

Let the Little Children Come

Lesson 28. **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

- Purpose:
- a) To continue with the concept of the beauty of individual uniqueness.
 - b) To teach the children that each person can add to the overall beauty of something.
 - c) That each person has “a part of the picture” (or “a piece to the truth”) and that it is in putting these pieces together that even more wonderful things can be seen.
 - d) To teach that the gifts of uniqueness and of sharing are gifts of the Spirit...and come from God.
 - e) Indirectly, to introduce the concept of “symmetry” and to show that a “bringing together” of different things can often show that a “sameness” is present in the midst of diversity.

Materials: Watercolor paper
McCormack Food Colors (enough so that, working in groups of four, each child has his/her own color)
Water and towel for washing up
An assistant or two

- Presentation:
- 1) Show the children how to hold the bottles of food coloring upright so that they won't spill.
 - 2) Hand out three of the colors and keep one for yourself.
 - 3) As you sprinkle some of your color on the paper, remind the children how each of us sees things a little bit differently. Tell them that we are going to pretend that this color is the way we see things.
 - 4) Have one of the children add another color and repeat that the concept that this is the way he/she sees things.
 - 5) As each of the three children adds a color, remark how beautiful each of their colors are.
 - 6) When they are finished, explain that the Holy Spirit can do something wonderful with all these “colors” when we are willing to share them with one another.
 - 7) First of all “He” can bring them together.

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(At this point, fold the paper as in creating an “ink blot.”)

- 8) Open the paper and show the children how the colors have mixed together.
- 9) Tell them that when the Holy Spirit brings things together, they are even more beautiful than they were by themselves.
- 10) Point to the sameness on the two halves of the paper and tell the children that this “sameness” is called “symmetry.”
- 11) Show them the symmetry of our bodies.
- 12) Tell them that that is another thing that the Holy Spirit can show us...When we bring together things that appear, at first, to be very different, a sameness can appear.
- 13) And when we can find a sameness in two or more seemingly different things, we have “made peace” between them.
- 14) Tell them that when we’ve made peace between two or more things...or two or more people...something beautiful always happens.
- 15) Tell them that it happened after Jesus went to live with our Father in Heaven, because God sent the Holy Spirit to teach us.
- 16) And the first thing that the Holy Spirit did was to make peace between all the ways that people spoke to one another.
- 17) At first they couldn’t understand each other because they spoke different languages. (Give them an example, like counting in English and Spanish.)
- 18) But, the Holy Spirit made sure that everyone could understand about Jesus, no matter what language they spoke.
- 19) The Holy Spirit brought the people together in Peace...and something new and beautiful was begun.

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- 20) Like...when a new baby is born!
- 21) Only that time it was the birth of an idea. In fact, they had a great big party that we still celebrate it every year!
- 22) It was the birth of the Church!

Song: Sing "Happy Birthday" to the church.

Activity: Divide the children into groups of four and have them make enough pictures so that each child can take one home. (It is a good idea to have at least one assistant for each group to do the folding.)