

HOLY SPIRIT DISCOVERY

LESSON 7

Symbols of the Holy Spirit



HOLY SPIRIT DISCOVERY

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Objective:

In this lesson, kids will see a connection between characteristics of God the Holy Spirit and various symbols used in the Bible to describe Him and what He does in the life of Christians.

Bottom Line:

We can see the character of the Holy Spirit through wind, fire, water, a dove and oil.

Bible Foundation:

Acts 2:3; Matthew 3:16; Luke 3:22; John 7:38-39; Acts 10:38; Acts 2:1-2; and John 3:8

Teacher Insights:

"In addition to the names and titles ascribed to the Holy Spirit, a number of symbolic figures of speech are employed in Scripture to reveal characteristics of the Spirit. The Jews expressed themselves more by word pictures than by abstract terms. The teaching of Jesus is exceedingly rich in symbols and figures of speech. The study of these symbols of the Spirit should help us better understand the ways and works of the Spirit of God." (Guy P. Duffield and Nathaniel M. Van Cleave, from *Foundations of Pentecostal Theology*, pg 114, LIFE Bible College, San Dimas, CA 1987.)

Discussion Questions:

For individual study of the teacher or for application as you teach:

While in groups give each child a small group activity worksheet. Have each child in the group look up a different verse and read. Then discuss how that symbol represents the Holy Spirit.

Wind- He is like the wind because He is powerful and quick. John 3:8, Acts 2:1-2

Fire- He is like fire because He purifies us. Acts 2:3-4

Water- He is like water because He helps satisfy our spiritual thirst for God. John 7:38-39



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Dove- He is like a dove because He is gentle and provides comfort. Luke 3:22, Matthew 3:16

Oil- He is like oil because He gives healing. Acts 10:36 – 38

Prayer: Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit, continue to help us understand and learn more.

Memory Verse: (see pages 3 and 4)

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:1-2

Object Talk:

What Does it Represent? (see page 5)

Activities:

Game – Holy Spirit Concentration (see pages 6-9)

Craft – Whirligig or Pinwheel (see pages 12 and 13)

Handout – Symbols of the Holy Spirit (see page 14)

Take Home:

Reinforce learning from this lesson using the Take Home summary (see page 15)



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Memory Verse

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Memory Verse Activity:

Display on paper and have students look up Acts 2:1 – 2. Lead students in repeating the verse a few times in this manner: Say the verse quietly the first time and then louder each time you repeat the verse. Students shout the verse the last time, if possible in your location.



When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:1-2



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Object Talk

What Does It Represent?

Theme:

The Biblical Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Teaching Point:

When we read the Bible, we see different descriptions of the Holy Spirit. But it is still the Holy Spirit at work. We want to be able to recognize the characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

Supplies:

Wrappers of common, well known food items such as Rice Crispy Treats, Snickers candy bar, or a can of Pepsi.

Scripture:

Acts 2:1-3 where it talks about 'like a wind, and like tongues of fire'

Preparation:

Have each of the items listed above out for the kids to see. Say 'When you see this Snickers wrapper, what do you think is inside of it?' Have the kids describe in detail the chocolate, caramel, nougat and nuts...how it tastes, etc. Do the same with the Rice Crispy Treats and with the Pepsi.

Remind them how they can know what is inside just by looking at the wrapper (the symbol) that represents all the things they described.

"This is how we can know what the Holy Spirit is like too." Read Matthew 3:16. The Holy Spirit came down from Heaven like a dove. Have the kids describe a dove. Is it gentle or mean? Is it beautiful or ugly? ... In the same way when we hear of a dove describing the Holy Spirit we can be reminded that the Holy Spirit is gentle and not mean. Any of the scriptures showing symbols of the Holy Spirit could be substituted here, or added to this example based on time allowed.

Prayer:

Lord thank you for giving us ways to describe the Holy Spirit so we can better understand more about you.



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Game

Holy Spirit Concentration

Teaching Point:

We want to pay close attention to the moving of the Holy Spirit. Just like we had to be aware when playing concentration we want to be aware of the Holy Spirit when we read Gods word.

