



issue 8

pentecost 1 to 14

26 may 2013 to 25 august 2013

spill the beans

worship and learning resources for all ages



A lectionary-based
resource with a Scottish
flavour for Sunday
Schools, Junior Churches
and Worship Leaders

spillbeans.org.uk
© 2013 Spill the Beans Resource Team

ethos

There is a particular ethos behind this material: it's all about **story**. When we spill the beans about anything, we tell the story of what happened and we share the story of what that means for us.

We believe **story is the lifeblood of faith**. In story we can tell the truth and speak with honesty about things for which there are not yet words. Story contains mystery and is the poetry that forms faith. Stories grow as we grow and can reveal new truths at different times in our lives.

So we believe **giving stories** to people is one of the most important things we can do in sharing our faith. Children and adults hold stories in their being and keep coming back to them throughout life. Our culture is stored in story. The same is true for our faith.

We believe in telling story. This material is simply the **retelling of our faith stories**. It always starts with the story each week.

Then each activity is simply a way to engage the story and enable children and adults to imbed the story, capturing different aspects of it, highlighting different images that help us hold the story in our beings.

But we believe these faith stories ought to be able to **mingle with our own life stories**, our day-to-day experiences. So as activities are engaged, it is important to ask people to retell the faith story along with their own story of that week. It's the tangle of life stories with faith stories that perhaps make both real.

We believe **one story is the lens through which we hear other stories**. Faith narratives create a web: if we think about water, then what other stories involving water do we find in the Bible; if we are reflecting on forgiveness, what other stories of forgiveness can we hear. During activities the question ought to be asked: does this story remind you of other stories

in the Bible? Stories don't exist on their own but in a diverse web, each feeding the other.

We believe that **as we grow we reflect in different ways** on the faith stories we hold. Our idea is to invest these stories in people, offering each as a gift of faith. The story may be understood in a literal way during younger years, then with questions about their historical accuracy as people move into teenage years and then move into a third stage where we hear the story again for the first time, but this time holding the meaning, the deep down truth in the story that helps it shape our living and how we understand and engage with the world in justice and in grace. Story holds the faith more honestly and in a much deeper way than any creed and doctrine.

Join us and spill the beans.

spill the beans team

The team producing this issue has included:

Ruth Burgess
Jan Cross
Liz Crumlish
Stewart Cutler
Jonathan Fleming
Sally Foster-Fulton
Roddy Hamilton
Karen Harbison
Peter Johnston

Tina Kemp
Caryl Kyle
Jo Love
John Murning
Carolyn Smyth
Barbara Ann Sweetin

For more information and extra materials, join us on the Spill the Beans blog:
<http://spillbeans.org.uk>

Key to Abbreviations

In the worship ideas section the following abbreviations are used:

CG	Common Ground
CH4	Church Hymnary, 4th Edition
CH3	Church Hymnary, 3rd Edition
JP	Junior Praise
MP	Mission Praise
SGP	Songs of God's People
WGRG	Wild Goose Resource Group



using spill the beans contents

Welcome to the eighth issue of the ongoing experiment called 'Spill the Beans'. It was always meant to be a wee local idea but it has grown somewhat as a group of people from the Church of Scotland and other denominations have got together to explore Bible passages and write worship and learning resources for their own congregations discovering that this was good fun, triggering imagination and creativity within their congregations.

There is quite a collection of things to use each week. Each piece is written with specific congregations in mind rather than some average android congregation. We even know the names of people who were thought about when the material was put together, how it might sound when it was read or how it might work in a particular congregation. Thus there may be the

need to be a little creative yourselves in adapting and evolving some of the ideas to suit your own place and culture and congregation. That is a good thing.

Of course, if you are creative and you'd like to share what you have done, then we have a place for that on our Blog (<http://spillbeans.org.uk>). There you'll find PowerPoint backgrounds for each week, a live discussion of the passages for that week and how we might be able to adapt and recreate what has been suggested.

But you are not expected to do it all every week. Each piece stands on its own and you just choose which ones you want to do, work best for you and are easier for you to use. Either way, let us know what you think, how you get on and what we can do to help out. Enjoy!

worship ideas

These are a few ideas that possibly expand upon the story offering words, phrases, poetry and ideas that could be used in some way in worship. They are not to be used exactly as they are but ought to be edited and expanded to suit the culture of your own faith community.

