

CITY LG – April 25th- 26th, 2026

Bible Story: Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)

Bottom Line: The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 (NirV)

WORSHIP

My God is Bigger

Standing in Your Light

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! We're having a big block party this month because we're celebrating Jesus and the joy He gives us. That's our theme for the month, 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

Today, we're going to hear a true story from the Bible where God gives His people joy through the Holy Spirit!

You know what's really cool about joy? Joy is something God gives us on the inside. And speaking of joy, I've got a question for you to talk about. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: **When is a time in your life when you have experienced joy?** Go ahead and discuss this in your group...

Large group leader should walk around listening to groups as they answer this. Give them a couple of minutes.

All month long, we've been learning that Jesus gives us joy, real joy that stays with us no matter what kind of day we're having. And the Bible has a special verse that helps us remember where that joy comes from. It's Philippians 4:4! This verse tells us that we can have joy every day because we belong to Jesus. Let's look at our Memory Verse together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NirV)

Today, we're going to look at a true story from the Bible where God showed us that He had a plan that was even bigger than anyone could have understood!

But before we dive into our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing that we've been doing all year!

We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, which is just a little over a month from now, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Today, we're continuing right along in our journey through the Bible. Jesus had gone back to heaven, but He told His friends to wait for the special gift that He was going to give them. That's where we are in the Bible!

Waiting, waiting, waiting. Have you ever had a time when you were waiting for something exciting to happen? Maybe you were waiting for a birthday party to start or waiting for someone special to come visit. Waiting can feel really long when you know something good is coming!

That's what Jesus' friends were doing in today's true story from the Bible. Jesus had gone back to heaven, but before He left, He told His friends that He was going to send them a Helper, Someone who would be with them all the time. They didn't know exactly what it would look like or when it would happen. They just knew Jesus told them to wait together.

VIDEO: Bible Story

This week, we learned about Pentecost and the Holy Spirit, God's very Spirit, who goes through life with us! Why? Why does the Holy Spirit do all of that? Why does He give us courage and strength and power and grow all of that beautiful fruit?

Because the Holy Spirit is God in us! The God who is the strongest is in us through His Spirit, and that can make us brave and bold. The God who is loving, and joyful, and peaceful, and patient, and kind, and good, and faithful, and gentle, and self-controlled is in us, and as we stay close to Him, He will grow those things in us!

We aren't doing life on our own; God Himself, the Holy Spirit, is with us, in us, helping us every step of the way. And there is nothing more joyful than that!

Let's take a look at our Bottom Line.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

The Holy Spirit gives you joy.

If you've chosen to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God's very Spirit, lives in you!

So, go through life with Him. Talk to Him about everything like you would to your closest, closest friend. Ask Him to help you know what His voice sounds like, what His nudges in your heart feel like. He goes through everything with you, so ask Him to help you hear Him and understand Him when He is speaking!

Through His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, God goes through every second of life with you. So remember that He is always there. And you can ask Him to teach you what it looks like for you to go through life with Him as your closest friend.

Let's ask Him to help us do that right now!

Holy Spirit, we want to know that You are always with us and that You are our closest friend. Teach us how to hear Your voice and show us how to live in Your love so Your love and joy and goodness flow out of us and onto everyone else. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

For our offering this year, We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells in Malawi. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water.

Children help carry water too! They have to travel so far that they have to miss school sometimes. And if they used the dirty water that is in their village, they would get very sick.

Check out this video someone from our Parkview team took of kids experiencing a brand new well in their village!

Missions Video 2

Help us raise money to provide clean water wells in the communities in Malawi who need them. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!

SLIDE: Theme