

Lesson 19: God is Spirit!

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Define Spirit and determine that God is Spirit by looking at bible verses
- 2) Do activities to help reinforce the idea that even though God is invisible, He still exists
- 3) Create a "God is Spirit" banner to help remember all the ways God is Spirit.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons/Crayons
- Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- God is Spirit Bible Verses Look Up and Color Page – one per child
- Cupcakes (made fresh that morning so smell fills room) can use ready mix package
- Icing to decorate cupcakes – enough cupcakes and icing for each child
- Decorations such as chocolate chips, sprinkles, candies enough for each child
- Damp Paper towels – one per child to clean up hands and work area when done
- Small paper plates – one per child to place cupcake on
- Plastic knives and spoons – one per child, to spread icing and to scoop decorations
- See- Through Transparency Paper from your local office supply store - one per child for Banner activity. Either 8 x 11 sheet or bigger if you have been using bigger paper for your banner activities and can find some.
- Markers
- Chalkboard or Easel to write down ideas for all to see

Optional

-Shadow Game

- Light Colored Blanket or Big Towel (White or Cream)
- Flashlight
- Items from home that children could guess shape of through blanket – ex: Spoon, Hammer, Ball, Plate, Bible, etc.

Dictionary: to define words that are discussed in commandments, bible verses etc.

Snack:

- Today children will be eating cupcakes they decorate (see above) one per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Have children put a sticker beside their name for this week on their attendance chart. Once children are seated say;

What have we learned about God so far? (God is love, worthy of praise, faithful, fair and just, our provider, merciful, holy, righteous, and in control) **Today we are going to learn that God is also Spirit.**

WHAT IS SPIRIT?

Can anyone tell me what SPIRIT is? Raise your hand if you know. (Encourage children to raise hands and tell you what they think it is. Examples may be – invisible, like a ghost, what makes up a person on the inside, God, etc.)

When talking about God, the word Spirit means: That God is not physical; He has no physical attributes or is in no way material. He completely exists, but there is no way to physically see him. He is not a ghost because there are no ghosts. But He is invisible and in no way physical. He is not limited to physical problems like we are. Example – He can go anywhere, things like gravity and time don't affect Him like they do us.

When the Bible says in Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

God did not mean what He and Jesus looked like. "In their image" means their qualities or characteristics. That is why we have been studying about God's characteristics that he is kind, loving, merciful, patient, etc. That is how we are made to be like – these characteristics that can't be seen but can be followed.

Any questions? Allow students to raise hands and ask questions. If any questions are too difficult you can say that you will think about it and get back to them next week. Then talk to someone who can help you answer the question and make sure you get back to that child next week!

2) Cupcake Smell to help remember that God is Spirit

5 minutes

Prepare cupcakes or cookies made from a ready mix from store so they are quick and easy to make either fresh from home that morning or if available from the stove where you are. Seal them quick so they are fresh and still moist and when you take off the lid just as kids arrive, the smell still can fill the air. Make sure you don't add any decorations or icing. The children will do that later!

Have cupcakes hidden but allow the lid to be opened so that the children can smell the cupcakes as they settle in. Say, **"Do you notice a nice smell in the room?"** (Hopefully kids will notice smell of something like chocolate cake.) **"We can smell cupcakes. Do you see any cupcakes from where you are sitting right now?"** Kids may try to look under table or look around but goal is to hide them in a safe place close by that they can smell but not see.

Do you think there are cupcakes in the room? Goal is that kids answer "Yes." **Usually when we smell something that means we know something good tasting is nearby. If mom makes apple pie and brings it from the oven, within a minute or two even though you are in your bedroom or living room, you can smell the apple pie even though you can't see it because it is in the kitchen.**

(Bring out the cupcakes) **We can know that God exists even though we can't physically see him. God is Spirit. He cannot be physically seen, but just like the smell of cupcakes, we know that just because we can't see something doesn't mean that it doesn't exist.**

What are ways we have learned that we know God exists even though we can't see Him?

Have kids raise hands to answer. Some examples could be:

Maybe they say the Bible is here and the only way that it would be here is because God had it made even though we can't see God.