Each week we provide a selection of words, ideas and creative moments to take the theme and the passage a little further. We do not provide a ready made service or perfect prayers but ideas and pointers that hopefully scratch at your own creativity and provoke heaven's imagination within you.

age group ideas

Here are some helpful tips to guide you in your use of the material in age groups:

1. It presumes some introduction to the story will have taken place in worship together or will play a part in the service when children join it later.
2. Depending on the make-up of your own groups of children you will need to remain flexible in how you use the material.
3. Each idea has been given a guide age range to help your planning, but this is only a guide and your own circumstances may make certain crafts or activities more or less successful.
4. Before the sit-down activities if you have a group of young children or lots of boys, you may want to add a run-around type game before the gathering time to expend some energy.

5. Use the gathering time exercise to get into the story. Begin with a circle where the whole Sunday School is together and do this activity together (gathering time).
6. Then retell the story together (it should have been told already in worship if you begin together there).
7. Follow that by choosing as many or as few activities your space and time allow. You could offer a number of activities each at different stations all at the same time for all ages to self-select with a teacher staffing each one, or have traditional classes.
8. During activities, ask children to retell the story to you and ask about their week, what was happy and what was sad and if this week's story reminds them of other biblical and personal stories.

	Page
Through the Season Notes	4
Sunday 26 May 2013	6
The Story of Elijah	13
Sunday 2 June 2013	18
Sunday 9 June 2013	26
Sunday 16 June 2013	33
Sunday 23 June 2013	43
Sunday 30 June 2013	52
Sunday 7 July 2013	59
Sunday 14 July 2013	67
Sunday 21 July 2013	78
Sunday 28 July 2013	87
Sunday 4 August 2013	96
Sunday 11 August 2013	101
Sunday 18 August 2013	106
Sunday 25 August 2013	114
Resource Sheets	121

9. The intention is not to complete "the task" brilliantly, but rather to provide opportunities to begin conversations, build relationships, retell the story of the day, and talk about what it might have felt like then and what it means for us today.
10. There are numerous websites that will provide handout type sheets that will have images, crosswords and wordsearches for the themes of these weeks. While helpful in a pinch, try not to rely on these!

through the season

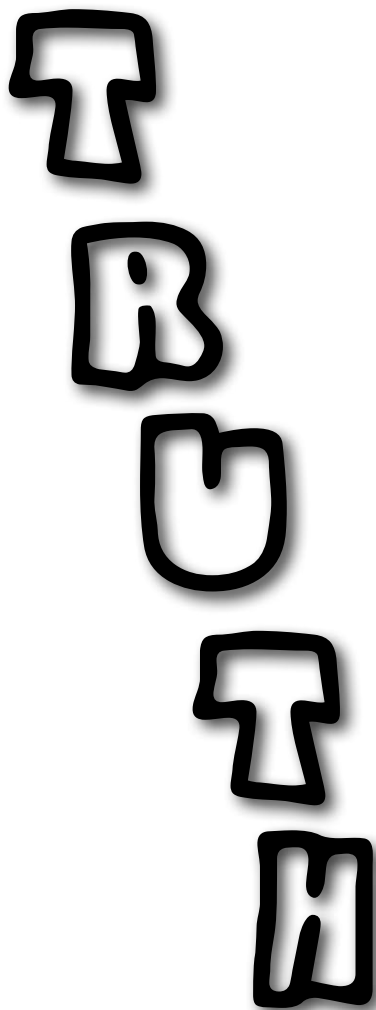
Introduction

In this section you will find some ideas for scene-setting activities and a weekly visual focus as you move through the season.

These ideas are provided for you to use and adapt depending on the size, shape and layout of your worship space and whether you have access to or expertise in using projected images and audiovisual elements.

These ideas provide possible ways of linking all the weeks together which can be a helpful reminder to people of the thread of the story and the key aspects being focused on during worship.

These ideas can be used independently or together, accumulating over the season, and can also be linked with other elements of the worship material. They can also be adapted to be used within age groups.



