



Cooperative Baptist
Fellowship North Carolina

FAITH FAMILY TALKS

CBFNC is offering this resource from the CBF Children's Ministry Network, to our state fellowship to provide families weekly spiritual conversation starters. Our hope is that this resource empowers parents to have more faith-filled conversations at home.

Listen. Talk. Go.

*Written by Brittany McDonald Null
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First Baptist Church of Columbia, Mo.*

May 2024



Cooperative Baptist
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FEATURED RESOURCES: FAITH FAMILY TALKS

WEEK OF MAY 5

Listen

Open your Bible and read John 14:15-17 together as a family.

This month, we are celebrating Pentecost. Pentecost is the day when we celebrate the birth of the church and Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit can be a little confusing, and that's okay! We never have to have all the answers. Wondering and asking questions are important parts of our faith. All throughout May, we will take a look at different ways the Bible talks about the Holy Spirit and wonder together about how we experience God.

In our Bible story today, Jesus was preparing his disciples for when he would no longer be with them. He told them that while he would no longer be there to guide them, God would send them the Holy Spirit to be with them as a comforter or a companion. Jesus knew that his disciples would need a friend who could help them when things were difficult. This is true for us too. Think about your closest friend or someone you go to for help. What is it that makes you want to go to them? The Holy Spirit is like that, too!

Talk.

- I wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus said he was sending a comforter...
- I wonder who you go to when you need help...
- I wonder how God can give us comfort...

Go.

Breath Prayer

Sometimes, when I feel anxious, I turn to breath prayers. Breath prayers remind me that God is our helper and is always with us. God is as close to us as our breath! Let's try a breath prayer using John 14:16. Pay attending to your breathing.

- Breath in and say: God sent a Companion (or helper).
- Breath out and say: who is with me forever.
- Repeat five times or as many as you wish.



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WEEK OF MAY 12

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Mark 1:10-11 together as a family.

Our Bible verses for this week take us back to right before Jesus began his ministry. The Bible tells us that Jesus went to go get baptized and when he did, Jesus saw the Holy Spirit, like a dove come down on him. He heard a voice say that he was loved. Can you imagine how Jesus must of felt when this happened?

We have already talked about how the Jesus said the Holy Spirit is a comfort and a friend, but I wonder Jesus thought when he saw the dove. After all, a dove is quite a bit different than those! Close your eyes and imagine a dove. What do see? Notice how it is peaceful and gentle. The Holy Spirit is like that, too!

Talk

- I wonder how Jesus felt hearing God call him "beloved" ...
- I wonder how God is peaceful...
- I wonder what else reminds you of God...

Go.

Go on a nature walk. Thank God for all the good things you see. Notice what reminds of you of God as you are outside. Then pray together: *"God, just as the dove was peaceful and reminded Jesus that he was loved, help us to remember that we are loved too! Amen."*



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WEEK OF MAY 19

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Acts 2:1-4 together as a family.

In our Bible story (which we will explore for the next two weeks), we hear a lot of strange things happen; rushing wind, fire, and people speaking different languages they never spoke before. We learn that this was because of the Holy Spirit. Can you imagine what it would have been like to be there that day with your friends? I wonder if they were excited, scared, joyful, or confused. Sometimes encountering new things can be both exciting and scary! In Acts, the Holy Spirit is like fire, fierce and wild. Fire can also be warm and help us see when things are dark. The Holy Spirit is like this, too.

Talk

- I wonder how the people felt when they saw "tongues of fire" ...
- I wonder what this story tells us about God...
- I wonder what surprised you about this story...

Go.

Candle Prayers

Get a candle (or a battery operated one if you chose) and light it together. Say: *we light this candle to remember that God is with us. As we celebrate Pentecost this month, we remember and how fire can remind us of the Holy Spirit, bright and warm.*

Offer a prayer together like: "As we light this candle today, we remember the special day of Pentecost when your Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with power and love. Just as the flames danced above their heads, may this candle remind us of the fire of your Spirit burning within us, guiding us, and giving us strength. Amen."



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WEEK OF MAY 26

Listen.

Open your Bible and read Acts 2:1-4 together as a family.

As we continue this month thinking about the Holy Spirit, pay special attention to verse 2. Acts 2:2 says, "Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting (CEB)." Last week we talked about how the Holy Spirit is sometimes talked about like a fire. The disciples were experience God in new and surprising ways. God can still surprise and show up in unexpected ways. Did you notice how at the beginning, there is a fierce wind? Wind is an invisible and powerful presence. The Holy Spirit is like that, too!

Talk

- I wonder what was surprising about this story...
- I wonder how the wind can remind us of the Holy Spirit...
- I wonder what how God has surprised you...

Go.

Bubble Prayers

If there is a day this week when the weather is nice, grab some bubbles and go outside. Take some time as a family to talk about things that brought you joy! Then once everyone has shared blow bubbles and watch the wind carry them away.

Say, "As we feel the wind gently brushing against our faces and watch it move our bubbles around, help us to remember your Holy Spirit, always present yet sometimes unnoticed. Just as the wind moves around us, may your Spirit move within us and guide us."

Rev. Brittany McDonald Null is the pastor of families and spiritual formation at First Baptist Church of Columbia, Mo. She serves as the co-president of the Children's Ministry Network. In her free time, Brittany enjoys knitting and spending time with her husband, Bryce, and their two cats, Bella and Jasmine.



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