will help kids feel:

- Thankful for the events of this past year.
- Inspired to be more open to the Holy Spirit and what he will do for them in the New Year.

We will help kids do:

- Review some of their highlights from the past year.
- Demonstrate how certain ruts or habits can bind us like string tying up a person.
- Make a craft using embroidery string and pins that will remind them to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids weave a design with string as they share events about the last year for which they are thankful.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a ball of string per group
Large Group 	4 6	Overview Be Filled with the Holy Spirit— Kids see how ruts can tie us up with bad habits, and how we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to overcome those ruts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two funnels with a piece of string fastened between the two • a ball of string to be wrapped around someone • example of finished craft from small group application
Small Group Application 	4	Kids review the scripture passage and teaching points while making their craft.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dove pattern for each student (p. 9) • three 8"x10 1/2" pieces of corrugated cardboard glued together for each kid • rubber cement, school glue, or glue sticks • embroidery string for each student • straight pins

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

As kids gather: Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, for remembering to bring Bibles, and for bringing a guest.

Special note for today:

Likely with school out, some shepherds may be absent or there may be more substitute shepherds present. This lesson can be easily adapted for fewer adults available. The warm-up questions can be done with a larger group of kids and the craft activity is the primary event of the morning. As the kids do the craft activity, they will be able to visit not only about the topic of the day, but also build relationships.

Every group will need a roll of string that can be handed from one person to another.

Position the kids in a circle. If there are more than eight kids, divide into two or more groups. One adult can talk to all groups at the same time. Have the kids hold onto string as it unravels and the ball is passed to the next student.

Say: Since the New Year is coming, it is interesting to think about the things that have happened over this past year. We are going to weave together some of these great events, and talk about the ones for which we are thankful.

I am going to give this string to one person who will begin in each group by telling us one thing good that happened this last year at school. It doesn't have to be a big thing, but something you are thankful for. Let's listen.

Let the child willing to share, discuss his/her experiences.

Now, this person gets to pass the string to someone else in the circle and also gets to pick the topic (either friends, family, or school). The person who receives the string will share about something they are thankful for and pass it on to another person, also choosing the topic to be shared. Continue until everyone has had a chance to share. Now remember, you don't have to pass it to the person next to you. You can pass it to anyone, anywhere in the circle.

Make sure that everyone gets a chance to share. Also, it is more interesting if they pass the string to people who are across from them, not just next to them.

As the kids are holding the string that has been woven among them, say:

We have created an interesting design of all the wonderful things that God has given to us. Today we will talk about how God wants to put a design into our lives that fills us with...not something, but someone. This someone will help us have the best possible New Year. This someone is God's Holy Spirit. **This New Year, let's be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit – Kids see how ruts can tie us up with bad habits, and how we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to overcome those ruts.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Observation Questions: What happened/ Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have students refer to Ephesians 5: 15-18 in their Bibles.

According to Ephesians 5:16, what kind of days are we living in? (Evil days. Explain even in Paul's days the times were considered evil.)

How do the foolish people behave? (Ephesians 5:18. They get drunk and live wild.) What can be the consequences for such behavior?

Many people think this kind of foolish behavior is what New Year's celebrations are about. How does God tell us to celebrate? (Ephesians 5:18-20. Be filled with the Spirit, sing and make music to the Lord with our hearts, give thanks to God for everything.)

What are the consequences for this behavior? (We have joy and God is pleased.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

The New Year is a time for beginning again. Many people try and make resolutions to change for the better. Have you ever made a New Year's resolution? How successful were you?

It is God-pleasing to replace some of the bad habits or ruts of our lives with good habits and patterns of behavior, but this can be hard to do. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we have Jesus in our lives. He gives us the power to do his will, and his life is an example for us to follow. We also demonstrate positive attitudes when we remember to be thankful for all the good things God has done for us.

Application Activity:

Supplies:

- *three pieces of 8"x10 ½" corrugated cardboard glued together*
- *rubber cement, school glue, or glue sticks*
- *seamstress straight pins*
- *colored string*

The three 8"x10 ½" pieces of corrugated cardboard may be put together during or prior to the lesson, depending on your time.