Pentecost 1-7 'Truth'

This issue is divided into two main sections. In the first part covering Pentecost 1-7 (which centres on the Old testament stories following Elijah).

The overarching theme is about truth and so each week a different letter of the word 'TRUTH' is coloured in or patterned in a way that reminds us of the story.

Create large letters on sheets of paper large enough to be clearly seen in your worship space. A1 or A2 would probably be best. Each sheet should have a separate letter: T R U T H.

You will also need to cut one A2 sheet into three long strips, stuck together, as if it underlines the word TRUTH.

Weekly Suggestions

Note these visual actions could be done at the start of worship as people arrive or at another suitable point during the service.

26 May Trinity (Pentecost 1)

Bible: John 16:12-15
Title: God's Honest Truth

For the first week you can make a point of seeking God's honest truth by hiding the letters (T-R-U-T-H) for the big banner around the church and asking people to look for them. They could be rolled up and tucked away in different places. Ask people to unscramble the words and make a word out of them, then stick the letters together and hang them up somewhere central and easily accessible to be used in future weeks.

2 June Pentecost 2

Story: 1 Kings 17:8-16, (17-24)
Title: Raising Truth

Ask people to come forward and dip a finger in olive oil, then to mark the first T in the banner with their initials.

9 June Pentecost 3

Story: 1 Kings 18:20-21, (22-29), 30-39
Title: Burning Truth

Using the letter R invite people to come forward and paint it red and orange like flames or stick flames cut from orange and yellow paper onto the letter.

16 June Pentecost 4

Story: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a
Title: Unspoken Truth

Use the letter U and represent silence by painting it with swirls of blue and light grey, or even just leave it blank.

23 June Pentecost 5

Story: 1 Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21
Title: Twisting Truth

Use the second T and invite people to stick vine leaves all over it.

30 June Pentecost 6

Story: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Title: Persistent Truth

Using the letter H invite people to draw footprints across it, even using their own shoes to create the shape if possible.

7 July Pentecost 7

Story: 2 Kings 5:1-14
Title: A Servant's Truth

Use the strip of paper that underlines the word TRUTH and paint waves through it representing water.

A dramatic end to this sequence would be to invite people on week seven to come forward and tear a piece of the truth and take it home with them, a piece that particularly speaks to them in colour or a reminder of the story. We are all part of the truth and the truth is found in these everyday things: food, fire, silence, creation, faith, water. Invite people to use the piece they have torn off as a reminder to seek the truth in all places.

Pentecost 8-14 'Going Beyond'

Pentecost 8-14 offer a ritual that links them together. It is very simple and, depending on the space you have available could be done in a couple of ways.

Each week a chair is placed in the worship space. It could be the same chair each week brought forward or a new chair could be added each week. A roll or loaf of bread is also needed. Someone from the congregation breaks this bread standing behind the chair and then lays the bread on the chair symbolising someone in the community.



Each week through this season we learn about building community, which often requires us to go beyond our usual expectations, we will also see what can go wrong in building that community. Our symbol of community is bread and wine and while this ritual is not communion it points towards it and is symbolic of it.

Weekly Suggestions

14 July Pentecost 8

Story: Luke 10:25-37
Title: Beyond The Rules
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

Who is my neighbour?
Who shall we break this bread with?

Pause

Let us shape our community and welcome everyone as our neighbour.

21 July Pentecost 9

Story: Luke 10:38-42
Title: Beyond The Chores
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

Who are the workers?
And who are the listeners?

Pause

Let us shape our community and welcome here all who are serving and attending each other.

28 July Pentecost 10

Story: Luke 11:1-13
Title: Beyond Asking
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

To whom shall we open the door and give bread?

Pause

Let us shape our community and welcome those who knock and serve their needs.

4 Aug Pentecost 11

Story: Luke 12:13-21
Title: Beyond The Barns
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

What shall we store up when the time comes?

Pause

Let us shape our community not through what we accumulate but with how we serve each other.

11 Aug Pentecost 12

Story: Luke 12:32-40
Title: Beyond Riches
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

Where shall we seek our treasure?
Where shall we find our heart?

Pause

Let us shape our community ever ready to serve, for in service we find our treasure.

18 Aug Pentecost 13

Story: Luke 12:49-56
Title: Beyond Question
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

What shall we do with division?
What shall we do with the hard truths of the gospel?

