

The Unseen Power



Theme: The Holy Spirit is our guide. Trinity Sunday - Yr. C

Object: A magnet, a small metal object (I used a small metal car) and a piece of heavy card stock.

Scripture: "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." John 16: 12-13 (NIV)

I have something pretty amazing to show you this morning. I am going to move this little car from this spot on this card over to this spot on the card without ever touching it. I'm not going to tip the card to make it slide over there either. In fact, I want a couple of you to hold this card for me so that you won't think I am tipping the card. Okay, are you ready for this amazing feat? (Place the magnet under the card where the small metal object is and move it to the point where you want it on the card.)

Wow! That was pretty amazing, wasn't it? How did I do that? Oh, I can't fool you. I used a magnet, didn't I? Most of you know about the power of a magnet and you know the effect that it has on metal objects. You couldn't see the magnet, but you knew that it was there because you could see the power of the magnet working on this metal car, guiding it across the card.

Did you know that we can have a power within us that will guide us in our life just like the magnet guided this car across the card? That power comes from the Holy Spirit. When Jesus knew that it was time for him to leave the earth and return to Heaven, he called his disciples together to teach them about what they could expect when he was gone. He told them that when he left, the Holy Spirit would come to be their guide. When we decide to follow Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our life. We can't see him, but we know that he is there because we can feel his power and see him working in our life. Just like we could see the power of the magnet guiding this metal car, we can see the Holy Spirit guiding us in our daily life and leading us to the place God wants us to be.

If I hold the magnet way over here, it doesn't have any effect on the car, does it? The car has to be close to the magnet before it feels the effects of its power. You and I have to stay close to God before the power of His Holy Spirit can work in our lives. The closer we are to God, the more we feel the power of the Holy Spirit working in our life. Let's pray and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Dear Lord, thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to guide us in the way you want us to go. Help us to stay close to you, so that we can feel the power of your Holy Spirit in our life. Amen.

Interactive Group Activities

by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: "The Unseen Power"

Scripture Reading: John 16:12-15

SPEAK/HEAR GAME: Use the old "telephone game" of whispering something in one ear and then THAT person whispers what he thinks he heard into the next person's ear and continue until the last one has heard the whisper. That child will tell what he HEARD. Encourage children to whisper things they know about Jesus and His Word.

KITE FUN: Have an inexpensive kite for each child or a drawing for them to complete as the teacher discusses the 5 Christian aspects of a kite - concentrating on the Holy Spirit the most, to go along with this Bible lesson. Here are the 5 analogies for the Kite that we learn on KITE DAY each year. 1) The cross shape dowels are how you begin to build a kite and the CROSS is the beginning of the Christian life; 2) a kite needs a tail to keep the kite stable in the wind and Christians have the Word of God, to keep them stable; 3) a kite needs covering to catch the wind - Jesus covers all our sin and debt; 4) a kite has to be anchored to something that won't blow away and we, as Christians have Jesus Christ as our anchor; and 5) kites need the wind to fly. The HOLY SPIRIT is our helper to lift us up.

PRAYER MAT: Teacher can have either pieces of remnant carpet pieces for the children or a plain kitchen or bath mat for children to use markers on, to either place by their bed to remind them to pray and what they have learned about the Holy Spirit and God's power, or to put in their bedrooms to remind them to pray and the POWER of Prayer!!!

POWER Object lesson: Have a fan blowing various items at different times during the class time and have the discussion that we "didn't SEE what blew the paper off the table", or "we didn't SEE what blew those tissues", etc, but we know SOMETHING is blowing these things around our room. Discuss the POWER of the Holy Spirit even though we cannot see it.

HOLY SPIRIT MOBILE: Top of the mobile can have a big blue cloud that will say HOLY SPIRIT and hanging in clouds from the mobile can be.... SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WILL NOT SPEAK ON HIS OWN, GUIDES US INTO ALL TRUTH; WILL TELL ME WHAT IS YET TO COME, JOHN 16:12-13. This could be for a class project instead of individual mobiles, as well, depending on the class.

GUIDE GAME: The Holy Spirit is our GUIDE, so teacher can play a game of hide and go seek, or follow the leader, or a game of tag, but the children have to be touching someone and staying CLOSE like a MAGNET while they play the game, or else they have to sit down if they let go of another person. Discussion about the lesson!