

WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We are heroic when we work as a team.

BIBLE

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost:
Acts 2:1-12; 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome, heroes! It's our final day of *Heroic*! **What was your favorite thing to learn about this month?** We'll learn another secret about living heroic lives with God. One of the most important ways that we can love and serve God is through doing it together. Let's discover how fun and important it is to have great teamwork!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Battle Belongs" (Doorpost Songs)
 - "Limitless" (Planetshakers Kids)
 - "It's True" (Lifeway Kids Worship)
 - "The New is Here" (Hillsong Kids)

ACTIVITY | Superhero Training: Super Breath

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tape a straw to the top of a plastic cup, threading a string through the straw. Tie the strings to chairs the length of your room. Taking turns with their teammates, each member relays to use one big super breath, blowing into the cup to get it to the end or as far as they can. Kids rotate within their teams as many times as needed to get the cup across. The team to get their cup to the finish line first wins. Optional game play: Instead of blowing air, use [water blasters](#) to make this a fun water game. Kids will take turns blasting one stream of water into the cup, moving it down the string.
 - ✳ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Cut pool noodles in half length-wise (so that it creates two gutters) and secure them to the ground or a long table using rolled-up duct tape. Give each team a ping pong ball and a handheld battery-operated fan to race their ball from one end of the pool noodle to the other end.

- We're continuing to train our superhero skills together! Pretend you have super breath like Superman and get your cup to the end of the string first to win!

ACTIVITY | Super Teamwork!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a simple obstacle course where teams will work together, using the unique skills that only they have, to rescue a stuffed animal from the opposition! Teams must accomplish the following, with different members assigned to carry out each leg of the mission, passing off stuffy to the next member until it gets to safety. The first team to bring their stuffy back home wins! (If you only have space for one obstacle course, you can time each team to see who can do it fastest.) Encourage kids to cheer one another on. Here's each leg of the mission:
 1. Knock down soda bottles (set up like bowling pins) using bean bags to get to the stuffy.
 2. Army crawl under some chairs with stuffy in tow.
 3. Get across a "river" (marked by two lines of painter's tape) with two pieces of cardboard big enough for their feet to walk on the water. (Don't drop your stuffy into the river!)
 4. Carry stuffy on a towel held by two kids.
 5. As a team, use the DIY rubber band lifesaver (see Shop & Prep) to lift the stuffy to the finish line.
- Well done, heroes! **How did you save your stuffed animals? Did one person do all the work by themselves?** No! You guys each used different skills to rescue those poor animals, saving the day! Great teamwork! I loved the way you cheered each other on to finish the task, too. You all played such important roles on the team!

POLL | What would you choose if you could have any super power?

- **What would you choose if you could have any super power?** Show with these motions which you would choose:
 - Flight (*punch the air sideways with one leg up*)
 - Teleporting (*snap both fingers*)
 - Speed (*running stance*)
 - Super strength (*flex biceps*)
 - Web-slinging (*flick wrists outward*)
 - Mind control (*place two fingers on both temples*)
- **Isn't it cool that there are so many different super powers?** Not only would it be boring if superheroes all had identical powers, but it would also be harder to complete missions.
- Where one superhero might be weak, another is strong. **It's fun to watch when superheroes work together as teams to accomplish their mission, isn't it?**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:1–12 (The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Acts 2:1–12. Then, retell the Bible story with a modern superhero twist! Have another leader or volunteer read for Jesus, while wearing a cape! Divide the kids into three groups. Project or print the image containing the dialogue that the kids will say out loud. Point to the group when it's their turn to speak. Encourage the kids to put a lot of emotion into their lines – the more dramatic, the more fun! (Tip: Use Google Translate or something similar to hear what "Jesus is alive" sounds like in a specific language. You might want to be familiar with how to pronounce the words before instructing the kids.)
- **Do you remember that Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples and that they were told to wait for the Holy Spirit to come?** Well, the disciples obeyed and they prayed as they were waiting.

- Then suddenly, the Bible says a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm filled the house where they were meeting.
 - **All Groups:** *Make windstorm sounds!*
- Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of the followers!
 - **Group 1:** Pow!
 - **Group 2:** Swoosh!
 - **Group 3:** Bam!
- And the Bible says that everyone there was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages! The Holy Spirit was giving them this ability!
 - **Group 1:** Jesús está vivo! ("Jesus is alive!" in Spanish)
 - **Group 2:** Iesu wa ikite imasu! ("Jesus is alive!" in Japanese)
 - **Group 3:** Yesu yu hai! ("Jesus is alive!" in Swahili)
- At that time, there happened to be many Jews from other nations living in the city. When they heard the loud noise, they came running and were shocked to hear these Jews from the area speaking their own language. They were completely amazed! "How is this happening?" they asked. "How can these people be speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done?"
 - **All Groups:** *Say "Jesus is alive" in the language you learned – this time, all at the same time!*
- The Holy Spirit had come to fill Jesus' followers, just as he had promised would happen. And God used the different followers of Jesus speaking different languages to let the people know of all the wonderful things God had done!
- **Are you ready to join Jesus and the disciples, too?**
 - **All Groups:** Goooooooo Team!

BIG IDEA | We are heroic when we work as a team.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up a phone on a table. Have an "incoming message" sound effect play. (Choose a notification tone from your phone settings or find an audio clip online.) This time, instead of hearing the Big Idea, the message from the volunteer should say, "For this week's Big Idea, you're going to need some teamwork. Some of you have a secret message under your chair." The Big Idea should be cut up into individual words or phrases and taped underneath random chairs beforehand. The kids who do have the mission pieces should stand up in the front and have the group put them in the correct order.*
- Let's say it all together, team: **"We are heroic when we work as a team!"**
- Way to use teamwork to figure out today's Big Idea!

