

The Holy Spirit shows that God is with us

**Verse:**

Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
The birth of Jesus

**Aim:**

To learn how the Holy Spirit was crucial to the Christmas story



When we hear the Christmas story, we don't usually spend much time thinking about the Holy Spirit.

In today's session we will spend time thinking about the crucial role that the Holy Spirit played in the birth of Jesus. We will also discover who the Holy Spirit is and the part that he plays in our lives today.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It Ideas handout

You will need:

- Paper and felt-tip pens
- Material to create the 'Joy' candle (this will depend on the method chosen for your group)



Start it

Our Start It activity for today is full of festive sounds. Play the clip for the children and see how many sounds they can guess. You do not need to complete all 24 sounds and can stop the clip at any point. We would suggest that you only guess the first ten sounds.

After the children have completed the quiz, discuss with them how they knew what sound it was when they could not see what was making the sound. Explain that sometimes we can hear the sound of something, without being able to see what is creating the noise.

Video

Guess the Christmas Sound Game - 24 Festive Sounds Quiz by Mister Teach (8:05)

Sing it

Say:

Today we are going to learn all about the Holy Spirit. Here's a fun song to remind us of who the Holy Spirit is and how he helps us to live our lives as followers of Jesus.

Video

Holy Spirit for Children - Christian Songs for Kids by Aji and friends (3:28)

Tell it

Say:

The Holy Spirit plays an important part in the Christmas story.

Ask:

Who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?

Say:

Let's watch the clip to find out more about the Holy Spirit.

Video

What is the Holy Spirit? A Sunday School lesson for kids! by Douglas Talks (stop clip: 3:46)

Ask:

Now that you have watched the clip, how would you describe the Holy Spirit and what he does?

Say:

Now that we have a better understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and what he does, we can discover and understand the part he plays in the Christmas story.

Read:

'The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him



Immanuel.” This name means “God is with us”.’

(Matthew 1:18–23 *ICB*)

Ask:

- What part did the Holy Spirit play in the birth of Jesus?
- What was the special meaning of the name given to Jesus?

Say:

Through the Holy Spirit, God fulfils his promise to always be with us.

Action it

Explain to the children that different parts of the Christmas story are mainly told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Having already listened to part of the Christmas story in the Gospel of Matthew, read Luke 2:1–7 to the children. Once you have done this, list the key parts of the story and any tricky names that the children need to remember. Encourage the children to create a comic strip or storyboard version that they could share with someone who does not know the Christmas story.

Read:

‘At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered. So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.’

(Luke 2:1–7 *ICB*)

Say:

The message of the good news of Jesus shines through the Christmas story. Let’s share our memory verse for this month to remind us of its message.

Memory verse

‘The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David’s town. He is Christ the Lord.”’

(Luke 2:10–11 *ICB*)

Pray it

In today's session you will need to prepare the resources for the children to make their 'Joy' candle.

Say:

Our Advent prayer theme for this week is 'joy'.

Ask:

What fills your heart with joy?

Say:

In the third week of Advent, our candle reminds us of the amazing joy brought to the world through the birth of Jesus.

After the children have completed their candle, watch the clip together which shares the message of joy brought to the world at Christmas.

Video

Sounding Joy - Official Lyric Video by Ellie Holcomb (3:50)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.



'Explore It!' is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaiew)

The Holy Spirit shows that God is with us

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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The birth of Jesus



Aim:

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Discover

Watch the clip to discover more about the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit: Early Childhood Lesson by CCC Kids



Share

In your Explore It session this week you created a new candle for your Advent wreath representing the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ. Add the candle to your wreath and then watch the following clip together with loved ones at home.

Advent for Kids: JOY (Week 3) - 5 Minute Family Devotional/Kids Bible Story by Minno Bible Stories for Kids (3:56)



Song for the week

Holy Spirit for Children - Christian Songs for Kids by Aji and friends (3:28)



Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ the Lord.'"

(Luke 2:10-11 /CB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Today's story is illustrated in this week's *Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic - filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more...and is now available to read online!

salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive.



Children
& Youth