

A New Wind Blowing



Theme: The Holy Spirit. (Pentecost Sunday)

Object: A kite and some small pieces of paper that you have torn up

Scripture: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

How many of you like to fly kites? It is great fun to watch a kite soaring high into the sky. What is it that keeps the kite up there? It is the wind, isn't it? How many of you have ever seen the wind? That was a trick question! No one has seen the wind. We can't see the wind because it is invisible. Well, if we can't see the wind, how do we know that it is there?

One way we can know the wind is there is that we can hear it. When I wake up in the morning, I sometimes turn on the TV to see what the weather is doing. There are some mornings that I don't even have to look at the TV to know that the wind is blowing because I can hear it! I can hear it whistling through the trees, down the chimney, and around the windows and doors. We can't see the wind, but we know it is there because we can hear it.

Another way we can know that the wind is there is that we can see it moving things. (Take some bits of paper in your hand and blow them into the air.) We can see it moving the leaves on the trees and blowing bits of paper around. We can't see the wind, but we know it is there because we can see what the wind is doing.

Still another way we can know that the wind is there is that we can feel it. Blow onto the back of your hand. Did you see anything? No, but you could feel something, couldn't you? We can't see the wind, but we can feel it blowing against our faces and blowing through our hair.

Today, many churches celebrate a special day called Pentecost. It was on the day of Pentecost that God sent his Holy Spirit to the church. The Bible tells us that the apostles were all gathered together when suddenly there was a sound like a mighty, rushing wind. Then, it says, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. God's Holy Spirit is like the wind, we can't see him, but we can know that he is there, just like we can know that the wind is there.

We can know that the Holy Spirit is there because we can hear him. The Bible says, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock, and if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." (Revelation 3:20) We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know he is there because he speaks to our hearts.

Another way we can know that the Holy Spirit is there is that we can see him moving people to do God's will. The Bible says that the Spirit of God moves his people to speak and to do things for him. (2 Peter 1:21) We can't see God, but we can see people doing things that God's Holy Spirit has moved them to do.

We can know that the Holy Spirit is there because we can feel his presence. The Bible says, "I will fear no evil for Thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4) The Bible also says that "if we love one another, God lives in us." We can't see the Holy Spirit, but we know he is there because we can feel his presence in our life.

Father, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit. Even though we can't see him, we are thankful that we can hear him speak to our hearts, feel his presence in our daily lives, and see him moving us to do your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

POWER SOURCE PANTOMIME: This will be teams communicating without speaking as our Holy Spirit does as well. Each team can try to communicate a word or activity for the other team to guess what activity it is. Then the other team can do the same.

BALLOON POPPING: Give each child a balloon to blow up but do not tie it. When all balloons are blown up to a big size, tell children to let go of their balloons and watch them fly and make noise and then become LIMP, which is like people NOT being filled with the Holy Spirit!!

KITE DAY: Let children fly kites (inexpensive \$1 kites are at dollar stores) or children can make a kite if time allows. This will lead into the lesson about the Holy Spirit and the wind that blows the kite, etc.

PIN WHEEL ART: Let children color and decorate a large circle and cut into the circle part way several times and bending the sections so they are curved. Tape to a mini dowel rod and let children BLOW their pin wheel to make it spin, which is like the Holy Spirit that they can't see but there is a power source and the air that moves the pin wheel! Teacher could also just purchase some inexpensive pin wheels as well, as desired!

NATURE WALK: If there is an area where the class can take a nature walk, they could observe a dam or a waterfall and the power source of those and also observe the wind in the trees, etc.

SEEDLING PLANTINGS: The class could plant some seedlings together. Tell the class that they will water all the plants but one and will see what happens when there is no water or "power source" for the one unwatered plant.

BLOCK BUILDING: Divide the class into 2 teams. Each team will be given the exact same blocks but they will be sitting back to back with a small table in front of them. The first team will start building the tower and give each direction as to WHAT block they're using and what direction they're placing the block. After a certain amount of blocks, let children see how the two towers look with the directions given. Then it will be the other teams turn to build and to direct the opposite team in how to build the tower. This will show the children that the Holy Spirit GUIDES us IF WE LISTEN!!

POWER ART: Supply each child with paper and markers and any other supplies that could be used from this lesson today. Encourage children to draw a picture of the Holy Spirit's POWER from the activities from today's lesson and use items to tape or glue onto the picture art, such as a balloon, cloth as from a kite, seeds, etc. Write words from today's BIBLE VERSE around the picture or items.