VIDEO | Heroic, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of Grow TV.*

VIDEO | "The Gauntlet"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this [video](#) of LEGO Marvel Super Heroes. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this](#)!*
- ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** *You might want to show preteens [this clip](#) from the first Avengers movie and add the question: "What if all the Avengers had the exact same superpower – what would that be like?" Show why a variety of gifts is important. We can't all be the same!*
- **Isn't it exciting when superheroes join together to fulfill a mission?**
- **What did each superhero contribute to defeating the villain?**

- In the same way, the Holy Spirit gives each of us different abilities to carry out Jesus' mission and tell others about him. We need each other, and we are each a valuable member of God's team.
- That's why **we are heroic when we work as a team.**

ACTIVITY | Operation: Teamwork

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Cover a part of a wall with newspaper. Pass out the provided catchphrase-shaped papers and crayons or markers. Give kids time to write about something good God has done in their life. When kids are done, give them double-sided tape to put their stories on the newspaper, which should be almost entirely covered up when everyone has finished.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Allow kids to draw pictures or to write this week's Big Idea on the cutouts provided. Or to emphasize this week's lesson, have everyone sign each other's cutouts to show that everyone in our church is one big team.
- Even though our newspapers can have good news, a lot of the time they're reporting bad news that's happening in our cities and the world. So for today, this wall of newspapers represents a world living in darkness.
- But the reports of the good things God has done in your lives shined in the midst of all the bad news. It took all of you doing your part! None of us can tell *everyone* in the world about God's love on our own. We need the Holy Spirit to help us show and tell others what amazing things God has done.

SCRIPTURE | 1 Corinthians 12:4–12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–12 together. Then, pass out different materials needed to wrap a gift to the kids like wrapping paper, a gift box, tape, scissors (let's give that to an older kid!), ribbon, gift bag, tissue paper, and gift tag. Also, have a present wrapped with the various items as an example as you discuss the following.
- I gave some of you different things I used to wrap this gift. Though each item has a different purpose, I needed all of them working together to create this final *present-ation*. I'm sure whoever receives this will be so happy!
- God gives each of us different gifts, and not a single one is better than the other. Each gift is important. You get to exercise the gifts God gave you to share the greatest gift of all with the world . . . Jesus!

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Perfectly Placed Teams

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this video [The Church: One Body With Many Parts](#). Depending on what works for your group, discuss the following questions with the kids together as a large group or in smaller groups.
- **Isn't it so amazing how God made each of us uniquely, with different gifts and talents?** I'm so glad the Holy Spirit knows exactly what to give us.
- We're all a part of Jesus' body, each of us playing our own special part! **We are heroic when we work as a team!**
- **What do you think about these gifts we're given?**
- Take time to share with someone. Talk to each other about:
 - **What gifts do you think you might have?**
 - **What gifts might you want?**
 - **How would you want to use those gifts for God and for others?**

ACTIVITY | Assembled

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Draw an outline of a person onto a large roll of kraft paper. Divide kids into smaller groups, giving them their sheet. Have everyone on the team pick a section to write their names. Underneath their names, have kids write down something they can do to share the love of Jesus. Encourage the kids to fill up the body with lots of color and decorations. Have them write the heading "The Body of Jesus" somewhere on the paper. When they're done, have a representative from each group show their artwork to everyone. Point out the different things kids have written down about how they can contribute to Jesus' mission.
- Great teamwork, everyone! You're all unique and special and can partner with God differently even though you're all part of Jesus' same body!
- This doesn't mean that we are literally the physical body of Jesus. It means that, because people can't see Jesus walking around, we get to be the ones they see. So when we work together, loving each other and loving others well, we're doing the same thing Jesus did when he was on earth with the disciples.
- **We are heroic when we work as a team!**

MEMORY VERSE | 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

- **"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break up into groups where each kid is assigned to say a few phrases of the verse. Practice saying the verse together as a team without long pauses so that it sounds like one person is saying it.
- **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/2Timothy1-7.)**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Display the prayer poster of the week, and have kids stand in smaller groups where they can put their hands together in the middle of their circle and pray in unison.
- Thank you God for giving us unique and special gifts
- And giving us a loving team of heroes such as this
- Help us use our gifts to show our love for one another
- Because we know it makes you glad when we all work together!
- Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- When the Holy Spirit showed up, what sound filled the place and what settled on each person?
- What happened when the Holy Spirit filled the believers?
- Why were the people who heard the believers so amazed?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. Why does the Holy Spirit give each of us different spiritual gifts?
- Do you enjoy working in a team? What do you find enjoyable? What do you find challenging?
- What gift has the Holy Spirit given to you? Or what gift would you like to ask God to give you?
- Look around the room. What gifts do you see in your friends at church that you can all use together to help people around you?

ACTIVITY | Team Bonding

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have small groups make a team bracelet or keychain showing the unity of the group. Using beads with letters on them, string together each of the group's kids' first initials. Have each group come up with a team slogan like "World Changers . . . assemble!"
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** In addition to or in place of this craft activity, encourage preteens to play some team-building games together. You can look on sites [like this one](#) to get ideas or ask kids what they would like to play. One example might be the Whisper Challenge using popular superhero mottos ([like these](#)).
- A slogan or motto is something almost all teams have. It can be a battle cry or just a fun combination of words, but it reminds each member of the team that they are not alone and that they are a part of something bigger than themselves.
- Because of what Jesus has done and because of the Holy Spirit being with us, we have a team with our other Jesus-following friends. Try saying our team slogan as often as you can this week to remind you that **we are heroic when we work as a team!**