

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 03 May 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Witnesses for Jesus / The Gift from heaven
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Acts 2:1-41; John 14:15-27
- **CONCEPT:** God sent His Holy Spirit to help me

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that when Jesus returned to heaven, God sent His Holy Spirit to remain with us as our Helper.
- To invite kids to accept Jesus as their Saviour, and the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Sheet of yellow card or paper
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Gas safety lighter
- ✓ Treasure chest
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box
- ✓ Evangelical literature

<p>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids. 2. Sing 2 songs together (<i>One Way / God you make me smile</i>). 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p>DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)</p>
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<p>B. Message 15 minutes</p> <p>1. Recap</p> <p>After Jesus appeared to the disciples, He spent time with them for another 40 days. One day, Jesus took the disciples out onto the hill to tell them about a new job He had for them. What was it? In a few days' time, they would start to tell people the news of God's wonderful plan to save the world. As Jesus was talking to them, what happened? His feet left the ground. He started to rise up into the air, moving higher and higher, farther and farther away from them, until a cloud covered Him. Then what happened? Two angels came to the hill and asked the disciples why they were looking up into heaven. What did they say? "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)</p> <p>Jesus is coming back! But no one knows when. It must have been really hard for the disciples to watch Jesus leave them. They didn't want Him to go. But they <i>knew</i> where He was going. They remembered that Jesus had already told them some time before He died about what was going to happen. Jesus had told them that He was going to His Father's house, in heaven. He was going there to prepare a place for each of them, to get the rooms ready for when they would arrive in heaven. For sure, the disciples wanted to go to God's house!</p> <p>Thomas didn't understand. Where exactly was Jesus going? And how were the disciples supposed to follow and find Him? Thomas asked Jesus, "How can we know the way?"</p> <p>Who knows the way to heaven? (<i>Repeat last week's illustration</i>)</p> <p>(<i>Show kids a sheet of yellow paper or card.</i>) Heaven is a beautiful place where the streets are made of pure gold. There's no darkness or sickness there. When I go to heaven, I will be with Jesus all day every day. It will be far better than you or I can even dream of!</p> <p>(<i>Fold down top third of the sheet. Fold each top corner into the centre to make a 'house' shape. Show kids the house.</i>) How can you be sure that you will go to heaven? Well, you won't get there with the things you have, like this nice big house. It doesn't matter what kind of house you live in, or how many clothes you have in your wardrobe, or how many toys you have, if you have a Nintendo or an XBox. It doesn't matter how much money you have ... those things won't help you get to heaven.</p> <p>(<i>Fold house in half down the centre, turn on its side and fold down each 'wing' to make an airplane.</i>) How can you get to heaven? Well,</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p>Sheet of yellow card / paper</p>
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you won't get there by the things you can do, like flying on this airplane. You could travel round the world five times on a plane, you could grow up to be a fantastic footballer, you might sing or play an instrument in a famous band, you might write a book and become a celebrity ... but none of those things will help you get to heaven.

(Take a pair of scissors and cut off the 'wings' of the plane to make a rocket.) How can you find the way to heaven? Well, you won't get there with the things you know, like rocket science. Maybe you will build a rocket some day, maybe you can speak two or three languages, maybe you're really clever at working out your sums and remembering your spellings ... but the things you know won't get you to heaven.

How can I show you the way to heaven? *(Unfold the rocket and show kids the resulting cross.)*

When Thomas asked Jesus how we could know the way to where Jesus was going, Jesus answered him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) That means that Jesus is the way to heaven, and only boys and girls who put their trust and faith in Jesus, and who ask Him to forgive their sins, will be allowed into heaven – that beautiful, wonderful place, full of life, hope, love and joy forever and ever.

Finish by eliciting the concept: Jesus is coming back!

