



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 36

Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

Primary Scripture: John 7:37-39; Ephesians 5:18-20

Key Verse: John 7:38, “Streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us power to believe in Jesus but he does not stop there. The Holy Spirit fills our life in such a way that he flows through our life to help and bless others. The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as living water flowing from within someone. This living water not only quenches our thirst but as we share the love of God with others, God uses us to quench their thirst as well. Kids need to know the wonderful power that is theirs as they are filled with God's Spirit which can bless all those around them.

Note: When referring to the Holy Spirit, use the pronoun he, not it. The Spirit is a “he” – just as are the Father and the Son.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' finished work for us on the cross, we are brought into a relationship with the Heavenly Father. He sends his Spirit now to fill us with himself, living water.

Jesus in us: Just as Jesus invites the thirsty to come to him and drink, so the Holy Spirit quenches our spiritual thirst and fills us with his presence.

Jesus through us: Living water, the Holy Spirit, works through us so that we might have God's power to extinguish the fiery trials within us and provide water for a spiritually thirsty world.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: two clear glasses, a pitcher of water, a blender, and various garbage items such as a rotten banana peel, coffee grinds, dirty water, old food, etc.

Begin with:

Is anyone thirsty for a little drink before Kids Church begins? Okay, then, I'll make you a special drink.

Select various garbage items, show kids and then put them all into the blender and turn it on.

Okay, I have finished the special drink I made for you. It's called a Gross Out Shake. Do you still want some?

Allow time for responses.

Yuck, is right! Of course you wouldn't want to fill your tummy with something as yucky as this. Did you know that the Bible says that when you set your minds on worthless things (Ephesians 4:17.), it's just like drinking a yucky drink like this? In other words, when you think about sinful and selfish living, it's just like taking a drink from this Gross Out Shake.

Instead of living a garbage life like that, listen to what God says in Ephesians 5:18-20, “...*Instead 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. Always thank God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

We can compare this kind of behavior to drinking a glass of pure, fresh, clean water.

Pour clean water from the pitcher into the clean glass. Take a drink.

Mmmm... Nothing better than a glass of water – clean, pure water. Today we will learn about living water that fills us when God’s Holy Spirit lives in us. So let’s worship and give thanks to God. As we do so, he will fill us with his Spirit. Open your hearts to him as we worship.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Jesus always invites us to come to him. In John 7:37 he says this, “*Whoever is thirsty must come to me to drink.*”

What does he mean? Jesus is not talking about thirst for regular tap water (hold up glass or pitcher). He is talking about the feelings that we have when we feel empty or dry inside. Sometimes we might feel far away from God because we have sinned against him or done wrong to others.

Sometimes when we try to fill our lives with things that we think will make us happy—like getting more toys or more friends, or gaining more special achievements—it still leaves our souls thirsty. The only thing that will quench that thirst is a relationship with Jesus. So he says, “Come and take a drink. I will give you living water.”

Prayer

God, when we have sinned against you, it leaves us feeling thirsty. We feel like we have turned our back to you and you are far away. Some of us don't know how much you love us, or what it's like to have you fill our lives with your Spirit, but we pray that you would do just that. Fill us with your Spirit, for we believe that Jesus gave his life for us. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, you take care of our spiritual thirst and fill us with living water. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Today if any of you feel far away from God, lonely, or guilty from your sin, know this: Because of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Jesus is right here with you, and will give you living water and fill you with his Holy Spirit.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies: empty clear pitcher

Use the pitcher as an offering container. Let kids bring their offerings and place them inside. Say:

There is no water in this pitcher because I wanted to remind you that if you trust Jesus as your Savior, living water has been poured out and will fill your life. Now you have living water inside you and you can help share that with a thirsty world. You can do this when you bring your offerings to him. God will use this money to share living water with those who don't know Jesus.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies: small paper cup for each child, three two liter bottles (one empty and two filled with water) per group of eight kids, and towels

Water Overflow Relay:

Divide kids into teams of eight, giving each child an empty paper cup. Have each team form a single-file line. Each team starts with three two-liter bottles: one empty bottle at the end of the line, and two bottles filled with water at the start. Place a towel under the empty bottle to absorb the overflow.

