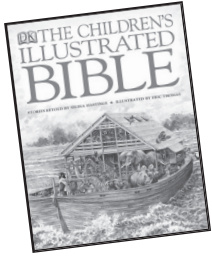


Second Sunday in Lent



The Children's Illustrated Bible
page 245

A leader, Nicodemus, came to Jesus one night, asking questions about Jesus' teachings. Jesus said, "No one can enter God's kingdom without being born of water and Spirit. It is like the wind that blows everywhere—you can hear it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. That is how it is when you are born of the Spirit."

—John 3:1–8 adapted

□ Born of the Spirit

Share the story of Jesus talking with Nicodemus from John 3: 1-17. Although this story isn't in *The Children's Illustrated Bible*, show the Pharisee in the temple on page 245. This is how Nicodemus may have looked and dressed. The scripture text is difficult for kids to understand, just as Nicodemus had trouble understanding what Jesus meant by being "born in the Spirit." Use Jesus' explanation of invisible wind to explain God's love and power. Wind is invisible but you can see the effects of wind: paper and hair blowing, water rippling. Before class, place things on table tops and around the room that will blow. Tie colorful streamers to a fan. Turn on the fan.

1. What is causing things to blow? (the fan)
2. Can anyone see the air or wind caused by the fan? (No) The same is true for God's Spirit. But the actions of God's Spirit can be seen by others.
3. What do people do when they have God's Spirit in them? (Write a list of kids' ideas on chalkboard or newsprint.)
4. Have you seen anyone "showing" God's Spirit?
5. What things do *you* do to share God's Spirit?

Have kids role-play some ways they can show others God's Spirit to others.

Now place all materials back on the tables and invite kids to run around the room, "letting their spirits blow," trying to blow things off the tables, as the fan did.

□ Breathing

Invite kids to get comfortable. Take them through a breathing exercise, focusing on breathing in (watching their tummy rise as they breathe in). Breathe out slowly, blowing air out their lips. Breathe in and out again several times. Encourage them to do this at least once a day, whenever they want to stop and be with the Spirit and with God. Invite kids to repeat the verses below "echo-style," after you:

My help comes from the Lord
... who made heaven and earth.

God keeps me safe.

The Lord is my keeper.

The Lord will keep me safe.
Amen!

□ Spirit Pinwheels

Make pinwheels to catch the effects of wind. Kids may decorate the "petals" or write on them what they will do to share God's Spirit.

1. Lay two pieces of square paper on top of each other.
2. Fold opposite corners together, making a triangle. Fold again, making a smaller triangle.
3. Open flat, and decorate one side of each sheet of paper.
4. Put the undecorated sides of the paper together.
5. Make four cuts along the fold lines, about halfway to the center.
6. Punch four holes in the pinwheel, one at each corner.
7. Gather the four points (with a hole) to the center, without creasing the paper.
8. Stick a push-pin through the four punched holes and through the center of the pinwheel to attach the pinwheel to the side of a pencil eraser.





Jesus said, "The Spirit is like the wind that blows everywhere—you can hear it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. That is how it is when you are born of the Spirit."

—John 3:1–8 adapted

You and the Spirit

Fill in the words Jesus told Nicodemus:

No o ____ can enter God's
k _____ without being
born of w _____ and the
S _____. It is like the
w _____ that blows everywhere.
You can h _____ it, but you do not
know w _____ it comes from or
where it g _____. That is how it is
when you are b _____ of the
S _____.

Have you felt the Spirit?

yes

no

Tell about it.

Draw a picture of it.