2. Set the scene

Had the disciples started their new job yet? No. Think back to that day on the hilltop before Jesus left them. Jesus had some important instructions for the disciples. He told them that the message of the forgiving of sin and God's plan to save the world would be told, first of all, to the people in Jerusalem, then to the rest of the country, then to the countries close by, until, eventually, the whole world would hear about Jesus! And Jesus told the disciples that it would be their job to spread the message and help more people believe in Jesus Christ. *But* their job wouldn't start for a few more days ... Jesus told them they were to *wait* for a gift from heaven; a gift that would help them in their new job of telling the people of the world about Jesus.

3. Tell the story

The disciples were back in Jerusalem. They spent all of their time praying together, asking God to help them prepare for their new job. Jesus had told them just before He went back to heaven that they were to wait for a gift before they started their new job. Well, it had already been nine days and still nothing had happened, nothing had changed, everything was still the same. How much longer would they have to wait? The disciples didn't really understand what was going on, but they did what they knew was right – they spent time talking to the Lord in prayer, listening and waiting for directions for what they should do next.

The disciples went to bed and got up the next morning. It was now ten days since Jesus had left them. It was a special day too, because this was the day when people celebrated the harvest. Families got together and had a party to say thanks to God for a good harvest, for providing the right weather for the wheat and crops to grow in the

Scissors

fields so that they could make bread. This special day of the harvest thanksgiving celebration was called Pentecost.

The disciples and many more of Jesus' followers were altogether in a room on Pentecost day. Suddenly their ears were almost deafened! Jesus' followers looked at each other, shocked, wondering what was happening! All they could hear was the sound of a really strong, stormy wind, as if it were blowing around their heads and filling the whole house. It wasn't a wind, they couldn't feel it, but it made the noise of a terrible storm! I'm sure some of the people covered their ears ... but they couldn't have guessed what was about to happen next.

Fire! (*Ignite a gas safety lighter and move it as if the flame is falling down from the sky*) Fire appearing in the air and coming down on the people! It sure looked like fire, but actually it wasn't. No one was hurt or burnt. This just looked like fire. The flames fell down and landed on top of each and every person in the room! And at that moment, all the followers of Jesus were filled with God's Holy Spirit ... and they all began to speak in different languages! Not languages they had ever learnt in their lives before! These followers of Jesus didn't even know what languages they were speaking, but, somehow, when the flames landed on them, they immediately knew how to speak in different languages. Amazing!

Well, all around Jerusalem at that time there were visitors from all over the place. Remember, it was the festival of Pentecost, when everyone came together to thank God for the harvest. All around the city, the foreign visitors could hear Jesus' followers speaking in their own languages. How could this be? Weren't Jesus' followers from Galilee? How could they be speaking our language? By this time, a huge crowd of people had gathered outside the house where Jesus' followers were. The people were amazed to hear Jesus' followers talking about God in their own languages, but they were confused too. Some people even started laughing and making fun of Jesus' followers, saying, "They must be drunk! They have had too much wine." (Acts 2:13)

Then Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples, stood up and spoke to the crowd of people in a loud voice. "Let me explain what is happening. Listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk! It's only nine o'clock in the morning! It was written down in the old scrolls that God would give His Holy Spirit to the people ... and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (paraphrase Acts 2:14-21) Peter went on to remind the people about Jesus; the man who had performed many miracles in front of their eyes; the man about whom they had shouted out to Pilate, 'Crucify him!'; the man who had died on the cross and who God had raised from death to life.

Peter told the crowd, "We saw Jesus! We know that He is alive! And we know that He is now in heaven with God, the Father. Jesus is the Way to heaven. Jesus is the only way you can be saved and forgiven for your sins. Jesus wants all of you to be saved. No one is left out. Tell Jesus you're sorry for your sin, believe in Him, and you too will receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit." (paraphrase Acts 2:22-40)

Boys and girls, the people listened carefully to Peter's message.

Gas lighter

They understood what he told them. They understood that they needed to be saved. They wanted to be friends with Jesus and they wanted to live with God's Holy Spirit in their lives. That day, about 3,000 people believed in Jesus and became His followers!

