

# The First Christians

The birth of a child is a time for rejoicing. Someone tiny and new has come into the world, someone special to love and care for. Each new accomplishment is photographed or written down—the first smile, the first step, the first word. Many children later become models for their younger siblings.

The early Christians are, in a sense, God's early children. Their adventures, struggles, and victories are recorded in the New Testament. And we, who have come later, look up to them as examples we'd like to follow.

The children in your class will meet and learn from several of those examples during these four lessons. Simon will teach them to ask for forgiveness. Philip will teach them to always follow where God leads. Peter will teach them that God shows no favoritism. And Lydia will teach them to be generous and to share their homes. Use these lessons about the first Christians to teach your students how to live as children of God, just as their ancient brothers and sisters did.

## Four Lessons on The First Christians

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
<b>6</b>	The Holy Spirit helps us.	71	Acts 2:1-41
<b>7</b>	It's good to follow where God leads us.	83	Acts 8:26-40
<b>8</b>	We can ask God to forgive us when we do wrong.	95	Acts 8:9-25
<b>9</b>	God loves all people the same.	105	Acts 10:1-48

## The Signal

During the lessons on the first Christians, your signal to get kids back together during activities will be clapping your hands three times. Have children respond by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Explain this signal before the lesson begins. Tell children that it's important to respond to this signal quickly so the class can do as many fun activities as possible.

## The Fidget Buster

When your students are too antsy to pay attention to the lesson, use this fidget buster to get the wiggles out.

Say: **The first Christians did everything together. They worked together, they ate together, they worshipped together, and they spread the news about Jesus together. Let's play this game together.**

Have the children stand in a circle, facing out, and link arms. Call out destinations such as the classroom door, the window, or the bulletin board, and have the circle travel to that destination without rotating. That means that wherever the circle travels, some children will walk backward.

As soon as the children reach their destination, have them shout, "Jesus is alive!" Then call out another destination.

See how fast the group can safely travel around the room. Then say: **Now let's work together on our lesson.**

## The Time Stuffer

The Time Stuffer for the four lessons on the first Christians is for the children to create a mural showing Christians working, playing, worshipping, and spreading the news about Jesus. Tape large sections of newsprint to the wall, and set out crayons or markers nearby.

When children come to class early or finish an activity before the others, they can go work on the mural. Have children draw pictures of people in everyday life interacting with one another to share Jesus. For example, they may depict people in conversation, serving food to one another, or helping build something. Encourage them to draw things in the background, too, such as sky and clouds, grass, animals, buildings, and roads.

At the end of the four weeks, gather everyone and discuss everything depicted in the mural and how it's possible for everyone to be friends with Jesus.

## Digging Into the Bible



Every lesson in each four- or five-week module focuses on a key Bible verse that ties in to the Bible Point of the lesson. In addition, each lesson points to a related activity in the *Hands-On Bible* to further illustrate your Bible teaching with fun and action. Since kids tend to remember only 10 percent of what they hear but recall 90 percent of what they do, working in a *Hands-On Bible* experience with each lesson is a great way to get them to remember what they've learned long after class has ended.

## Remembering God's Word

This module's key Bible verses remind children of how they can learn to follow God in the same way the first Christians did. Have fun using the following activities any time during the lessons on the first Christians.

### ■ Holy People

Draw an "H" on an index card for each child. Tape or pin a card to each child, and say: **Listen to this Bible verse to learn what this H stands for.** Read **Colossians 3:12**.

Ask: • **Why are you all wearing an H?** (Because we're holy; because God chose us to be his people.)

Say: **Christians are God's holy people. As members of God's group of holy people, we are asked to do special things. Listen while I read the verse again. Be ready to tell me what holy people do.** Read the verse again.

Ask: • **What do holy people do?** (They are tenderhearted; kind; humble; gentle; patient.)

• **How can you be tenderhearted? kind? humble? gentle? patient?** (I can love people; I can be nice to them; I can share; I can compliment them; I can forgive them.)

• **Why should God's holy people do these things?** (Because God tells us to; because it will show people that God loves them.)

Say: **God has chosen us to be a part of his special team of holy people. God's holy people have special duties that will show God's love to the whole world. Let's say the verse together.**

Say **Colossians 3:12** aloud with the children, phrase by phrase. Then put the verse together and say it aloud.

