

## **Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends—April 26, Wk. 4**

**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 NIV*

### **1. Countdown**

### **2. Announcements**

### **3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)**

- Host
- 16 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- 2 leaders (to pop the confetti cannons)
- 2 confetti cannons for every round you do (more if you plan on doing more rounds)
- 2 large bowls
- Timer (or smartphone or watch or countdown)
- Place the two bowls at two opposite ends of the room in the game area.
- Before group time, pick two leaders to come up and pop the confetti cannons during the game.

#### **Media**

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game
- Theme Slide
- “Confetti Craze Title” Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

### **4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG: Transition Slide**

### **5. CG: Word Video and CG: Transition Slide**

### **6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)**

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 4 balloons—2 filled with helium and 2 filled with air (You might want extras, in case of popping.)
- Ribbon, enough to tie to the 2 helium balloons
- 2 balloon weights for the balloons filled with helium
- Tape
- Inflate four balloons—two with helium and two with air.
- Tie the ribbon and the balloon weights to the helium balloons.
- Make the ribbons that are tied on the helium balloons as long as possible so the helium balloons can go up a long way when they are untaped.
- Before group time, place all four balloons at the front of the room so the audience can see them. Tape the ribbon of the helium balloons closely to the helium balloons so the balloons stay on the floor, but the tape on the ribbon and the balloon weight is barely visible. Leave the balloons filled with air lying on the floor.

#### **Media**

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room
- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

**At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group**

### **7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)**

## Bible Story Outline Week 4

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

### SETTING UP THE STORY

- Today's story continues our journey through the Bible.
- Have you ever had to wait for something really important? Waiting can feel strange.
- That's exactly how Jesus' friends felt. Jesus had gone to heaven, but He told them to wait for a Helper. They didn't know when or how He would come.
- So they waited, prayed, and stayed together. God was getting ready to do something amazing.

### THE HOLY SPIRIT ARRIVES

- Jesus' followers were all gathered together, waiting.
- Read: Acts 2:2-4 (NirV).
- Imagine being there. A sound like a strong wind filled the room. Flames appeared above each person. The Holy Spirit, God Himself, filled every one of them with power and boldness. They even started speaking in different languages.
- (Hold up a regular balloon and drop it). When we use only our own strength, we can run out of energy or courage. Jesus' followers needed help.
- When the Holy Spirit came, everything changed. He is God in us. He gives us power and joy.
- (Release a helium balloon so it rises). This is what the Holy Spirit does in us. He fills us, lifts us, and helps us do what we could never do on our own.

### PETER SPEAKS WITH BOLDNESS

- People in the crowd were confused. Some made fun of Jesus' followers. This probably would have scared Peter before.
- (Hold up and drop another regular balloon). This is like when we trust only ourselves. We don't have enough courage on our own.
- But when the Holy Spirit works in someone, it's different. He lifts our hearts with courage.
- (Release another helium balloon). The Holy Spirit filled Peter and lifted him with boldness.
- Read: Acts 2:14 (NirV).
- Peter stood up and spoke loudly to thousands of people. That boldness came from the Holy Spirit.
- Read: Acts 2:22-24 (NirV).
- Peter told them how God had planned for Jesus to be handed over, how they put Him to death, but how God raised Him from the dead.

### THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US FROM THE INSIDE OUT

- After Peter finished, the people knew the truth in their hearts and asked what they should do.
- Read: Acts 2:38 (NirV).
- Peter told them to turn from their sins, be baptized, and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- (Hold up and drop another regular balloon). This is like our hearts on our own. We want to do what's right, but sometimes we fail.
- But when the Holy Spirit fills someone, everything changes. He lifts our hearts like helium lifts a balloon. He helps us love, be patient, and be kind. The Holy Spirit is God, and He can help us live like God.
- (Release another helium balloon). This is what the Holy Spirit does inside us.
- The Bible tells us about the fruit the Holy Spirit grows in us.
- Read: Galatians 5:22-23 (NirV).
- The Holy Spirit grows love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in us.
- The Holy Spirit fills us and lifts us, helping our hearts rise with His joy, His strength, and His love.

### WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- Jesus' followers were waiting, and then the Holy Spirit came with a sound like wind and what looked like flames.
- The Holy Spirit filled them with courage, strength, and joy, helping them speak boldly about Jesus. When Peter preached, thousands of people believed.
- The Holy Spirit is God in us. His presence can make us brave and bold. The God who is loving and joyful 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 is with us, helping us every step of the way.
- **BL: The Holy Spirit gives you joy.**

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**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 NIV

### 1. Countdown

### 2. Announcements

### 3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

**AUDIO:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

**SLIDE:** Theme

*(Host enters with energy and excitement.)*

*(Things to have ready: Bowls in place in the game area. Confetti cannons. Two leaders ready to pop the confetti cannons. Timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown. Game slide loaded. Bottom Line slide loaded.)*

**HOST:** “Hey, everybody! Welcome back to our Block Party! This month’s theme is, ‘Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!’ Take a look around the room. Give someone near you a high five! And now, on the count of three, shout the name of your favorite party snack. Ready? One, two, three!

*(Pause while kids shout their favorite party snack.)*

“Awesome! This is definitely a room ready to party. I’m so glad you’re here today because this whole month, we’ve been celebrating the kind of joy that comes from Jesus, joy that never runs out. And today, we’re going to talk about Someone amazing, the Holy Spirit. But before we jump into the story, we’re going to kick this party off with one of the wildest games ever.

**SLIDE:** Confetti Craze Title

**AUDIO:** Upbeat music

“Today’s game is called ‘Confetti Craze’! Here’s how it works: I’m going to choose two teams, Team One and Team Two. Each team will have a bowl on their side of the room. When I say, ‘Go,’ we’re going to blast confetti into the air—these two leaders are going to shoot confetti cannons—and for the next two minutes, your team will gather as much confetti from the floor as you can and bring it back to your bowl.

“You can ONLY pick up confetti from the floor, not from the other team’s bowl. When the timer ends, everyone freezes right where they are, so we can see which bowl has more confetti.

“Okay, I’m going to need two teams of eight. And if you don’t get picked this round, that’s okay! You get to cheer as loud as possible, and we may even play another round. If you’d like to play, raise your hand!

*(Choose 16 kids from the ones who have their hands raised and invite them to the game area. Split them into two teams of eight and send each team to their side of the room.)*

“Teams, find your bowl so you know exactly where to put your confetti when you collect it. Everyone else, you’re the cheering squad. When the countdown starts, leaders—pop those confetti cannons. That will be the signal for the race to begin!

“Here we go! Confetti cannons ready? Teams ready? Audience ready? Three ... two ... one ... POP IT!

*(Two leaders pop the confetti cannons into the game area.)*

**Two-Minute Countdown**

**AUDIO: Upbeat music**

*(Start the timer—or smartphone or watch or countdown and the music after the leaders pop the confetti cannons.)*

*(Play the game. Cheer on both teams and involve the audience. Make sure the kids are only picking up confetti from the floor and only putting the confetti in their team’s bowl.)*

“Go, go, go! Pick up that confetti! Move those feet! Look at all the color flying everywhere—this room is starting to look like a real party! Keep going!

*(Once the two-minute timer is up ... )*

“Great job, everyone! Stay frozen while we take a look at the bowls to see which team picked up the most confetti!

*(Pause while you look at each bowl to see which team picked up the most confetti.)*

“Let me get a drumroll! *(Encourage the kids to pat their legs to make a drumroll.)*

“And the winner is ... [Team Name]! Let’s give both teams a huge round of applause! That was amazing!