4. Explain

Jesus had kept His promise! Remember He had told the disciples that He would send a gift from heaven to give them power to tell others about Jesus' love. And this is what had happened. Not at all what the disciples had imagined! God had sent His Holy Spirit from heaven to be with the disciples and followers of Jesus forever, to give them power, to help them be strong, to help them tell all the people they met about God's plan to save the world. On that day of Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit fell like flames of fire on the followers of Jesus, Peter was filled with power to stand up and tell the crowd about Jesus – and 3,000 people believed in the Lord! 3,000 people asked Jesus into their hearts! 3,000 people joined the church! Peter had already started his new job, and now all Jesus' followers were ready to start their job of telling the world about Jesus.

When I asked Jesus to forgive my sin and to come and live in my heart, there was nothing that looked like flames that came down from the sky! That was a special miracle that God used on that Pentecost day to help thousands of people from all over the world to believe in Him, and then to go back to their countries and tell others about Him. I know that God's Holy Spirit lives in me because He helps me. The Bible even calls Him the Helper. The Helper helps me know what is right and what is wrong; He helps me to understand what is written in the Bible; and He reminds me to think about God's promises.

The Holy Spirit is not a separate person from God. He is part of God, just like Jesus is part of God too. God the Father, God the Son – who died for our sin and rose to life again, and God the Holy Spirit – the power of God, sent from heaven to live in our hearts and help us. The Bible tells us that we can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know that He lives in us because He helps us to show love to the people around us.

C. Prayer Net

10 minutes

1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we *pray* – We talk to God and He listens.
2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him.
3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations.
4. *Explain:* When we have something to be thankful for, or something we worry about we need to tell God about those things. Pentecost was a day of giving thanks to God for the harvest. What could you thank God for today?
5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they will tell us what happened in those situations.
6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so)

You'll need ...