Have the children write the verse on their index cards and take the cards home.

## ■ **Action Message**

Read **Colossians 3:12** aloud, and have the children repeat it with you.

Say: **Let's learn actions to help us remember this verse.**

Point to children as you say: **"Since God chose you."**

Hug yourself as you say: **"To be the holy people whom he loves."**

Sweep your hands down the front of your clothes as you say: **"You must clothe yourselves with."**

Make an OK sign with your thumb and index finger as you say: **"tenderhearted mercy."** Explain that tenderhearted mercy means forgiving others and making things OK between friends.

Pat a child's back as you say: **"kindness."**

Hold out your hands to indicate a humble servant as you say: **"humility."**

Gently rub your cheek as you say: **"gentleness."**

With the index finger of your right hand, draw a line from the tip of your left hand along your arm to your left shoulder as you say: **"and patience."** Explain that patience means taking a long time to get irritated or angry. The motion indicates how long it takes.

Practice until the class can say the verse while doing the actions without prompting.

Say: **Think of something you can do to show tenderhearted mercy or to be kind, humble, gentle, or patient this week. When you have something in mind, do the action that shows if you'll be merciful, kind, humble, gentle, or patient. Continue doing the motion until I call on you to tell us what you'll do.**

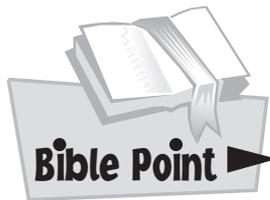
Help children think of something to do this week. They might show mercy by hugging a hurting friend. They might be kind by washing the dishes without being asked. They might be humble by picking up toys that someone else got out. They might be gentle by singing a lullaby to a baby. They might be patient by helping a brother with homework.

Call on the children one by one to tell you what they'll do. Have them continue doing the actions until you call on them. When all have shared, ask:

• **How did it feel to keep doing your action until I called on you?** (I got tired; I got impatient; my arm started to hurt.)

Say: **Colossians 3:12 tells us to always be merciful, kind, humble, gentle, and patient. Sometimes that takes a lot of work, and we get tired. But it's good to obey God all the time, even when we get tired. Let's work hard to do lots of these things this week.**

Repeat the verse together one more time.



**Bible Point** ▶

# The Holy Spirit helps us.

## Bible Verse

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere” (Acts 1:8a).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- experience what it means to be enabled by God’s Holy Spirit,
  - learn that God sent his Holy Spirit to the early believers,
  - understand that the Holy Spirit helps us, too, and
  - discover how they can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ God sends the Holy Spirit.



**Acts  
2:1-41**

Fifty days after the Passover celebration, the Jews celebrated the Feast of Weeks, otherwise known as Pentecost. Jerusalem was crowded with Jews from many surrounding areas who had gathered in the holy city for the feast. Many of them spoke languages other than the Aramaic and Greek that were most commonly spoken in Palestine at that time. God had set the stage for a miraculous display of his power through the Holy Spirit.

One can gain a basic understanding of the sound, tongues of fire, and believers from reading Acts 2:1-3, but what is more important is that the Holy Spirit came upon Christians in a new and powerful way. They were filled with God’s Holy Spirit and were able to speak so people from several different ethnic groups could hear them in their own languages.

Although Jesus had risen several weeks earlier and had spent time with the disciples after the resurrection, nothing is recorded in the Bible of any witnessing efforts prior to the events of Pentecost. In fact, Jesus had told his followers before he ascended to heaven that they were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. God knew that they needed the power of the Holy Spirit to spread the good news.

Likewise, when God has something big for us to do for him, he’ll empower us to do it. And he may use us in remarkable ways if we’re willing to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and let him work in our lives.

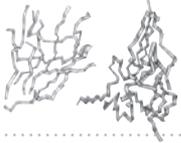
### Prayer

- Read Matthew 28:19.
- Can you think of a time God used you in a remarkable and unexpected way to reach others with the message of Jesus Christ? What happened?
- Dear God, help me and the children I teach never to take for granted what you can accomplish through us if we remain willing servants. Enable us through the power of your Holy Spirit to...

## Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	“Fish Sign Name Tags” (p. 80), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins	
<b>Attention Grabber</b>	<b>Whisper Walker</b> —Experience what it feels like to walk by faith, not by sight, and read 1 Kings 19:11-13.	Bible, cups, water, bags of pretzels, blindfolds	
<b>Bible Exploration &amp; Application</b>	<b>Tongues of Fire</b> —Participate in the story of Pentecost as told in Acts 2:1-41.	Bible	
	<b>With God’s Help</b> —Sing and move to a lively song as they learn that the Holy Spirit helps them tell others the good news.	CD player	
	<b>Eggstra-Ordinary Enabler</b> —Participate in a graphic illustration of John 3:1-8, and learn how the Holy Spirit is like the wind—unseen but powerful.	Bible, masking tape	
<b>Closing</b> 	<b>No Fear</b> —Join in a prayer based on Psalm 46.	Bible	

## Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** “Fish Sign Name Tags” (p. 80), markers, scissors, tape or safety pins

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson and “Growing Together” activities. Use questions such as “How did you celebrate that Jesus is alive?” and “What do you think heaven will be like?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► *the Holy Spirit helps us.***
- Help children make name tags. Photocopy the “Fish Sign Name Tags,” and follow the instructions. Help children attach the name tags to their clothing.
- Tell children that the signal you’ll use during this lesson is clapping your hands three times. Ask children to respond by clapping their hands three times as they stop talking and focus their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so they’ll have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.



Some children object to wearing blindfolds or anything that covers their eyes. Be sensitive to their fears. If children resist having something put over their eyes, just have them close their eyes instead.

## Attention Grabber

### ■ *Whisper Walker*

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, cups, water, bags of pretzels, blindfolds

Before the lesson begins, place snack items around the room: cups, water or juice, and pretzels or crackers.

Have children sit on the floor in a line, facing you. Sit in a chair with the blindfolds next to you. Say: **In a few minutes, we’re going to read our Bible story. It talks about how ► *the Holy Spirit helps us.* But first we’re going to play a game so we can experience for ourselves what it feels like to have a little whisper of wisdom to help us out.**

**Here’s how we play the game: I’ll ask one of you to come up. That person will have to listen very carefully to my directions. I’ll tell you to get certain things for me. When you find them, I’ll give you directions on how to get back and put them on the table. Are you ready? Pause. Oh, I forgot to tell you: You will be blindfolded, and I’m going to whisper! I’m also going to ask a friend to hold your arm so you don’t bump into things.**

Choose two children. Blindfold one. Ask the second child to link arms as a guide. Remind the guide to let the other child lead but just be there so the friend is safe. In a whisper, give directions to collect items for a snack. For example, “Walk three steps forward. Stop. Turn toward your friend. Stop. Walk five steps. Stop. Reach forward. You should feel a bag. Pick up the bag. Turn around,” and so on.

Once all the children have seen this activity, have them all form pairs, and blindfold one child in each pair or have one child in each pair close his or her eyes. Again give directions in a whisper so each child reaches the snack table.

After all the snack supplies have been collected, have children remove the blindfolds and help you distribute the snack items. Give them a few minutes to munch, and then say: **In the Old Testament, a man named Elijah needed some help and words**



Sometimes we may not feel very compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, or patient. That’s when the power of the Holy Spirit comes in! We may not always feel these things, but God does. We can always pray for God’s Holy Spirit to enable us to clothe ourselves with these qualities.


**BIBLE POINT** ▶

**BIBLE VERSE** ▶

of encouragement and wisdom from God's Holy Spirit. Show the children the Bible passage as you read it. In 1 Kings 19:11-13, the Bible says Elijah went up to a mountain and there was a great and powerful windstorm, but God was not in the wind. Next Elijah felt an earthquake. But God was not in the earthquake. Then there came a fire. But God was not in the fire. After the fire came a gentle whisper. God was in the gentle whisper! ▶ The Holy Spirit helps us, and he often helps us with gentle whispers.

Read today's key Bible verse, Acts 1:8a in your Bible: ▶ "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere."

Say: Jesus promised that he would never leave us. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts and help us so we could tell others about him. Let's learn more about how ▶ the Holy Spirit helps us.


**BIBLE POINT** ▶

**Bible Insight**

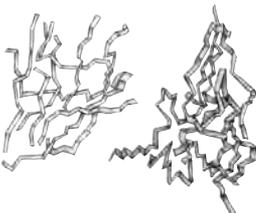
For Christians, *Pentecost* has become a term for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. But Pentecost, Greek for "fiftieth day," was actually a feast to celebrate the harvest. (It was also called the Feast of Weeks.) Read more about Pentecost's Old Testament meaning in Exodus 23:16a, 34:22a; Leviticus 23:15-21; Numbers 28:26-31; and Deuteronomy 16:9-12.