Supplies:

- Copy the cards on the following pages. Cut out and fold each card
- 1 set of cards per 5 students

Directions:

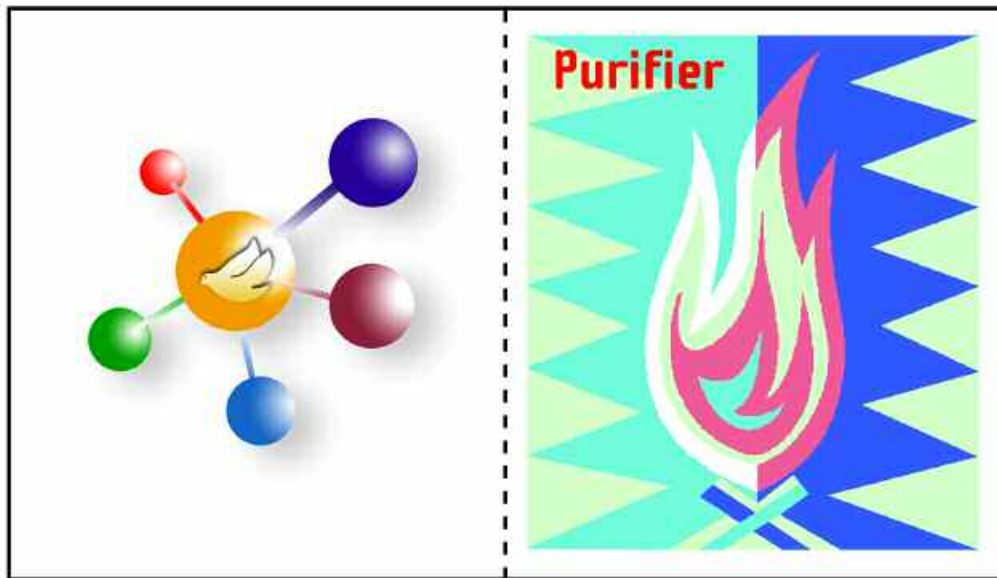
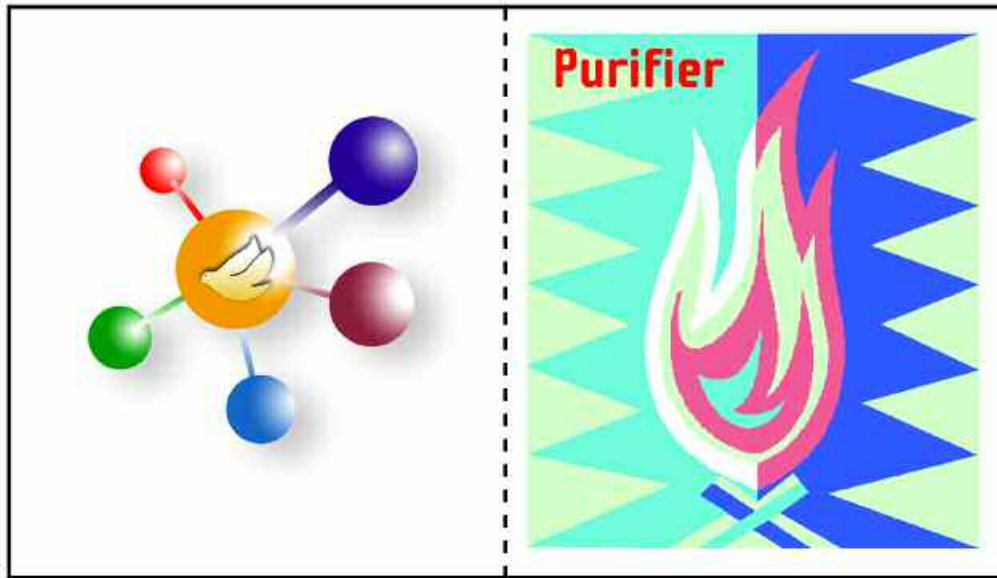
Mix up all cards and place face down on table or flat surface. Have children take turns finding a match by turning one card over and then trying to locate a match when 2nd card is turned over. If a match is found, player picks up matched cards and repeats until no match is made. Then next player takes turn.

Questions:



As you play the game with your child, go over the different symbols and what they represent as each match is made.





