

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**

**Scripture: John 14:23-29**

"Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again." An astounding discovery! The Easter news was spread to all who would listen. The disciples told people, who in turn, told people, and to this day, we hear the message — a message of weeping and then of joy that comes with the morning of a new day. We too like the disciples weep **AND** then delight in the joy bursting forth in us. We too are called to bring this message with our lives, and, if necessary, with words, to those who have not yet heard it.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

Letting go of the companionship of Jesus to receive him in a larger way. Letting go of certainties to be open to the promised Holy Spirit. Letting go of our need to be in control to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**Theme: Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the Church**

**Before:** A suggestion for creating an art project depicting the Holy Spirit (whom we know is with us but we cannot see) is to use a package of white tissue paper. Cut it into sheets the size of the paper you will offer the children. You will also need plain paper, crayons and glue sticks. The children can draw the Holy Spirit and then cover their drawings with several sheets of white tissue, so you cannot see what they have drawn.

**Beginning:** Invite the children to wonder with you. I wonder if there are things that we cannot see, but we know are there. What about the wind? We cannot see the wind, but we can feel it blowing and see it moving the trees. What about love? What about breathing?

Tell the children that today we have a story about something we cannot see, but we know is there.

**Praying:** (Gather the children by your altar and light the candle, if you choose). Thank you, God, for loving us so much you even send us things we cannot see so we can know you more. Amen.

**The Story:** Jesus was getting ready to go back and be with God. He would not be walking around wearing clothes and sandals, eating food and drinking liquids. Instead, the Holy Spirit would come and be with us. The Holy Spirit can go anyplace but cannot be seen. The Holy Spirit is right with us when we pray, is with us when we have to do hard things, is with us when we are sad, and it is with us when we are happy. But, just as we cannot see the wind, we will not be able to see the Holy Spirit.

**Option:** Invite the children to use their imaginations to watch for the Holy Spirit. Suggest they sit in a circle and one child go open the door to your classroom; he or she doesn't have to open it very wide, and invite the Holy Spirit to come in. The rest of you can say, "Welcome, Holy Spirit,

thanks for coming in." Then you can make a place for the Holy Spirit to sit beside one of you. Then, you can make a space beside another child and keep on until the Holy Spirit has been invited to sit beside each child. Tell the Holy Spirit you are so glad that not only can the Holy Spirit be here with us today, but it can also go home with each of us when we leave.

**Activity:** Ask the children to help you figure out how to draw a picture of the Holy Spirit, since we cannot see the Holy Spirit. Show them that they can draw a picture and then fasten sheets of white tissue paper on top, so we cannot "see" the Holy Spirit. (Typical images of the Holy Spirit are the dove and flames.)

**Getting Closure:** Talk about ways to notice the Holy Spirit in our homes and where we go all week. When we are sad or having to do something hard, we can close our eyes and know that the Holy Spirit is right there with us. When we say our prayers, the Holy Spirit will be helping us to remember people we want to pray for.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, Holy Spirit, for being here with us today. Help us to feel your presence in our lives each day. Amen.

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