Acts 2:12-13a says, "They stood there amazed and perplexed. 'What can this mean?' they asked each other. But others in the crowd were mocking." What an important point! When we don't understand something or someone, we tend to either investigate (What does this mean?) or berate (make fun). Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to look at all situations with the love of the Lord!

## Bible Exploration & Application

### ■ Tongues of Fire

**SUPPLIES:** Bible



Before you begin, have some yellow *crinkle paper* nearby.

Open your Bible to **Acts 2:1-41**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our Bible story today is filled with some amazing sights and sounds. I'd like you to help me tell the story by doing actions for our story as I direct you. Are you ready?** Pause.

**All of Jesus' disciples were together in one place.** Have children sit very close together as if they are the disciples. **They had come together to celebrate a feast called Pentecost. Before Jesus had gone back to heaven, he had told his disciples not to leave the city but to wait for a gift that he had promised. Do you like gifts?** Pause.

**Suddenly, a sound like a violent wind filled the whole house where they were sitting.** Have children blow and make sounds of the wind. **Then they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.** Put a little bit of yellow *crinkle paper* on each child's head. **All of them were filled with God's Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped them speak in other languages.**

**This was no ordinary fire! It didn't hurt Jesus' friends. It was just God's way of showing them that he really had given them the special gift that Jesus had promised. As I collect your "tongues of fire," tell me if you or someone you know speaks another language.** As children share, collect the yellow *crinkle paper* and save it for another lesson.

**Now, staying in Jerusalem at that same time were Jewish people who loved God** (put your hand over your heart, and have children copy your action) **from every nation under heaven. When they heard** (cup your hand behind your ear, and have children copy your action) **all the noise, a crowd gathered** (make a gathering motion with your hand, and have children copy your action) **to see what was going on. They were beside themselves with wonder and asked, "How**

**can it be that we hear** (cup your hand behind your ear, and have children copy your action) **them speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done?”** The crowd asked, and let’s say this together, **“What can this mean?”** Have children repeat “What can this mean?” over and over. **Some of them made fun of the disciples because they didn’t understand.**

Ask for three helpers to come stand by you. Say: **One of Jesus’ disciples, Peter, told the crowd three things.** Hold up three fingers. **My three helpers will remind us of what Peter said.** Have the class remember Peter’s words by standing up and doing the motions as each helper does the motions.

**First, Peter told the crowd that in the Bible in Joel 2:28-32** (hold up your Bible, and show children the passage), **God promised to pour out his Spirit and that, when he did, amazing things would happen. I want my first helper to pretend to pour and then raise your arms above your head. This will remind us that God poured out his Holy Spirit and that amazing things happened.** Have the helper lead the group in doing the motions.

**Next, Peter told the crowd that in the Bible in Psalm 16:8-11** (hold up your Bible, and show children the passage), **it says Jesus would come back to life. I want my second helper to lie on the ground and then jump up. This will remind us that even though Jesus died, he came back to life!** Have the helper lead the class in doing the motions.

**Finally, Peter told the crowd that in the Bible in Psalm 110:1** (hold up your Bible, and show children the passage), **it says Jesus is our Savior. I want my third helper to stretch his arms out like Jesus on the cross and then put both hands on his heart to show that when we become Christians, ► the Holy Spirit helps us.** Pause as your helper leads the class in these motions. Then have the children sit down for the end of the story. Remind them to follow your motions.

**When the crowd heard Peter’s words, they felt terrible!** Pretend to cry. **The Bible says Peter’s words made them realize their guilt, and they asked, “Brothers, what should we do?”** Ask, “What should we do?” **Peter answered, “Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God (drop to your knees), and be baptized... Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Three thousand people did just that! Shout, “Hurray!” (“Hurray!”)**

Ask: • **What did the Holy Spirit help the disciples do?** (Talk in other languages; tell others about Jesus.)

• **What can the Holy Spirit help us do today?** (Tell others about Jesus; be kind to others; obey.)

• **Why do you suppose the crowd listening to Peter felt so bad?** (They were sad Jesus died; they didn’t know he was their Savior; they didn’t believe in Jesus when he was on earth.)