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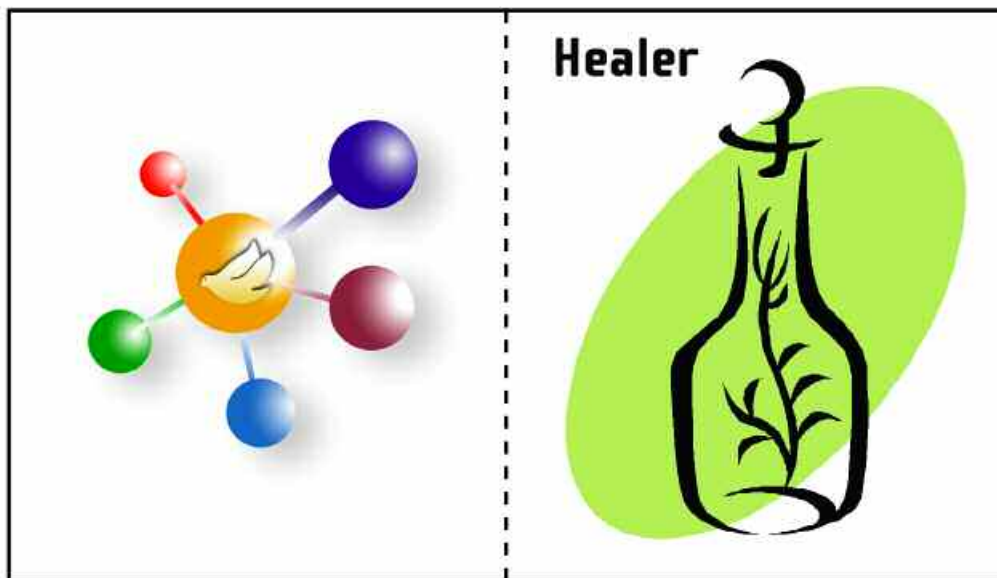
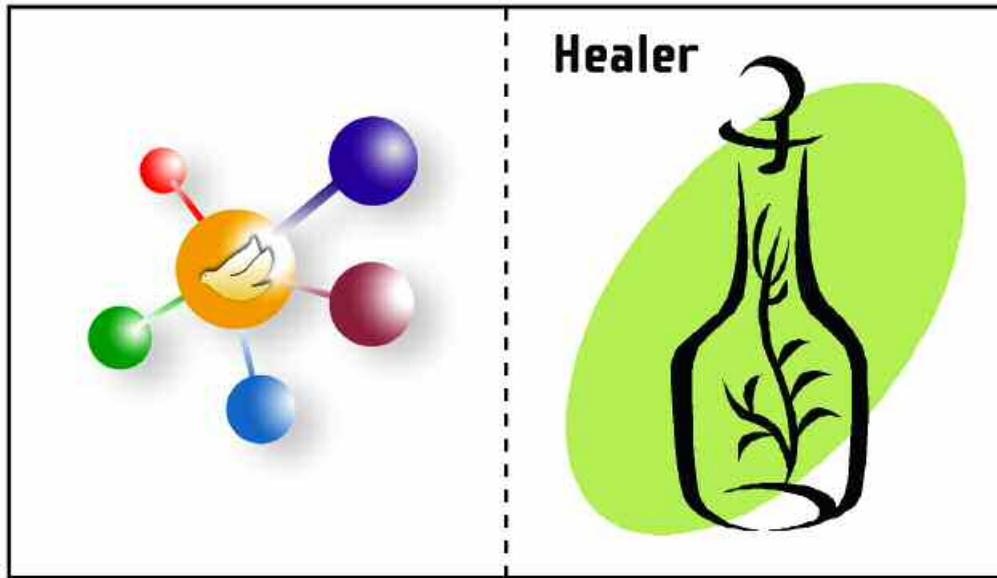
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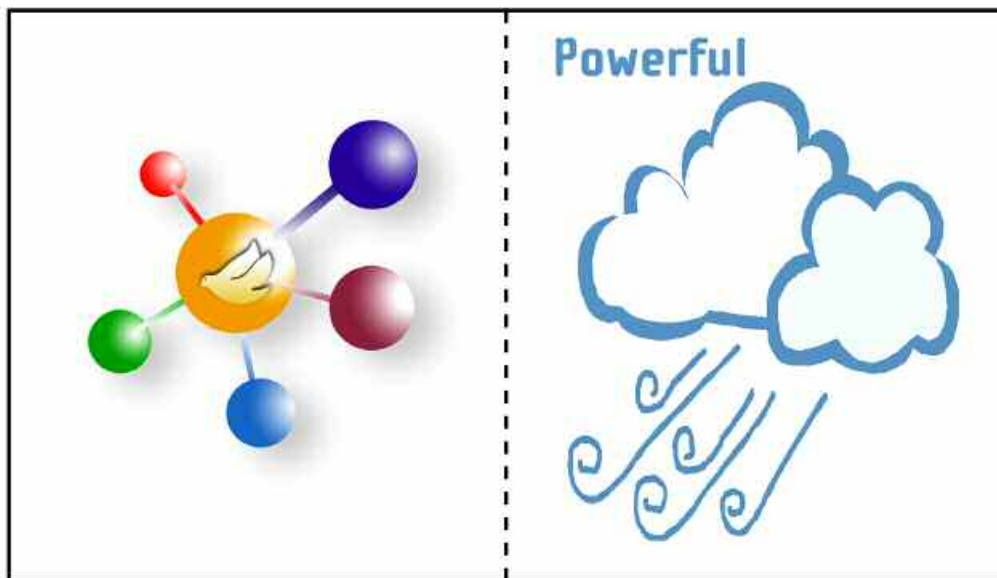