At your signal, the game begins with the first player on each team pouring water from one of the 2-liter bottles into the cup of the second player in line. The second player pours the water into the third player's cup, then turns back to the first player to get more water. Meanwhile, the water is passed down the line this way until the last player pours the water into the empty bottle at the end. Each time a player empties his cup, he turns back toward the front to get more water.

The first team to fill their two-liter bottle to overflowing is the winner. Other variations can include stopping at a certain amount of time and measuring the bottles to see who has the most.

At the conclusion of the game, everyone receives the prize of a free drink of water using his or her cup.

Teaching Point

Jesus says that when you believe in him, you have the Holy Spirit poured into your life. He also refers to the Holy Spirit as living water. But the living water doesn't just stay in your life. It flows out of your life to help others. The world around us is spiritually thirsty. People need the living water to flow from our life and fill them, as well. The neat thing about all this is that the more we share this living water

with others, the more we are filled up ourselves and the more we are able to see the living water overflow from our lives into the lives of others.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

(Part I) six balloons filled with air and tied with a knot; another balloon filled with water and twisted shut and sealed with a clothespin or paper clip; candle, match, tray or towel to set the candle on; and a cup with water

(Part II) flowering plant, scissors, colored construction paper, markers, three poster board sheets taped together or a few feet of newsprint hung on the wall, paste or glue or some other way to attach the flowers the kids make to the stems on the paper

Have flower stems drawn on the paper before Kids Church with green marker or glued on green construction paper so that kids can paste their flowers to the stems

PART ONE:

Demonstration - Light the candle

This candle, though small, has heat from the flame. Lets think of the flame as things in life that can be trials or difficulties. Some of them can be so difficult that they can even make us “explode.” For example, sometimes when people ignore me or don’t listen to me, it makes me angry and I lose my temper. I might even want to shout at them or be mean. Do you know what that’s like? Watch this.

Take an inflated balloon and hold it close above the flame until the balloon pops. Don’t touch the flame to the balloon.

Yes, my balloon pops when people ignore me or don’t listen to me. What pops your balloon? What about when a brother or sister gets into your stuff and you lose your patience? Does that make you want to explode? Maybe you even get so angry that you push them or hit them. That isn’t very good, but sometimes that happens when your balloon gets popped.

Maybe your balloon pops when you try really hard in school but still can’t understand the material and you feel like you’re not smart or not good enough to do the work.

Hold another balloon over the fire and let it pop.

Tell me some examples of what pops your balloon...

Take a few examples from the audience and pop a balloon over the candle flame for each one.

Take a look at the flame on this candle. You will always have challenges and problems in your life. But Jesus promised something most remarkable. Listen to his words in John 7:37-38, “*On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus was standing in the temple courtyard. That means he was teaching the people. He said, loudly, ‘Whoever is thirsty must come to me to drink.’”*

Do you think Jesus was talking about real water or spiritual water? Right. He was talking about spiritual water. He was talking about people trusting him as their Savior and having their spiritual thirst inside quenched. When that happens, they have a whole new power to withstand some of the fires of life’s challenges.

Jesus continues saying, “*Streams of living water will flow from deep within the person who believes in me.’ Jesus said this about the Spirit, whom his believers would receive...*”

Are you a believer in Jesus? If so, that means that his Holy Spirit is living inside of you and he fills you up with living water. Watch what happens when you face challenges and problems when filled with the living water of the Spirit.

Mention one of the balloon-popping challenges that kids cited earlier, such as people who don’t listen to them or ignore them. Then, hold a balloon filled with water over the candle flame and point out that, filled with water, now the balloon doesn’t burst even when held above the fire.

Even though you face problems and challenges in your life, you have Jesus’ love in your heart so, you won’t blow up about those things when they happen.

Move the balloon away from the flame. Then cite another balloon-popper someone mentioned earlier and move the balloon back over the flame. After a few seconds, move the balloon away from the flame and again make the point that when we are filled with God’s Spirit and his love, we won’t explode when faced with life’s challenges and aggravations. Do this several times, reviewing several balloon-popping situations kids mentioned earlier.