• **What did Peter say we had to do to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?** (Turn from your sins and turn to God; believe in Jesus.)

Say: **If we say we’re sorry for the bad things we do and trust Jesus, we can have the gift of God’s Holy Spirit to help us! Hurray!**



## HANDS-ON BIBLE



Make sure each child has paper and a crayon or marker with which to write. Pair up the children, and say: **We are learning from the Bible that God sends his Holy Spirit to help us with lots of things. When God sent his Holy Spirit to the disciples on a day the Bible calls Pentecost, something very special happened, and all the Christians started praying in other languages! Let's see what that was like. Please open your *Hands-On Bible* to Acts 2. Together we'll work on the "Say Again?" activity.**

Help the children work with their partners to do the activity together. Go from pair to pair and help them write out their made-up languages if needed. Then have children share their new language with other classmates.

Afterward, ask:

- **What was the hardest thing about understanding the other people?**  
(I didn't know what they were saying; they were talking nonsense.)
- **What was the hardest thing about making yourself understood?**  
(No one could make sense of me; I was not using real words.)

Say: **We couldn't understand one another because we weren't speaking in real languages. They were made up! Sometimes when we try to share with other people about our special friendship with Jesus, they don't understand, either. But the Bible tells us that God will send us his Holy Spirit to help us tell others about Jesus. Let's thank God!**

Lead children in a round of applause for God's Holy Spirit.

## ■ With God's Help

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Cue the CD to track 4, "With All Your Heart" (Proverbs 3:5-6), and distribute lyrics sheets for the children to look at. (Lyrics are found at the back of this book.)

Have the children sit in a circle, and say: **The disciples loved Jesus, and the Holy Spirit helped them tell others about Jesus. We love Jesus, and the Holy Spirit can help us, too! We're going to sing a song to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us tell about Jesus. We're so excited that we want to sing out the good news about Jesus.**

Have the children sing "With All Your Heart" (Proverbs 3:5-6) with the CD and do the following actions:

- Whenever the song says, "All your heart," march in a circle and put your hands up by your heart and tap your chest.
- On the words "Do not depend," face the center, shake your head, and wag your finger in a "no" motion.
- On the words "Seek his will," raise your hand to your forehead and look off in the distance as if looking for something.
- On the words "he will direct," march in a circle and wave your hand for the children to follow you.

• Whenever the song says, “We need to pray,” march and fold your hands as if praying. Stop and face the center for the rest of the words.

When the song is over, turn off the CD player and say: ► ***The Holy Spirit helps us! Thank the Lord! God especially wants us to trust him because he wants to help us tell about the good news of Jesus. Because he died for our sins and came back to life again, we can believe in him and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Think about a friend or family member with whom you can share this good news! Then tell that person about the Holy Spirit today! Right now let’s learn more about the Holy Spirit.***



## ■ Eggstra-Ordinary Enabler

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, masking tape



Before the children arrive, use masking tape to make a long “road” down the middle of your room. The road should be about eight inches wide. Ask the children to sit on the floor in front of you.

Say: **We have learned so much about the Holy Spirit today! There was a man in the Bible named Nicodemus who wanted to know more about God, too.** Open your Bible to **John 3:1-8**, and show the passage to the children.

**Jesus told Nicodemus that in order to go to heaven, everyone had to be born of water and the Spirit. What Jesus meant was that we have to believe in Jesus, and he will give us the Holy Spirit.**

Hold up the *plastic fringe*. Have a volunteer come up and blow on the *plastic fringe*.

Ask: • **How do you know that our helper is actually blowing on the fringe? Can you see the air that’s moving it?** (You can’t see the air, but you know it’s there because the fringe moved; I can see him blowing on the fringe, but I can’t see air.)

• **When you’re outside, you can’t see the wind, so how do you know it’s there?** (I see trees move; I see things blowing around; I see what it does.)