*(Continue for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for 16 new volunteers at the start of each round. You’ll need two new confetti cannons for each round. Instruct the new teams that they can pick up the old confetti if there’s any left on the ground as well as the new confetti from the new confetti cannons.)*

“Wow, that was so much fun! You all turned this room into a celebration AND helped clean it up! What a joyful party!

“Our Bottom Line for today is about joy—let’s check it out.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “The Holy Spirit gives you joy. Can you say that with me?”

**KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line]** “The Holy Spirit gives you joy.”

**HOST:** “We will be unpacking this more today! I’m so glad you’re here. Let’s learn more about what that means!”

*(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)*

**4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG:Transition Slide**

**5. CG: Word Video and CG:Transition Slide**

**6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)**

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

*(Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.)*

*(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Two balloons filled with air on the floor and 2 helium balloons taped to the floor with balloon weights tied on discreetly.)*

**STORYTELLER:** “Hi, friends! It’s so great to see you all! I love learning about Jesus with you! We’re finishing out our theme on joy that we’ve looked at all month: ‘Block Party—Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!’

“And to wrap up this month, here’s an exciting true story from the Bible for you and me! Before we dive in, let’s pause. Sometimes, we rush past Bible stories without thinking about how important it is. Today’s story comes after the events of Easter. Remember, these aren’t just stories; they’re true events that shaped the early church and help us understand God’s ongoing work in the world. What we learn today is really important to your friendship with Jesus! 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**

“Let me catch you up on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far! God created everything to be close to people, but they turned away. He had a plan to bring us back together through a family. God picked Abraham’s family to bless the whole world. Through Joseph and Moses, God saved His people from hard times like famine and slavery. Even though they didn’t always follow, God sent prophets to remind them of His love. He promised a Savior, and Jesus came to be that Savior. Jesus lived a perfect life, gave it all up for our sins, broke the power of sin, and rose from the dead, offering us eternal life and a closer relationship with God.

“But Jesus’ friends were confused. Why did Jesus die? Why did He rise again? Jesus spent the next few days on Earth explaining what He had done and why. Jesus explained that He was going to leave, but He was going to be with His followers in a new way. He was going to be closer than close, like He always wanted to be! Then, Jesus went back to heaven, and His followers waited for the gift He had promised to give them! And that’s where we are in God’s Big Story!”

**SETTING UP THE STORY**

“Today we’re continuing our journey through the Bible. Jesus had gone back to heaven. But He told His friends to wait for a special gift.

Think about this. Have you ever had to wait for something important? Maybe a game... a friend... or a big surprise. Waiting can feel strange. You know something is coming—but not when.

That’s how Jesus’ friends felt. Jesus promised a Helper was coming. Someone who would give them power and courage. But they didn’t know when... or how. So, they waited, prayed, and stayed together. And while they waited... God was getting ready to do something amazing.”

**THE HOLY SPIRIT ARRIVES**

“When the Holy Spirit came, Jesus’ followers were all together. And then... it happened.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:2-4 NIV.)

Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like tongues of fire. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known before.

“Imagine being there. A loud sound filled the room. Flames appeared. And then, the Holy Spirit, God Himself, filled every single one of them. He gave them power and boldness! They even started speaking in different languages they didn’t know how to speak before! Let’s look at this balloon.

(Hold up one of the regular balloons.)

“When I pick it up and drop it, ...it falls.

(Drop the balloon so it falls to the floor.)

“When we try to use only our own strength, we can run out of energy, courage, or joy. That’s what it was like for the followers of Jesus before the Holy Spirit came—they loved Jesus, and Jesus gave them a huge mission to share the good news. But they needed help. They needed boldness and power.

“But when the Holy Spirit came, everything changed. The Holy Spirit is God! He is God in us! He gives us power, boldness, courage, and joy that doesn’t depend on everything going right.

*(Remove the tape from one of the helium balloons so it rises as high as the balloon weight will allow it to go.)*

“See how this balloon goes up? That’s what the Holy Spirit does in us. He fills us. He lifts us. He helps us do what we could never do on our own.”