Pause

Let us shape our community in living what is true and against what the world wants.

25 Aug Pentecost 14

Story: Luke 13:10-17
Title: Beyond The Sabbath
Liturgy: Break the bread saying...

Whom shall we include?
To whom shall we offer the healing of inclusion?

Pause

Let us shape our community through the offering of love to all who seek it out.





trinity (pentecost 1)

god's honest truth

sunday 26 may 2013

john 16:12-15

bible notes

The Spirit of Truth

There is nothing like making you feel inadequate: 'I have much more to tell you but you just wouldn't be able to bear it.'

Perhaps that is fair enough because there will come a time when the spirit will accompany us through truth. The word used here to describe the spirit literally means 'called alongside'. It is someone who is the companion of the seeker. In companionship, in communion, we are able to bear all things. This is not something to be done on your own but with the Spirit. It is a very community based faith that truth comes to be known when you are in relationship. It is not an individualised activity.

When Jesus mentions the Spirit in this passage, which is part of a long address to the church, it is not so much a teaching moment but a pastoral moment saying that in times of difficulty the Spirit is there to accompany you through. The Spirit is the accompanier.

It is also interesting that there isn't a definite article in front of 'truth'. It is not 'the truth' but simply Truth. Truth is something that is rather than something that is defined. Truth is a way of being, a way of understanding, a way of engaging with the world and with the powers that be and with faith. It is not a lens through which to see these things, though that might be part of it. It is, however, more than that. It is a way of existing in the

world and a way of responding in faith.

Whenever Jesus refers to the Spirit it is as 'the Spirit of Truth'. It is essentially who the Spirit is. The Spirit isn't of 'the truth' as if the Spirit has signed up to some set of doctrines we call 'The Truth'. The Spirit is Truth. If you want to see truth, look at the Spirit who is the life, the light, the way...

This is Trinity Sunday and the passage is perhaps chosen simply because it mentions all three people of the Trinity, but not much else. Given the Trinity is not a biblical concept, worship leaders may have to push the passage to move it towards 'Trinity'. Would John have used the



Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31

Psalms 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

idea of Trinity if it was around in his day? Who knows!

When the whole trinitarian debate was raging, rage was the right word. One side said Jesus, Spirit and God were all equal. That's the Nicene side of the argument. The other side was that Jesus was in some way subordinate to God. Emperor Theodosius cut the whole debate short by decreeing the Nicene school had the argument and suppressed the subordinationists. This sits somewhat awkwardly with the whole idea of the Spirit of Truth. Can you oppress ideas? Is that the way the church ought to work (recognising it has worked this way for generations) to suppress some theology rather than debate it, discern it and live with it?

Certainly The Spirit teaches us that we live in communion and in relationship with each other. The 'getting-alongside' one tells us that in communion the truth becomes known and we can bear its value and sense of life it brings.

Given the Church of Scotland has just finished its annual General Assembly with significant debates about theology and belief, may it be that the church has learned not to suppress debate, but indeed create it so that it might find the Spirit called alongside us all in truth, in life, in Trinity.

the story

In The Desert

A disciple of then or now reflects on what Jesus has and hasn't said.

We can't take it? We can't handle it? You want to say more but it'll be more than we can stomach? Come on, Jesus, when have you let that stop you before?

You say the world will hate us. We see how the world hates you. You call a spade a spade. You call injustice injustice. You call hypocrisy hypocrisy. You call double standards double standards. People hate your fearless honesty. They hate the way you expose sham and manipulation. They hate how you beat them at their own games. They hate you for refusing to compromise your integrity. If we follow you, they will hate us too. We can take it... can't we?

You say we can do nothing apart from you, because no branch can bear fruit by itself. No problem! It's not like we ever try to do things by our own strength. We look to you for everything... don't we?

You say we do not belong to the world. We see your counter-cultural living, against the lure of consumerism, competition, individualism, imperialism. We do not belong in this tide of 'normality' and if we follow you we must swim against it. We can handle that... can't we?

You ask us to love each other. To sit down and share the table with the people who drive us nuts. To honour and respect whoever rubs us up the wrong way. To kneel and wash each other's feet. We hear you on that one... don't we?