Give each student a reproduced pattern of the dove. Use glue, glue stick or rubber cement to attach the pattern to the center of the cardboard. Have kids put stickpins every one to two inches apart along the outline of the dove. Starting from one place they will weave the string around the pins. Go from the starting point to the farthest point. Wrap the string twice around the pin and then go back to the pin next to the starting one. Go back and forth until all the pins are covered. There is no exact place to start and children may choose where they go to circle pins.

For every time they make a loop, have kids remember a good thing that happened this past year or a new behavior pattern they would like to start rather than stay in the same rut.

Remember, **This New Year – be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

Closing Prayer:

Have kids pray for something they would like to see happen in the New Year. They might think about a rut in their life that has tied them up. This rut can be broken this year as the Holy Spirit fills our lives. Pray also that the Holy Spirit will remind us of the things we need to be thankful for. For closing, have each child pray out loud, "**Holy Spirit come and fill me.**"

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Supplies: two funnels with a piece of string threaded between the two, a ball of string to be wrapped around someone, and an example of finished craft from small group application

Ask for a volunteer who has a good sense of humor and have them go outside the room with an adult. The adult has to help set up this illusion trick. The volunteer will hold two funnels at his ears. There is string that is threaded from one funnel through the next funnel, but the string is behind the volunteer's head, under his/her hair so it cannot be seen. The string should be long enough so that about two feet of string will hang out of each funnel. The adult helper standing behind the volunteer will pull the string easily back and forth between the funnels. This will give the illusion of the string being pulled through the volunteer's head. The volunteer and helper can practice this while everyone else is doing the next activity.

Ask for two more volunteers to come forward. Have an adult standing close to the first volunteer making sure he/she does not fall over. The second volunteer is asked to come up and begin to wrap string around the first volunteer from the waist to the shoulders so the first volunteer will not be able to move his hands out to the side or be able to free himself.

Caution: This can be hazardous for children if they should fall over and not have their hands free to catch themselves. Serious head injuries could result. Make sure the volunteer is well spotted.

To begin the demonstration, say:

This string may not seem very powerful by itself. But, if we wrapped it around and around and around, what do you think would happen? Well, let's watch.

While the volunteer wraps the string around the other volunteer from his waist to his shoulders, say:

As you watch this happening, think about some little things that you do time and time again that become ruts. Ruts are things that we do over and over again, but they are not helpful to us. Some of these become bad habits. For example, in my life...

Share something that is a rut, like an eating habit, a health habit, or a lack of spiritual discipline habit.

What are some of the ruts that might tie you up?

Give the children a chance to share.

Let's see what happens when these ruts tie us up.

Ask the wound up volunteer:

Can you break the string? (No, I can't.) Can you move your arms straight out? (No, I can't.) We want to make choices about how to get out of these ruts before they tie us up.

Unwind the volunteer and let both sit down.

How can we get out of our ruts?

Have the volunteer and adult waiting outside come in.

What we fill ourselves with does make a difference. Now, let's look at this person's mind. I wonder what kind of attitudes he/she has. I wonder what's in here.

Pull the string from one side and then the other.

Look, this string moves very freely without much resistance. There must not be much in here! (Knock lightly on the volunteer's head.) Let's look at what the Bible tells us about this.

Ephesians 5:15-18 says, "So then, be very careful how you live. Don't live like foolish people but like wise people. Make the most of your opportunities because these are evil days. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord wants. Don't get drunk on wine, which leads to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit..."

Have the volunteer return to his/her seat and continue to teach about the Holy Spirit as follows.

God's Spirit is the one who brings us to faith in Jesus. He lives in our life and teaches us. The way we are filled with him is by opening our hearts to him and inviting him in. This is why it is important to worship him. If we continue reading in Ephesians, it says, "...be filled with the Spirit by reciting psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for your own good. Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts."

This is why it is good to give thanks to God for everything. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see all that God has done for us. Then our lives are changed from the boring ruts and become exciting.

Show an example of the finished craft.

When you work on this craft, I want you to think about the things for which you are thankful. Then the pattern for your life can become appealing, just like this design.

Let's pray. Dear God, Send your Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and lives with Jesus so that there is no more room for our ruts or bad habits. Forgive us for our past mistakes and help us to begin this New Year with confidence in the power of your forgiveness so that our lives are appealing to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Be filled
with
the
Holy Spirit

Ephesians 5:18b