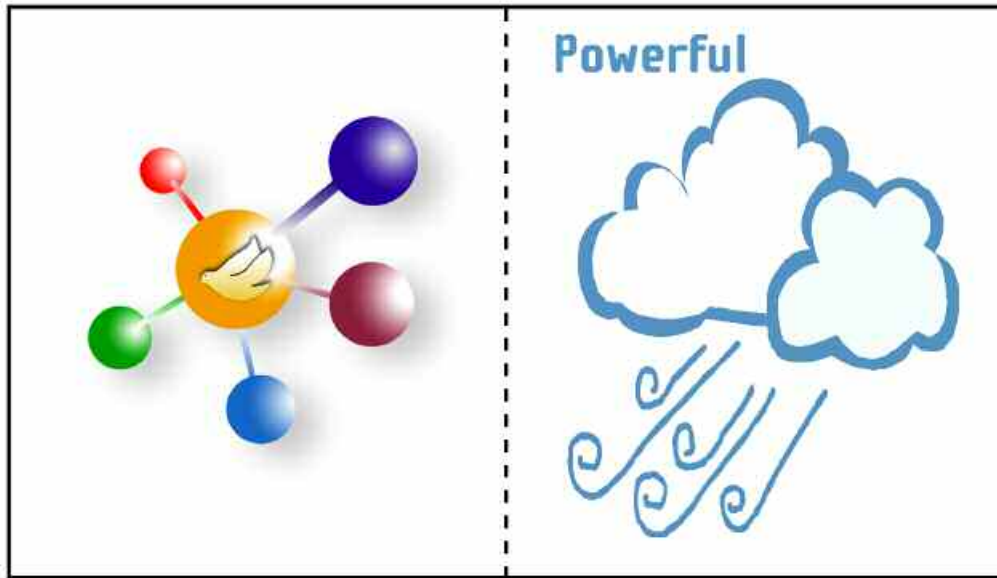
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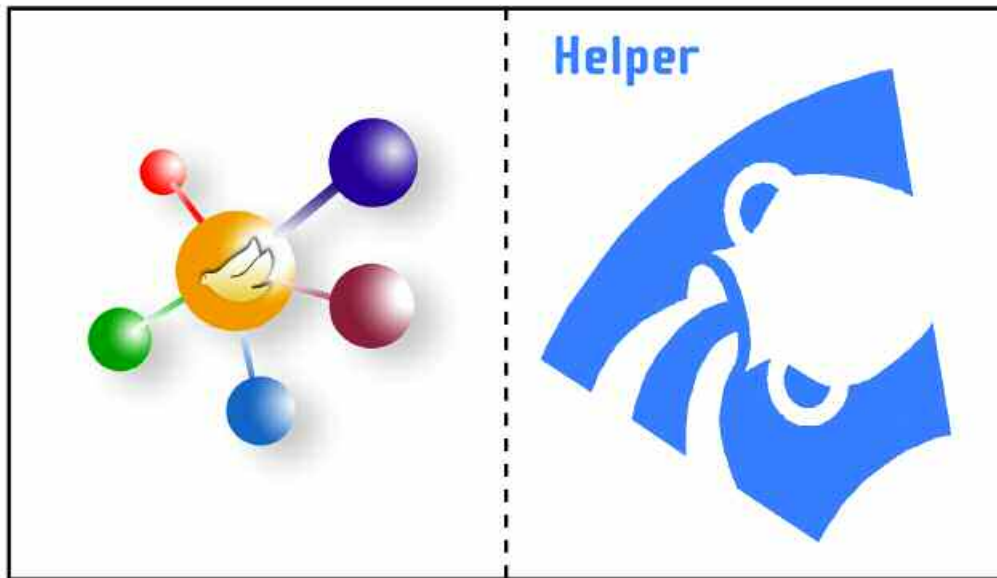
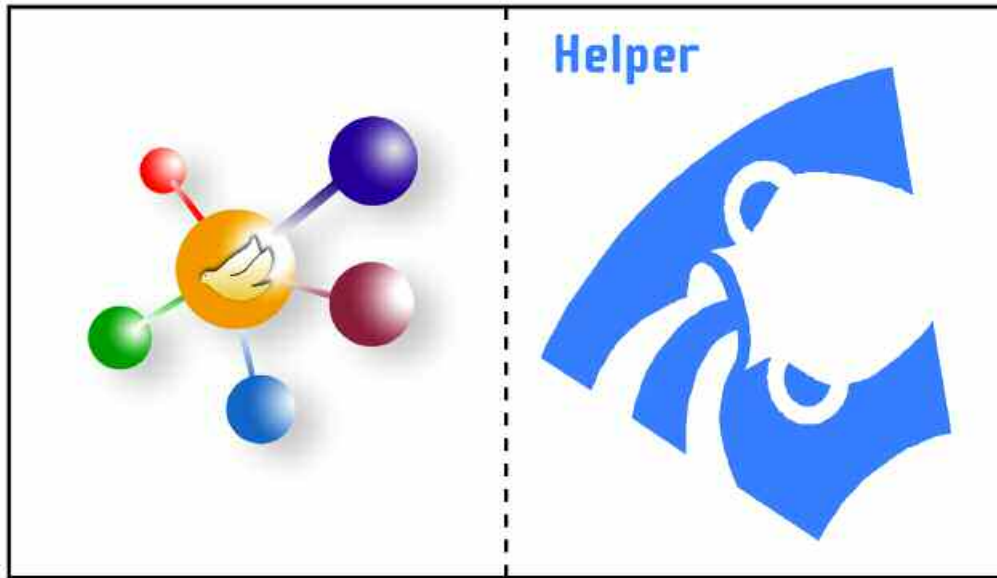
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Craft