You still have more to say to us? Haven't you said enough? Can we take any more?

When we're ready, Jesus, help us to take it, and in the right spirit; a spirit of truth.

Retelling for young people

What next?

You will need: a notebook with a few stories / parables in it, with most of the pages blank, and in the page before the blank pages begin the words "I still have many things to tell you, but you are not ready for them yet..." Then in large letters vertically down the left side of the remainder of the page write TRUTH.

Speak about the stories that Jesus told everyone to help them understand God and what it meant to follow God's way. Pull out the notebook and recount briefly a couple of the stories, for example the story of the Good Samaritan or the story of the Two Sons.

Then tell the children that while Jesus gave us lots of ideas and stories to help us understand what God's way is, when he got near to the end of his life he told his friends that time was running short. Turn to last page before the blank pages begin and read to them what Jesus said.

- How would you feel if you had heard Jesus say this to you?

- What would you say to one of your teachers who said she was not going to teach you any more?

But Jesus did not leave it there. He told his friends that when he was gone his Spirit would remain to help guide them and know what was truth.

You could explore a possible acronym and fill in the words in the book, talking about how these words apply to us as we learn together about Jesus and God's truth.

T	Together
R	Remember
U	Understand
T	Trust
H	Hope

If you wish, you could explore how it is up to us to continue to fill in this notebook with the stories of how we live in God's way.

worship ideas

Through the Season

Pages 4 and 5 contain ideas that can be used to help set the scene throughout this season introducing symbolism for the theme being explored this week and encouraging a sense that each week is thematically tied together.

Gathering Activity

You will need: a copy of "I Believe" by Robson & Jerome to play.

Let everyone listen to a recording of "I Believe" by Robson & Jerome and then talk to those around them about whether that is their understanding of faith, sharing where they are in the journey of discovery.

What is it that convicts them that there is a loving God involved with humanity?

Call to Worship

Inspired by Psalm 8.

Leader: O Lord, our King,

All: how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Leader: You have set your glory

All: high above the heavens.

Leader: Out of the mouths of babes and infants

All: come songs of praise drowning the voices that defy your name.

Leader: Entrusted with the honour of stewarding your creation,

All: we serve and praise you. All glory be yours!

worship ideas

Prayer of Praise and Adoration

Parent God,
conceiving and creating us,
breathing life and love into us,
nurturing and cherishing us,
we praise you:
for your endless, effortless energy
in the world around us;
for your presence and persistence
in our ordinary, insignificant lives;
for your truth-giving, timeless word
that speaks amidst our idle blethering.

Son of God,
becoming and being us,
living and learning like us,
defying and dying for us,
we praise you:
for your flesh and blood
revealing of yourself among us;
for your faith and confidence
despite our fickleness;
for keeping your eye on the cross
while fear and self-interest diverts us.

Holy Spirit,
sweeping in and engulfing us,
speaking and encouraging us,
knowing and nudging us,
we praise you:
for bearing with us
in our slowness to understand;
for revealing truths to us
in bite-sized chunks of grace;
for fulfilling a promise
by staying with us always.

God, Christ, Spirit,
makers and shakers,
movers and wakers
of truth in our lives,
we praise you.
Amen.

Prayer for Ourselves

The truth is, loving God,
that your thoughts are beyond our insight,
that your ways are beyond our knowledge,
that your words
are beyond our understanding,
yet the truth is
we are not beyond your love.

Lord, you have tried to make it simple.
'Love one another', is all you ask.
Perhaps we are not ready
to accept what that means.
Perhaps our faith is too raw
and our hearts still too unformed.
Perhaps the time is not yet right
for us to fully comprehend.
Perhaps we stumble on the journey
while others stride ahead arms open
to the Spirit's summons.

God of patience,
hold us in your everlasting truth
until such time as we are ready
to fully bear the burden
and the beauty
of a life in you.
And may we recognise
the Spirit's call within us
and around us
and know that it is you
loving us into truth.
So be it.
Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

There is a place
where truth lies hidden,
waiting to sprout and blossom
like green shoots
bursting from the darkness.

There is a place
where truth stirs,
waiting to shake off the dirt
of shame and sorrow
to stand strong and tall.