God made the world, even though we can't see Him we can see what He made.

God made people, even though we can't see Him we can see what He made.

He answers our prayers and we talk to Him even though we don't see Him.

He sent Jesus His Son to earth so we could learn more about God and what we are to do to make God happy.

There is another thing we feel a lot but have never seen. What is something we feel outside some days but don't see? Any guesses? The wind!

We know the wind is there because it blows our hats off, pushes leaves around, and can even knock over signs sometimes but, no one has ever physically seen the wind! We are going to put the cupcakes away for now, but don't worry we will do more with them: later...! But now we are going to look at a few verses from the Bible that explain more that God is Spirit. I am going to hand out a sheet to each of you along with crayons and bibles if you didn't bring yours. Then we will look up each verse on the page and when we are done, we will color the leaves on the page that remind us that just like the wind, even though we can't see something or someone doesn't mean it isn't there, just like God - He is alive and everywhere, even though we can't physically see Him!

3) God is Spirit Bible Verse Look up and Color Page

15 minutes

Before class, print the Bible Verse Color Page of the leaves. Hand out one to each child along with pencil crayons or crayons and bibles.

Have children lookup each verse, ask for volunteers to read each verse out loud. Discuss what each verse means about God being Spirit.

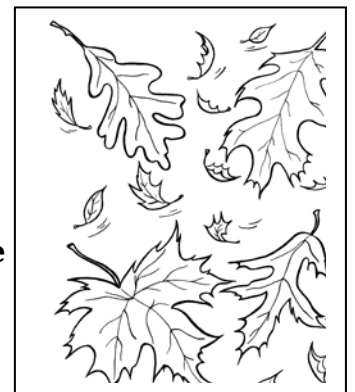
Colossians 1:15

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Who is the Son? Jesus

Who is He the image of? God who is invisible

So Jesus was the physical representation of God on earth. We can't see God but we know Jesus came to earth and was born a human and was the image of God on earth for us to see and learn from.



1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Who is the King mentioned here? God

What else is mentioned about God? He is eternal - lives forever; He is immortal - He will never die; and He is invisible - unseen but real.

What are we to do to the King? Give honor and glory forever and always.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Remember earlier we talked about the fact that we and Jesus were made in God's image. What kind of image does this verse mention that God has? Invisible qualities such as power and His divine nature or characteristics. We don't have His power, but we can imitate His qualities such as being loving, kind, helpful, and patient, etc.

In what way does this verse say that we know God exists even though we can't see Him? His divine characteristics, nature and qualities have been clearly see and understood since the creation. Everyone can clearly see the Bible says that God exists even though we can't physically see Him because we see his wonderful nature and characteristics in the way He guides us, blesses us, and helps us.

John 4:24

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

What does this verse say about God? He is Spirit.

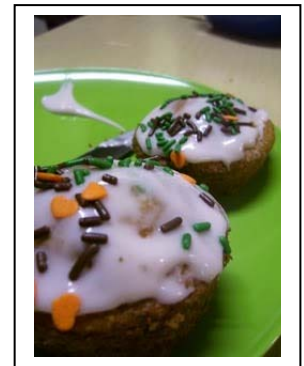
Now that we have looked at these verses, are there any questions?

Write your name on your page and then color the leaves for a few minutes before we move on to the next activity.

4) Cupcake Decorating (and eating!)

5- 15 minutes

Hand out cupcakes, plastic knives and a paper plate, one to each child and place icing and decorations in the middle of the table. Also make sure that each child gets a damp paper towel to clean hands as they go.



Just like we knew there were cupcakes even though we couldn't see them, we know God is alive and here even though we can't see Him.

I want each of you to take your cupcake and decorate it. You can spread icing on your cupcake and then use various decorations that are in the middle of the table to make your cupcake look nice. Remember that we need to share everything so don't use more than is fair. We have to make sure everyone gets some of each decoration and icing if they want. (Allow kids to start decorating, help them if needed and encourage them to share the decorations, if it is a concern, you can decide instead of putting decorations in the middle, sprinkle some of each on each child's plate along with their cupcake so that everyone has a certain amount of every decoration.)