*Net (with last week's prayer cards)
Small cards / postcards
A pen*

<p>before they place their card into the prayer net.</p> <p>7. <i>Ask:</i> Boys and girls, do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe that He died to take your sin away so that you could be free and have a way to get to heaven? If you have already told Jesus that you're sorry for your sin, and if you have decided to follow Jesus, then that's wonderful. If you haven't asked Jesus to forgive your sin, would you like to tell Him you're sorry and ask Him to forgive you? Do you believe that Jesus died for you? Would you like Him to be your friend, a friend who never leaves you until you go to be with Him in heaven? Would you like to have God's power living in you? Jesus loves you so much that He went to die for your sin. Then He rose from the dead! He came back to life again because Jesus' power is stronger than anything, even death! Do you believe it? Boys and girls, if you would like to ask Jesus into your heart today, you can do it right now as I pray.</p> <p><i>Let's pray:</i> Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for loving me so much that You suffered pain and torture for my sin. I'm sorry for the bad and sinful things I've done, and I'm thankful that You made a way for me to be free. Lord Jesus, I believe that You died for me. I believe that You rose back to life again. I believe that You are still alive and that You love me. I ask Your Holy Spirit to come and live in my heart from now on and help me. I want You to be my best friend. Amen.</p> <p>Boys and girls, if you prayed that prayer today and you really meant it, please stay behind and talk to me today.</p>	
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<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask kids to put their mats away. 2. <i>Explain:</i> Let's put the lighter into the treasure chest to remind us next week of God's Holy Spirit falling like flames on the believers. 3. <i>Explain:</i> Our song tells us that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus loves us and wants us to believe in Him even though we can't see Him. I believe in Jesus! Do you? 4. Sing a closing song. (One Way) 5. Remind kids to come back this evening. 6. Ask kids to put their name tags in the box before they leave. 7. Ask any kids who prayed the prayer of acceptance to stay behind afterwards. If you have enough adult helpers, assign one child to each helper for counselling. Provide evangelical literature for kids to take home. 	<p><i>You'll need ...</i></p> <p><i>Treasure chest / gas lighter</i></p> <p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p> <p><i>Evangelical literature</i></p>
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THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 03 May 2009
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate today's Bible story by making a Pentecost windsock.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Activity: Slide (John 16:13)
 - Bag of items representing foreign countries (e.g. an American flag, a string of French onions, a toy Australian kangaroo, a Mexican sombrero, a Scottish rugby shirt, etc.)
- ✓ Activity:
 - Tables
 - Pre-made windsock (see below for instructions and photos)
 - Sheets of A4 paper (one per child)
 - Decoration materials (whatever you have, e.g. colouring pens, stickers, glitter, sequins, etc.)
 - Glue sticks
 - Hole punch
 - Lengths of ribbon or wool (one per child)
 - Lengths of ribbon or tissue paper
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing a song together. (<i>One Way / God you make me smile</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get their mats and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God</i>)</p>
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<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>"... when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth." (John 16:13)</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a few questions to recap today's story of God sending His Holy Spirit to the believers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why were there so many people, including foreign visitors, gathered together in Jerusalem? <i>They had come to celebrate the festival of Pentecost – a day of thanksgiving for the harvest</i> - How many days after Jesus went back to heaven did Pentecost take place? <i>Ten days</i> - The believers were altogether in a room. What did they hear that shocked them? <i>The sound of a really strong wind that filled the whole house</i> - Then what did they see? <i>Something that looked like flames of fire, falling down and coming to rest on each of the believers</i> - Once the 'flames' had landed on the believers, what were they able to do that they had never done before? <i>They could speak in lots of different languages</i> - The crowds of people outside could hear the followers of Jesus speaking in their own languages. They were amazed and confused at the same time. What did some people say about the followers? <i>Some people made fun of them and said that they must be drunk</i> - Which one of Jesus' disciples stood up and spoke to the people? <i>Peter</i> - How many people believed in Jesus that day of Pentecost? <i>About 3,000</i> 2. <i>Explain:</i> God had sent His Holy Spirit from heaven to be with the disciples and followers of Jesus forever, to give them power, to help them be strong, to help them tell all the people they met about God's plan to save the world. On that day of Pentecost, when God's Holy Spirit fell like flames of fire on the followers of Jesus, Peter was filled with power to stand up and tell the crowd about Jesus – and 3,000 people believed in the Lord! 3,000 people asked Jesus into their hearts! 3,000 people joined the church! Peter had already started his new job, and now all Jesus' followers were ready to start their job of telling the world about Jesus. 3. <i>Explain:</i> The Holy Spirit is not a separate person from God. He is part of God, just like Jesus is part of God too. God the Father, God the Son – Jesus, who died for our sin and rose to life again, and God the Holy Spirit – the power of God, sent from heaven to live in our hearts and help us. The Bible tells us that we can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know that He lives in us because He helps us to show love to the people around us. The Bible also calls the Holy Spirit 'the Helper'. The Helper helps us know what is right 	<p>You'll need ...</p>