Jesus said, “*Streams of living water will flow deep from within the person who believes in me.*” When that living water flows out of you, what do you think it can do? It has the power to take the burn out of those trials that want to pop our balloon.

At this point, hold the water balloon with the neck pointing up. Remove the clothespin and let water gush out the top and douse the candle beneath, extinguishing the flame.

You see, God gives you power when he gives you the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus has loved you so much and gave his life for you, his love fills you up and lets you treat others with love just the way Jesus treated you. Now, it helps not only put out the fires, but it also helps you to offer this water to others.

Take the cup of water and sprinkle a kid with some of the water in the cup, take a drink out of it or offer it to someone else.

This water reminds us of the living water in our souls that overflows in our lives to help others experience Jesus' love, too. God tells us in Ephesians 5:18, *"Don't get drunk on wine, which leads to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit..."*

Remember how we made and offered you the Gross Out Shake? The Bible says not to fill our lives with wild sinful living or selfishness, but instead we want to be filled with the Spirit. When we ask God to fill us, we can be sure that he will.

PART TWO:

Craft – Living water grows fruits and flowers

Have a flowering plant or any kind of a plant on a table for reference.

The Bible tells us in Galatians 5 that when we are filled with the Spirit, we produce spiritual fruit in our lives. It's just like watering this plant so it can live. When it is watered, it produces pretty leaves or flowers. The same thing is true for us. God's living water nourishes these other qualities in our life:

"...the spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22.)

If we live by our spiritual nature, then our lives will conform to our spiritual nature. Our lives will produce these qualities when we are filled with living water.

We are now going to make a mural that shows what our lives produce when we have God's Spirit living within us.

Let kids divide into groups of three. *This is to allow them to get ideas for flower designs from each other. It also lessens the number of scissors required for the activity.*

Give each group a pair of scissors to share. Have each child draw and cut out a flower shape on a piece of construction paper. Then say:

I will give each of you a word to put on your flower. Your word will be one of the fruit of the Spirit words mentioned in Galatians 5:22, which we read just a few minutes ago. I want you to think of an example of how you can show the quality of this word in your life.

For example, if I give you the quality of gentleness, write the word “gentleness” on your flower. If you need help spelling your word, look up Galatians 5:22 in your Bible. Then draw a picture on your flower that shows an example of how you can be gentle to someone. For example, if someone falls off his/her bike, you can show gentleness by helping him/her up, being with them through the pain and even getting them a Band-Aid. Draw those images on your flower.

On the wall is paper on which to grow our garden. After you have cut out your flower, written your assigned word from the “fruit of the spirit” on it, and created a picture to go with it, then paste the flower on a stem to create our group garden mural. The final product is a garden that has been watered to produce the fruit of the spirit.

Go around the room and assign to kids the various fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22. Then help them attach their flowers to the mural as they finish. You may want to start the Witness and Tell segment while kids are finishing up. Encourage kids who finish early to observe what other kids are still working on. Encourage older ones to assist younger ones who need help.



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids share about a time when God used them to help show someone else God's love. This is an example of living water working through their lives to be shared with another.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Let one child from every group pray that God would give him/her his Spirit—living water—so he/she would be able to show someone else what his/her assigned word from the fruits of the spirit was: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- two clear glasses
- a pitcher of water
- a blender
- various food garbage items such as a rotten banana peel, coffee grinds, dirty water, old food, etc.

Offering:

- use an empty clear pitcher

Learning Game:

- small paper cup for each child
- three, two-liter bottles (one empty and two filled with water) per group of eight kids
- towels

Bible Presentation:

(Part I)

- six balloons filled with air and tied with a knot
- another balloon filled with water, twisted shut and sealed with a clothespin or paper clip, and candle
- match
- tray or towel to set the candle on
- cup

(Part II)

- flowering plant
- scissors
- paste or glue or some other way to attach the flowers to the stems
- colored construction paper
- markers
- three poster board sheets taped together or a few feet of newsprint hung on the wall. Have flower stems drawn on the paper before Kids Church with green marker or glued on green construction paper so that the kids can paste their flowers to the stems.