There is a place
where truth lives,
waiting for the right moment
to declare itself
and bear its all.

We pray for those places, Lord,
of darkness and despair...
(name places/situations)
May the life you offer
grow and thrive
amidst the barren and unpromising.

We pray for those places, Lord,
of grief and sadness...
(name places/situations)
May the hope you offer
be free to dream
where visions lie scattered in the dust.

We pray for those places
of deceit and duplicity...
(name places/situations)
May the words you offer
be heard and held and heralded
as the only truth throughout the world.

And may this be the place, Lord,
where the Spirit moves
and speaks and acts
that we might be bearers
of your Good News.
So be it.
Amen.



Reflection

It's a funny old journey,
the journey of faith.
Does faith change or do we?
Those things that seemed so important
when we started out
have given way to other issues.
The deal breakers
become the room makers,
the passions we held
become mellowed
by the passage of time
as we learn and grow,
as our hearts swell with love.

And, as we begin to understand better
the God who lives beside us,
the God who will not be fettered
by any limits
that we place
on compassion.
The God who calls us
to ignore the limits too.
The God who promises that, one day
it will all become clear.
But, until then,
we should carry on loving
along the way.
It's a funny old journey.

Alongside the Trinity

Voice 1:

*While this is spoken,
arrange some flowers in a vase.*

I walk alongside the Trinity
with birdsong in my morning
and the sound of sunsets before my night,
the stretch of leaves in the springtime
and the crack of wood in winter,
the feel of rainfall
and the taste of sunlight,
this is my walk
alongside the Trinity
and the Trinity
walks alongside me.
Praise the creator.

Voice 2:

*While this is spoken,
walk alongside another person.*

I walk alongside the Trinity
with each companion on the road,
in the people we journey with:
those who rush by
without a word;
those who stop and linger
with their stories of life;
those who wait for a friend
to walk with them.
This is my walk
alongside the Trinity
and the Trinity
walks alongside me.
Praise the Saviour.

Voice 3:

*While this is spoken,
write or draw on a flipchart/easel.*

I walk alongside the Trinity
with every journey of the imagination:
in the songs that are sung
and the poetry left,
the art of the artist
and the artists art,
the encounter of wonder
in the gift of creativity.
This is my walk
alongside the Trinity
and the Trinity
walks alongside me.
Praise the Spirit.

Voice 1: God creator.

Voice 2: God saviour.

Voice 3: God the imagination.

Sending

When we don't understand
we go simply to love.
When we get confused
we go simply to love.
And in those brief moments
when we finally get it
we still go simply to love,
accompanied always by God
who is simply love.

age group ideas

gathering activities

Praise/Hymns

Come down, O Love divine	CH4 489
Come, Holy Ghost	CH4 586, MP 90
Father, I place into your hands	MP 133
Holy, holy, holy	CH4 111, MP 237
I do not know what lies ahead	MP 269
Is it spooky, is it weird	CH4 602
Jesus, these eyes have never seen	CH3 674
O threefold God of tender unity	CH4 114
Praise the Spirit in creation	CH4 588
Spirit of God, unseen as the wind	CH4 600
Spirit of the living God	CH4 619/620 MP 613
Take heart and praise our God	MP 623
Through the love of God our Saviour	CH4 562, MP 704
Thy/Your hand, O God has guided	CH3 424, CH4 511
Today I awake	CH4 211
Womb of life and source of being	CH4 118

Spirit and Truth

all age

You will need: prepare two large sheets of paper, one with word 'truth' written on it, one with word 'Spirit' written on it, covered with Post-it notes.

In advance, prepare two large sheets of paper, one with word 'truth' written on it, one with word 'Spirit' written on it. Use big bold letters, use three different colours to fit in with idea of 'three in one' for this Trinity Sunday. Place Post-it notes over words and ask the children to remove the Post-it notes one by one to reveal the words.

Use this as an introduction to the idea that we find out things about God bit by bit.

Spirit
Truth

Piece by Piece

age 3-5

You will need: a selection of age-appropriate jigsaw puzzles.

Let the children play with the jigsaw puzzles, putting them together and talk about how you need all the pieces but you have to make the picture up one piece at a time.

Steam, Water and Ice

age 3-5

You will need: water, kettle, ice cubes.