### **PETER SPEAKS WITH BOLDNESS**

“People in the crowd were confused. Some made fun of Jesus’ followers. Before this, Peter might have been afraid.

(Hold up one of the regular balloons.)

“This balloon reminds us of what it’s like when we trust only in ourselves. We try to be brave, but when things get hard ...

(Drop the balloon so it falls to the floor.)

“We fall back down. We don’t have enough courage on our own. But with the Holy Spirit...

(Remove the tape from one of the helium balloons so it rises.)

...everything changes. The Holy Spirit gave Peter boldness.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:14 NIV.)

Then Peter stood up with the 11 apostles. In a loud voice he spoke to the crowd. “My fellow Jews,” he said, “let me explain this to you. All of you who live in Jerusalem, listen carefully to what I say.”

“Peter didn’t hide. He didn’t whisper. He loud and proud to thousands of people. That boldness came from the Holy Spirit. Peter continued preaching the truth to all the people who were listening.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT CHANGES US FROM THE INSIDE OUT**

“After Peter spoke, the people believed. They asked what to do.

(Open the Bible and read Acts 2:38 NIV.)

Peter replied, “All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

“Peter told them the Holy Spirit, God Himself, would come to live in them and help them every day.

(Hold up one of the regular balloons.)

“This balloon reminds us of how our hearts can be on our own. We want to do what’s right, but sometimes we lose patience, we get frustrated, or we forget to show kindness.

(Drop the balloon so it falls.)

“It doesn’t stay lifted for very long when it’s only filled with our own strength. But with the Holy Spirit...

(Remove the tape from one of the helium balloons so it rises.)

“everything changes. The Holy Spirit lifts our hearts in the same way the helium in this balloon lifts it to the ceiling. The Holy Spirit helps us love when it’s hard, stay patient when things aren’t going our way, be gentle with others, and show kindness even when no one sees. The Holy Spirit is God, and He can help us live like God!

He helps us love, be patient and kind. The Bible calls this fruit. Just like a peach tree grows juicy, sweet fruit, the Holy Spirit grows fruit with these kinds of attributes in us:

(Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22-23 NIV.)

The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.”

When the Holy Spirit leads us, these fruits of Jesus’s spirit grow in us. One of them is joy. Not just happy feelings—but joy that lasts. The Holy Spirit fills us and lifts us with His joy.”

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** ““Today we saw something amazing. Jesus’ followers waited... and the Holy Spirit came. He gave them courage, strength, and joy.

Just like the balloon rises, the Holy Spirit lifts our hearts. He helps us love others and share the good news. “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. God’s strength is in us. God’s love is in us. We are not alone. God is with us—every step. And that brings real joy. Let’s take a look at our Bottom Line again.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line]** “The Holy Spirit gives you joy. Say that with me, everyone!”

**KIDS and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line]** “The Holy Spirit gives you joy.”

**SLIDE: God’s Big Story**

“Let’s look at God’s Big Story. This week we are at Pentecost. Jesus went back to heaven—but He didn’t leave His followers alone. God sent the Holy Spirit to live in them.

**SLIDE: Week 4 Timeline Image**

Jesus made a way for us to be close to God again. And now—God is even closer. He lives in His followers through the Holy Spirit. We are never alone.

“So, what’s our role? If you follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you. Walk with Him, talk to Him, ask for help, and listen for His guidance. The Holy Spirit can speak to you in various ways throughout your day. He may nudge you, bring words to your mind, make Bible verses jump off the page, or speak through worship song lyrics that speak to your heart. He’ll send truths from heaven to your heart throughout your day!”

The Holy Spirit gives us courage, helps us choose kindness, and reminds you of truth. He grows His fruit in you—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And when He fills you with this fruit, you can share that joy with others. You are never alone. The Holy Spirit is with you—and in you—every day.”

**At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group**

### **7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)**

**AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.** and **SLIDE: Theme**