Spirit Whirligig

Teaching Point:

When we see the wind blow our Whirligig or Pin wheel it can remind us that the Holy Spirit is like the wind because He is strong and powerful and even though you can not see the Holy Spirit you know He is there. Just like the wind.

Supplies:

- Plastic Canvas
- Each child will receive 14 strips - 3 squares wide and 40 squares long
- Chenille wires
- Beads
- Fishing line
- Scissors

Directions:

1. Thread three beads onto the end of the chenille wire, and turn up a small portion of the end to ensure the beads won't slide off.
2. Thread the chenille wire through the middle end hole of each chenille canvas. You now have the three beads with a stack of plastic canvas strips resting on the end of the chenille wire. Take the bottom piece of plastic canvas closest to the beads and bring up the other end of that strip onto the chenille wire. Again thread the middle hole. It will form the shape of a "C". Do the same for the second to the bottom canvas piece. One by one, thread the canvas onto the chenille wire until all fourteen strips have the chenille wire threaded through both ends.
3. Add the final three beads to the top and wrap the tail of the chenille wire down to form a loop. Thread a piece of fishing line through the loop so you can hang the whirligig.



Craft (Option 2)

Pinwheel

Teaching Point: When we see the wind blow our Whirligig or Pin wheel it can remind us that the Holy Spirit is like the wind because He is strong and powerful and even though you can not see the Holy Spirit you know He is there. Just like the wind.