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<p>and what is wrong; He helps us to understand what is written in the Bible; and He reminds us to think about God's promises.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Explain:</i> Our memory verse today explains that when we ask God's Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, He opens up our eyes and our hearts and helps us to understand more about God. Let's read it together. <i>Show verse on screen.</i> 5. Repeat verse a few times as a group, and individually, until you feel kids know it. <i>Move to a blank screen.</i> 6. <i>Explain:</i> When God's Holy Spirit came down on the believers, what were they able to do that they had never done before? They were able to speak in lots of different languages so they could tell the news of God's plan to save the world to all the foreign visitors who were in Jerusalem for the Pentecost celebration. Can anyone here speak a foreign language? <i>Allow kids to show their language skills ☺.</i> Can anyone speak in a different accent? <i>Give an example if you can.</i> 7. <i>Explain:</i> Today I have some things from different countries in my bag. <i>Show kids your bag of items.</i> I'm going to ask someone to come and choose something from my bag. You have to guess which country it's from. Then you must try to say the memory verse the way people from that country speak. 8. Bring a child to the front. Invite them to choose an item from your bag, e.g. an American flag. Ask them to guess which country the item represents. Encourage and help them to say the verse in that accent. Allow other kids to join in too for fun. 9. Repeat step 8 for as many items as you have in your bag, or for as long as time allows. 10. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. 11. Ask kids to put their mats away. <p>Idea: After the session, you could write the memory verse onto a sheet of card to make a poster for your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it later in the series.</p>	<p><i>Memory verse slide (John 16:13)</i></p> <p><i>Bag of items representing foreign countries</i></p>
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<p>G. Activity 15 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set out tables as a workspace and have kids find a space around them. 2. <i>Explain:</i> The disciples and many more of Jesus' followers were altogether in a room on Pentecost day. Suddenly their ears were almost deafened! Jesus' followers looked at each other, shocked, wondering what was happening! All they could hear was the sound of a really strong, stormy wind, as if it were blowing around their heads and filling the whole house. It wasn't a wind, they couldn't feel it, but it made the noise of a terrible storm! That was the first sign that something wonderful was about to happen. God's Holy Spirit was about to come to the people, as Jesus had promised before He had left the disciples ten days earlier. 3. <i>Explain:</i> God's Holy Spirit – God's power – is quite like the wind. We can't see the wind, but we know that it's there because we can see the effects of the wind. We can see the trees moving 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Tables</i></p>
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<p>when the wind blows, we can feel it blowing against us when we're outside, it helps us to cool down in summer. Just like we can't see the wind, we can't see God's Holy Spirit. We only know that He's with us because He helps us to feel better when we're sad and lonely, He teaches us what is right and what is wrong, He helps us understand the things that are written in the Bible, and He helps us to make good decisions about our lives. We can't see Him, but we know He's there, just like the wind.</p>	
<p>4. <i>Explain:</i> Today, boys and girls, we're going to make a windsock to remind us of our story. <i>Show kids your pre-made windsock.</i> People hang up windsocks to see how strongly the wind is blowing. Like we said, we can't see the wind, but we can see what the wind does to the windsock.</p>	<p><i>Pre-made windsock</i></p>
<p>5. Give each child a sheet of A4 paper.</p>	<p><i>Sheets of A4 paper</i></p>
<p>6. Provide materials for kids to decorate their sheets of paper. Use whatever you have, e.g. colouring pens, stickers, glitter, sequins, etc.</p>	<p><i>Decoration materials</i></p>
<p>7. Show kids how to roll their paper into a cylinder shape, starting at the short side. Help them to glue the ends together.</p>	<p><i>Glue sticks</i></p>
<p>8. Have an adult punch two holes opposite each other in the top of each child's cylinder.</p>	<p><i>Hole punch</i></p>
<p>9. Give each child a length of ribbon or wool. Help kids to loop the ribbon or wool through the punched holes and tie off to make a hanger.</p>	<p><i>Lengths of ribbon or wool</i></p>
<p>10. Provide lengths of ribbon or tissue paper for kids to glue to the bottoms of their cylinders to make streamers.</p>	<p><i>Lengths of ribbon or tissue paper</i></p>
<p>11. Show kids how they can hang up their windsock by hanging yours from the ceiling. Demonstrate by blowing how the windsock will move to let you see the effect of the wind.</p>	
<p>12. Set tables to the side.</p>	

H. Conclusion (with puppets)	5 minutes	You'll need ...
<p>1. <i>Remind kids:</i> We can't see the wind, but we can see what the wind does to the windsock. In the same way, we can't see God's Holy Spirit, but we can see how He helps us to live our lives for Jesus.</p>		
<p>2. Ask kids to recite the memory verse once more.</p>		
<p>3. Invite kids to praise God's goodness to us by singing. (God you make me smile)</p>		<p><i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Super Strong God)</i></p>
<p>4. Close in prayer.</p>		
<p>5. Remind kids to come back next week! Ask kids to leave their name tags in the box before they leave.</p>		<p><i>Name tag box</i></p>

