

JUNE

CURRICULUM



1ST-4TH GRADE

GOD'S SPIRIT UNIFIES (PT. 2)

SERIES: NO FEAR

Join us throughout the month of June as we learn stories that show us examples of being a fearless follower of Christ. We will be going through the books of Luke and Acts.

REMEMBER VERSE

ISAIAH 41:10—So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:10	Welcome/Check-In
0:10—0:15	Transition to Large Group
0:15—0:30	Large Group (B100)
0:30—0:35	Transition to Small Group
0:35—1:05	Small Group (Lesson/Activity/Respond)
1:05—1:15	Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God Is Powerful

Ascension

WEEK 2: God's Spirit Unifies, Part 1

Philip

CURRENT WEEK: God's Spirit Unifies, Part 2

Peter and Cornelius

WEEK 4: God Answers Prayer

Peter Delivered from Prison

WEEK 5: God Speaks

Lydia and Philippi

WEEK 6: Remember & Celebrate

ZONK!

EQUIP

When Peter agreed to fellowship with Cornelius, it wasn't just a casual lunch. It was an earth-shattering step for Peter and for the early church—and a major theological paradigm shift. Something as simple as eating a meal with Gentiles was something devout Jews never did.

When God set apart Israel as His people in the Old Testament, He gave them several means to keep themselves separate, distinct, and holy from the nations around them. One of the primary ways involved dietary laws and purity practices. Over time, though, the Jewish teachers went beyond what God had intended and forbade even keeping company with Gentiles.

When Messiah came and instituted the new covenant by sending the Holy Spirit, the makeup of the people of God changed. The family of God was no longer a distinct people called out from among the nations. It was now comprised of people called out from many nations. The people of God were no longer a nation, a monarchy, ruled by God. They were now many peoples from many different nations comprising this new organism called the church, the bride of Christ.

What this new organism needed more than anything was an understanding of the unity they possessed—but didn't realize they possessed. This is what God accomplished at Pentecost. He unified His people, Jew and Gentile, into one new body. This was the lesson God was teaching Peter and the church through Cornelius.

Sin always divides and separates. It separates us from God. It separates us from one another. The main point of salvation—and of all history—is that God is joining the previously divided. This is one of the main works of the Holy Spirit in the world. He unifies.

ENCOURAGE

Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Is there someone in your life with whom you've been feeling a lack of unity? Take some time to talk with God about that relationship. Consider going for a walk or finding a place in nature where you can hear His voice. Then pour out your heart to Him about that person. Invite Him to bring healing, restoration, and unity. Listen for what He says. Bring a journal to record your thoughts and prayers or a Bible so you can meditate on the way God unified His people in Acts 10–11. Also pray for your kids, who will have the chance to ask God to unify their relationships as well. The God who brought the Jews and the Gentiles together can bring unity to any relationship—even in the ones that seem impossible.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What is one unique thing about yourself that others may not know?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

As believers, we're unified together through God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help us love all people, even when it's hard.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a We are Unified by the Spirit Template. Have them color the picture of the world. Then, give each child about 10 stickers and one piece of yarn. Have them stick down the yarn all over the globe, using the stickers to mark different places in the world. The yarn represents the Spirit that unifies believers all across the Earth.

SUPPLIES:

- We are Unified by the Spirit Template
- Coloring Supplies
- Stickers
- Yarn

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

The Jews and the Gentiles were so different from each other, but God's Spirit unified them. God's Spirit came so that all different people from different backgrounds could be unified!