Supplies:

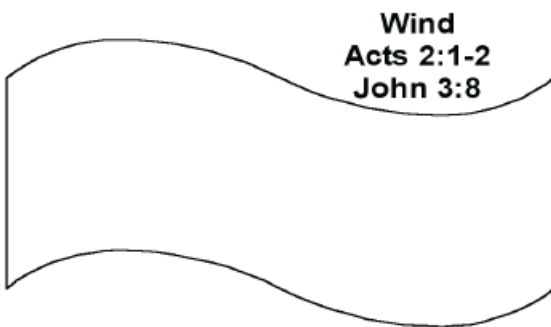
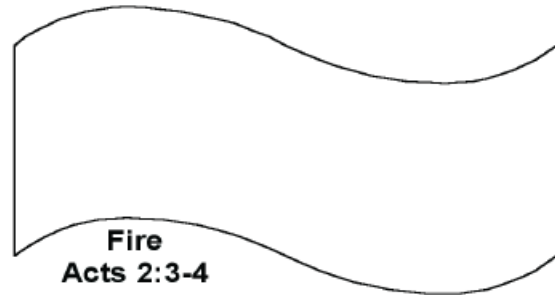
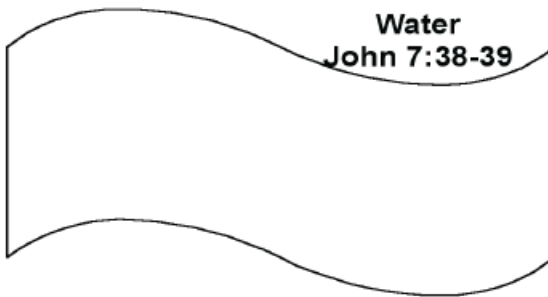
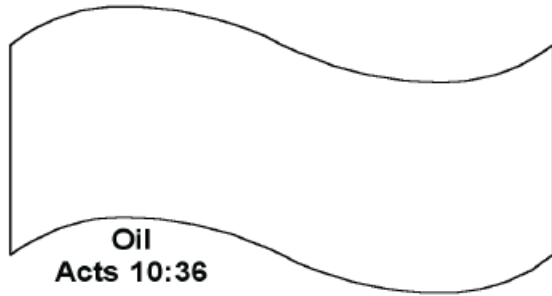
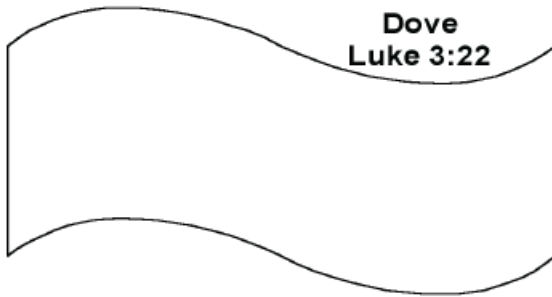
- Colored or Clear Tabbed plastic file folder, letter size
- Needle
- Ruler
- Straight Pin
- Thin line marker
- Unsharpened pencil with eraser
- Scissors
- Dime

Directions: Note: You can make about 8 pinwheels from one folder.

1. If short side of the folder is closed, try popping open the end. Lie the folder out flat.
2. Mark and cut a 4 1/2" square out of the plastic file folder.
3. Place the dime in the middle of the square. Trace around it.
4. Cut diagonally from one corner towards the opposite corner. Stop cutting when you reach the mark you made from the dime.
5. Repeat for following 3 corners.
6. You now have 4 cut sections.
7. Take the needle and push through the very center of the pinwheel, coming from the back of the pinwheel. (Do not push the needle all the way through, it will hold the points of the pinwheel.)
8. Take the right corner of the first section and bend to the middle of the pinwheel. Push over the needle to hold.
9. Take one corner of the NEXT section and bend the right corner to the middle of the pinwheel. Push over the needle to hold.
10. Repeat for other two sections.
11. Remove from needle, carefully holding the sections together.
12. Push the straight pin through the front of the pinwheel completely through the back.
13. Push the pinwheel into the eraser of the pencil. Let the pinwheel loosen up between the corners and the back. Blow on the pinwheel and watch it spin.



Draw each symbol and write what it means.



Bottom Line week 7

We see the character of the Holy Spirit, through wind, fire, water, dove and oil.

Memory Verse

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 2:1-2

We are learning about:
THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Symbols
of The
Holy Spirit**

Talk About It

Talk about these questions as a family on your way home or during a meal.

Kid's Question:

What are the different symbols of the Holy Spirit?

Parent's Question:

How is the Holy Spirit like a Dove?

Today's Bible Story is:

Different ways we find the Holy Spirit in the Bible.
John 3:8