As kids decorate, discuss with them: Just like we get to each a nice fresh cupcake, we also get blessings from God. We didn't see the cupcake but now get to enjoy it. We can't see God, but get to enjoy the blessings He gives us.

What are some blessing you have received from God that show that He exists?

Allow kids to answer while they decorate. Encourage if necessary with the following prompts if no one can start listing things.

What about families, friends, pets, car, games, church people, your home, clothes, food, health, coming to church. What ideas can you come up with that are under these categories?

Once you are done your cupcake, you may eat it! If you want to show us what you did as decoration first, raise your hand or ask me, and I will get everyone's attention so you can show them your cupcake decoration before you begin to eat it. Ok?

Remind students to clean up after themselves and help you put things away before moving on to the next activity. That includes washing their hands with their damp paper towel.

If you do the optional snack activity each week, provide the students with juice or water now to have on hand while they eat their cupcakes, or even if you don't normally, make sure there is water on hand for those who may need a drink after eating.

5) God is Righteous Banner Craft

15-20 minutes

Hand out one piece of transparency paper to each child for their banner. Tell kids to write their name on the paper. Then hand out markers for each child. You must use markers (like Sharpie or regular markers) so that they will show up on the transparency paper. You can try crayons but I'm not sure they will work 😊

"Each week that we study a characteristic about God we will make a banner. This will help us remember that God is many things and all of them amazing! This week we will add to our banner and make a God is Spirit page! I have transparency paper which is see-through and markers. Why would you think I would give you See-through paper today? Because we have been talking about the invisible nature of God.

It is very important that before we get started you are careful not to put your hands or elbows, etc. on your paper as the markers will not dry right away and will need time, so if your hand touches the paper, you will smear what you have drawn. Ok?

Today we have been talking about the fact that God is invisible but He does exist and has many qualities that we can know about even though we don't physically see Him.

On your banner paper, I want you to write GOD IS SPIRIT somewhere on the page and then list or draw some features about God that we know about even though we can't see Him. What are some things we can draw or write about? Have kids raise hands and list ideas such as picture to show creation, words such as caring, loving, patient, kind, merciful, fair and just, Jesus His Son, a picture of the bible, leaves, cupcakes, and/or church. Anything appropriate that shows that even though God is Invisible and Spirit we can still know He exists!

You can go through your activity sheets for words or ideas of things that remind you of how God is Spirit. You can also draw pictures of things that remind you. Remember to fill up the whole banner with things and ways that show God is Spirit! As well include the title "God is Spirit!" on your page. (Write this title somewhere where students can see it)

Go ahead and start and if you need help or have any questions feel free to ask!

Make sure students have access to their bibles and activity pages for ideas and if necessary help them with ideas or other things. Ensure kids clean up before leaving. If banners are dry kids can take them home or you can collect them and then hand them out to each child at the end with all banners the child will make stapled together to make one huge rolled up banner!

6) Optional: Shadow Game

5-10 minutes

Have students sit on one side of the room while you set up a towel or blanket. (Maybe ask assistant or a student to help hold a side or place two chairs back to back a foot or so apart and lay the towel/blanket over the chairs so that your hands are free.)

Place one item at a time behind the sheet and ask the students what it is? Of course they will say they don't know, then turn on the flashlight and expose the silhouette of the item. Ask them again, if they can guess what it is even though technically they still can't see the object they only see the "image" of the object.

Remind them that just like these items, we can't see God but we know He is there, He is Spirit.



7) Close in prayer

Thank you God for showing yourself to us in your characteristics, qualities, and in Your Son Jesus. Thank you for the Bible that shows us how we can follow and please you. Thank you for your Son you came to earth and who has all of your qualities and characteristics so we can see how we can be like you and be like Jesus too.

Thank you for blessing us and giving us our families, friends, pets, animals, homes, clothes, health, and food. Thank you for letting us know you are here even though we can't see you and thank you that we can come to you in prayer, anytime day or night and know you are right there to listen! Thank you for everything and it is in Jesus name that we pray this, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!