The age old favourite of showing the children three forms of a substance that are all made of the same thing. Let the children put their hands in water or spray each other lightly with a spray. The same goes for the ice, let them touch it and eat it and watch it melt back to water. For the steam have a kettle high up and watch the steam coming from the spout. You may be able to catch the steam and show the children the water droplets, a piece of glass or a mirror would work well for this.

Spirit Level

age 6-12

You will need: some spirit levels (note B&Q sell mini spirit levels at reasonable cost).

Ask the children if they know what a spirit level is and what it is used for. Give them various areas and objects that look flat to measure and see if they are straight or way off course and report their findings. Can they come up with any ideas on how to make the objects level?

Sometimes people say that an object is "true" when it is totally level. A spirit level helps you to determine this.



crafts

Spirit What? age 9-12

You will need: copies of the worksheet available on page 122, pens.

Give the children the worksheet for this week. This is filled with phrases using the word 'spirit'. Ask the children to write a T (truth) or F (false) beside the phrases as they read them depending on whether they are true phrases or not. Note that they are all true (real) phrases.

Do the correct phrases mean anything to them or the leaders? Can the children come up with any other phrases that use the word 'spirit'?

Mars Bar Krispies all age

You will need: three Mars bars, 3 ounces margarine, 3 ounces of Rice Krispies, pan, stove, fairy cake cases.

This recipe requires 3 ingredients to make it work and make it complete just like the Trinity.

Melt Mars Bars slowly and mix, add in margarine and mix again. Once combined add in Krispies and stir. Spoon into fairy cake cases and allow to set.

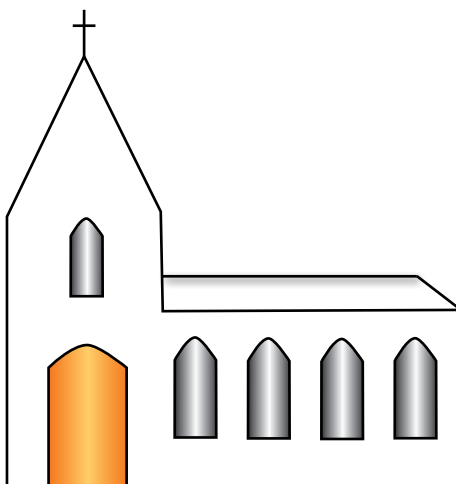
A much quicker version is to put Mars bars and Margarine into a bowl and microwave for a few minutes though you must keep checking and stirring so it does not burn, then add Krispies.

Piece by Piece Kirk age 3-5

You will need: crayons, pencils, scissors, glue sticks, scraps of material, coloured paper, funky foam and other collage materials, outline of 'church' shape on coloured card for each child.

Give each child a church shape and a selection of materials. Help the children to make pictures of the people who help them in church from the scrap/ collage materials.

Talk about how we find out about God bit by bit and about the people who help us to do that. It would be good if leaders were also able to talk about how children help them.



3D Church age 6-8

You will need: in addition to the items for the craft above, cardboard boxes.

Rather than just an image of a church, have the older children create a 3D church and decorate it. The same points can be made.

Faith Collage age 9-12

You will need: a couple of digital cameras, access to computer/laptop and printer, paper or photo paper, thick card, scissors, glue sticks.

Get the children to take photographs of things in and around the church which mean something to them, provoke a memory for them, or which symbolise something of what faith means to them.

Print the photographs and cut them just to the image. Stick the photos onto a sheet of card in collage-style.

Talk about how we find out things about God and what we believe, emphasising that this often bit by bit.

Display the collage for all to see, perhaps with a few words of explanation beside it.

NOTE: You might want to make this a project which runs over a couple of weeks, especially if you have to get photos printed at another time and if you want the children to photograph the worship area before or after Sunday worship.

Church Jigsaws all age

You will need: large sheet of thick or corrugated card, marker pens, pencils, scissors per group.

Divide children into a few groups of mixed ages. Ask the children to work together in a group to draw a big picture of their church onto the large sheet of card. Get children to colour picture, perhaps adding in some people to the picture. Draw large jigsaw pieces onto picture and cut out the pieces (don't make too many, 8-12 pieces should be about right).