Say: **The Holy Spirit is sort of like the wind. We can’t see the wind, can we? But we can see when the wind is moving something. That’s like God’s Holy Spirit. We can’t see the Holy Spirit, but we know he’s living in someone’s heart by what the person does. We can see how the Holy Spirit changes a person so he or she acts more like Jesus.**



Pick up one of the *colorful eggs* from the Learning Lab. Say: **We’re going to play a game to help us remember how the Holy Spirit gently guides us or “blows” us onto the right path that is pleasing to God. Let’s pretend that this egg is you. Let’s pretend that this path is the way God wants us to live: loving and obeying God and our parents. That’s easy to do when we know Jesus and are friends with him. He will help us obey!**

**Now let’s line up on both sides of this path, and we’ll try to blow this egg from one end of the path to the other. Sometimes it will go outside the path. If that happens, we will just gently blow it back on the right path. Are you ready?**



For an “egg-stra” challenge, make the road curvy or even go around a table!

Help the children sit all along the masking-tape path on both sides. Start the egg at one end. As the *colorful egg* rolls up to each child, have him or her blow it and try to keep it inside the path. When the egg reaches the end of the path and each child has had a chance to blow on it, collect the egg and end the game.

Say: **God wants us to love and obey him. Jesus said if we have the Holy Spirit living in us, the Holy Spirit will gently help us move in the right direction that God wants us to, the way we kept the egg on the path by blowing on it. The Holy Spirit will also help us tell others about Jesus. Let's ask God to fill us with his Holy Spirit so we can lead lives that are pleasing to him and so we can tell others about our friendship with Jesus!**

Pray: **Dear God, we are so happy to know you through your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us tell others about Jesus. We love you and want to obey you and our parents. Thank you for loving us, too! In Jesus' name, amen!**



## Closing

### ■ No Fear

*SUPPLIES:* Bible

Ask: • **What have you learned so far today?** (I learned that the Holy Spirit helps us; I learned that if I trust Jesus, he'll send the Holy Spirit to live in me and help me.)

Say: **Today we learned that ► the Holy Spirit helps us. We learned that if we trust Jesus, he will send the Holy Spirit to live in us to help and guide us. We also learned that when the Holy Spirit helps us, it's like a gentle whisper to our hearts or like a gentle breeze guiding us in the way we should go. Let's thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

The following prayer is taken from **Psalm 46**; open your Bible and show children the words. Have the children stand in a circle and hold hands. When you have finished saying the opening prayer, encourage the children to each add one thing the Holy Spirit can help them with. They can say "amen" if they don't want to add anything. After each child finishes, have him or her blow gently in the direction of the child to the right to signal that it's the next person's turn. Demonstrate before you begin.

Pray: **God, you are our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, even though life is difficult sometimes. We know that the Lord Almighty is with us. Thanks for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Thank you that your Spirit helps us...when there's trouble** [with friends; with homework; with telling others about Jesus; with being kind; with obeying our parents; with pleasing God]. **In Jesus' name, amen!**

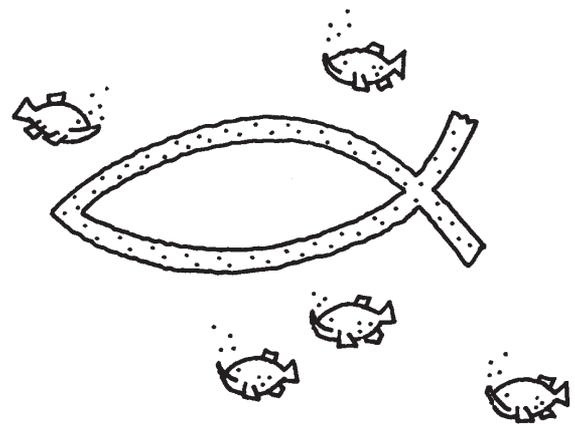
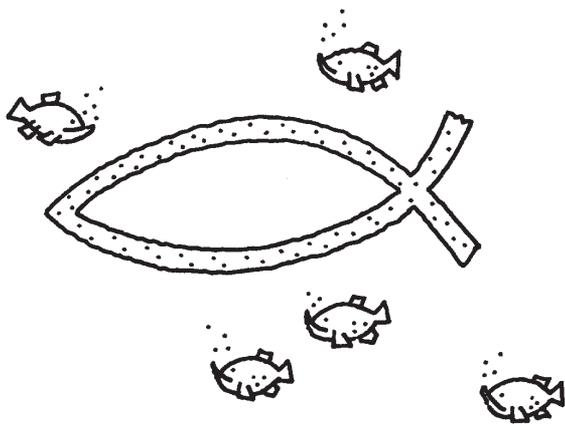
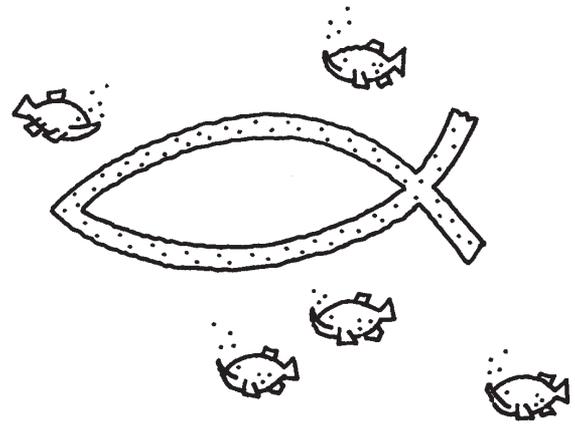
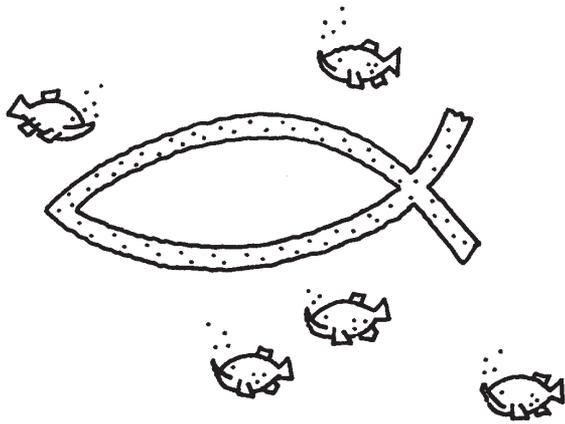


### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week’s topic. Follow up the “Growing Together” activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

# Fish Sign Name Tags

Photocopy this page, and then cut out a name tag for each child. Have children decorate their name tags and sign their names on the lines provided.



# Growing Together

**The First Christians 6:**  
The Holy Spirit helps us.

**Bible Story**  
God sends the Holy Spirit.  
(Acts 2:1-41)

**Bible Verse**  
“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere” (Acts 1:8a).

## In Touch

This week your child learned that God sent the Holy Spirit to the early believers. The children learned that the Holy Spirit enabled the believers to tell others about Jesus. They also learned that the Holy Spirit helps us, too, and that we can receive the Holy Spirit by believing in Jesus and repenting. Use the ideas at home to reinforce your child's understanding of the Holy Spirit.

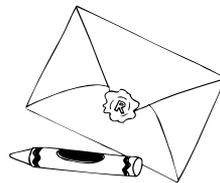
### Three-in-One Twist

Make these yummy pretzel twists to remind your child that God is three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Dissolve 1 tablespoon of yeast in ½ cup of warm water. Add 1 teaspoon of honey and 1 teaspoon of salt. Stir. Add 1⅓ cup of flour. Stir. Knead. Roll pieces into long lengths, and then form into a pretzel shape with three twists in the middle. Brush with a beaten egg. Sprinkle with salt. Bake for 10 minutes at 425 degrees.

### Role Model

Use modeling dough to make models of yourself and your child. While you work, talk about the different roles you have: parent, worker, son or daughter, cousin, friend, and so on. Ask your child to list all his or her roles. Explain that we all have different roles. A mommy can still be a friend to another lady, and a little girl can still be a daughter and a cousin at the same time, just as a little boy can be somebody's son and somebody's brother, too. We can understand God in a similar way. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He's three in one. He didn't stop being God to be Jesus or stop being Jesus to live in our hearts as the Holy Spirit. Read Matthew 28:19 to remember what we are to do now that we believe!

### Signed, Sealed, Delivered



Read Ephesians 1:13-14 with your child. Together, write a letter to a friend or family member, telling him or her about Jesus. Seal the letter with melted crayon or sealing wax. While the wax is firm but still pliable, press your child's initial into it with a toothpick. Remind your child that when someone believes in Jesus, God identifies that person as his own by giving the Holy Spirit to live in him or her, too!

### Stormy Weather

The next time there is a storm, watch the weather together! Then read 1 Kings 19:11-12. Remind your child that God's Holy Spirit more often speaks to us in a gentle whisper than in a loud clap of thunder. Pray with your child that each of you would get better and better at listening for God's still, small voice.