- What does unify mean?
- What is a Gentile? *Colossians 3:11*
- What did God tell Peter about eating different kinds of animals? *Acts 10:10-15*
- How did the Jews respond to Peter's message about including the Gentiles? *Acts 11:18*
- How does God view different people from different cultures? *John 3:16; Acts 10:34-35*
- How did hearing this change Peter's perspective? *Acts 10:28*
- Why did the Jews think the Gentiles shouldn't be included in God's faith community? *Acts 10:28; Ezra 6:21*
- Why is it important for all people to know they can be included in God's faith community? *Acts 11:18; John 3:16*

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10 – I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

BLESSING: May you experience the unity God's Spirit brings. May you share God's love with those who are different from you and invite others to be a part of God's faith community.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

STORYTELLING

Remember how we've talked about how God's Spirit unifies—how He brings people together? Even though Christians can be in all parts of the world and doing different things, we're all connected through God's Spirit. Jesus' followers knew that God's Spirit unifies. God's Spirit brings people together in amazing ways. Let's take a minute to thank God for giving us His Spirit and making us a part of His family. *Lead the children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.*

The good news about Jesus started to spread all over! The disciples moved from Jerusalem and began to travel to other places to share the message that Jesus died and rose again to save people from their sins. God wanted everyone to hear this good news! The Bible sometimes talks about Jews and Gentiles. Do you know what the difference is between the two? *Invite responses.* Great thoughts! The Jews were God's chosen people—they were all the people who came from Abraham's descendants. Jesus was a Jew and so were His first followers. The Gentiles were all the people who weren't Jewish. If you're not Jewish, you're a Gentile. The Jewish people had special laws from God and ways that they were to live for Him and show others what He was like. Because of this, the Jews were often separate from the Gentiles who didn't worship the one true God. They lived in separate areas and lived their lives differently.

Invite kids to look to Acts 10 so they can follow along. There were some Gentiles who followed the one true God. One of these Gentiles was a Roman soldier named Cornelius. *Read Acts 10:2.* Cornelius loved God, and God had a very special plan for him! An angel of God appeared to Cornelius and told him to send for Peter, one of Jesus' disciples. Cornelius sent some of his servants to find Peter in a town called Joppa. Now remember that Cornelius was a Gentile and Peter was a Jew. Jews and Gentiles stayed separate. But God was doing something new. His Spirit unifies us and brings people together! The next day Peter was in Joppa, and he went to pray. While he was praying, God showed him an amazing vision. In the vision, Peter saw all kinds of animals. Many of these animals were ones that God's Law said the Jewish people shouldn't eat. The animals the Jewish people didn't eat were called "unclean." But in this vision, Peter saw all the animals, and he heard God's voice tell him to kill the animals and eat them! *Read Acts 10:14-16.* Before, there had been a barrier between the

RESOURCES PROVIDED

- None

unclean and clean animals, just like there was between the Jews and the Gentiles. But God was doing something different. His Spirit unifies us, and through Jesus, we can all be a part of one family!

While Peter was still thinking about this amazing vision, Cornelius' servants arrived! They told him that Cornelius wanted him to come to his house. Peter went—but remember, Peter was a Jew and Cornelius was a Gentile. Peter wouldn't normally have gone into his house. *Read Acts 10:28-29.* God was showing Peter that His Spirit unifies us! Jews and Gentiles had always been separate.

Then Cornelius told Peter that an angel had appeared to him in a vision. Peter recognized that God had spoken to Cornelius, a Gentile! *Read Acts 10:34-35.* Because God showed Peter the vision where He declared that the unclean animals were clean, Peter realized that God was also unifying the Jews and the Gentiles. God was now inviting the Gentiles to be a part of His special people. Because of Jesus, everyone is invited to be united through God's Spirit! Peter then began to share the truth about Jesus with Cornelius and everyone who was with him. Peter told them that Jesus came to die for their sins and restore their relationship with God. Cornelius and everyone with him believed in Jesus! The Holy Spirit came on them, and they became a part of God's family. God's Spirit unifies us!

Peter went back and told the Jewish believers in Jerusalem that God had invited the Gentiles to be a part of His family too. They were amazed at how God's Spirit unifies and makes us all one. *Read Acts 11:18.* What an amazing thing! Because of Jesus, we're all invited to have a relationship with God. The things that used to separate people no longer do. Because God's Spirit unifies, we're all brothers and sisters in Him! *Share about a time you experienced unity with another believer.*