Swap jigsaws with another group and then have them put to get each other's jigsaws.

Talk about how we find out about God bit by bit and how we can help each other to explore who God is and what God seeks of us.

discussion starters

truth and lies

games

Traffic Lights age 3-5

A simple game of traffic lights calling out the colours 'red' when everyone has to freeze, 'amber' for everyone to sit down and 'green' when everyone can run around.

We need the traffic lights and their colours to help us follow the right way on the road safely just like we need God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to help us in our lives.

Rush Hour age 6-12

The whole group needs to stand at one end of the room (if you don't have a big enough room they can simply stand up or sit down). The caller calls out a statement and the children who think it is true run to the other end of the room or stand up.

If it was true then they remain in the game if they didn't move they are out. The opposite applies also so if the statement is a false statement and they moved towards the other end of the room (or stand up) they are out.

End this game with the statement about the Trinity.

Some statements and answers are listed below (though you can always add your own):

1. The first Tom and Jerry cartoon was made in 1940. TRUE
2. 4 times 6 is 20. FALSE
3. Taylor Swift had a hit song with "We are never ever getting back together." TRUE
4. 2 plus 2 is 4. TRUE
5. The Blue Whale is the biggest fish in the oceans. FALSE
6. "Radio Gaga" was Lady Gaga's first hit single. FALSE
7. The tenth doctor was played by David Tennant. TRUE
8. You drive around a roundabout anti-clockwise in the UK. FALSE
9. SpongeBob's neighbour is an octopus called Squidward Q. Tentacles. TRUE
10. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are called 'The Trinity'. TRUE

Preparation

You will need: two identical sets of Lego, some paper, envelopes and pens. It would also help if you had watched an episode of 'Would I Lie To You', the BBC panel show.

Opening Activity

Would I Lie to You?

Play a game of the panel show 'Would I Lie To You?' Get everyone to write two 'facts' about themselves on two separate pieces of paper. The 'facts' can be true or made up. Put each fact in an envelope and write the person's name on the front.

If you have a small group you could split into two teams. If you have a larger group you might want to have two games at the same time, choose some people to be in two teams with an audience or everyone could guess.

Choose an envelope. The person who's name is on it reads the 'fact'. The other team get a chance to ask some questions about the 'fact'. The person being questioned must tell the truth if the fact is true but can make up a story if the fact is false.

The other team must guess 'True' or 'Lie'.

The Word

You will need: bibles.

Read together the bible passage (John 16:12-15).

Activity/Discussion

Before hand, build a structure out of Lego. If you can, use a base. You can build anything but something recognisable like a house would be ideal. Remember, you will need to have a set of identical bricks left over.

Separate one person and give them the Lego construction. Ideally, put them in a hallway or outside the room but if that's not an option try and use something like a sheet so that they, and more importantly the Lego construction, cannot be seen.

Give the identical Lego blocks to the rest of the group.



The group must send one person at a time to get instructions of where to put one brick from the person who has the completed construction. That person must come back and tell the group where their brick goes. Make sure that when the person goes to get instructions they cannot see the completed construction.

Let the group work out what they need to know. For example, don't tell the person who has been separated the bricks the group have are identical in colour.

When they are finished building compare the two constructions. Talk about the process.

- How easy or hard did they find it?
- What made it difficult?

There is a saying... "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." Why might that be true?

- In what ways would it also be true that sometimes you only need to know enough? Try to think of examples.
- Does everyone agree?

Living It Out

Sometimes following God seems very complicated. The Bible is big and full of stuff that is hard to understand.

- What are the things we need to know to get on with living as a Christian?
- What help do we get?

Remember, Jesus tells us that God has sent us the Holy Spirit to be with us all the time, in everything we do.



extra resources and work sheets

Spirit what?

Write a T (for True/Truth) or F (for False) next to the phrases if you think they are true or false phrases. Have you heard of them before?

spirit of truth

spirit away

that's the spirit

a free spirit

spirit of the law

enter into the spirit of it

good spirits

high spirits

team spirit

the spirit is willing
but the flesh is weak

they are with us in spirit

© 2013
Spill the Beans Resource Team

<http://spillbeans.org.uk>

**Booklet produced by
Sleepless Nights Productions**