Keep an Eye on the Cover!

What color was added to the cover this week?

When we invite Jesus into our lives he takes all the random, messy parts of life and turns them into something beautiful!

Look back at all the covers from the previous weeks. If you look closely at the final cover you will see the simple purple lines we started with are still there. Can you find the green growing parts? What about the blue splatters?

Jesus doesn’t come into our lives and erase everything that has or will happen. Instead, he walks right beside us, in both the good and messy parts of everyday life, and makes it all beautiful by redeeming things we never thought possible.

The last color added was orange and in this picture it symbolizes the Holy Spirit. This week we are looking at the continuing story that God invites each of us to be a part of by the power of his Holy Spirit!
Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking this journey with us through Lent. You are the biggest influence in your child’s spiritual development. You are the one they watch and learn from every day! We want to support and help you in any way possible as we all journey with Christ along the path of life.

This will be the last week we hand out devotional books on Sundays, but there is a weekly Family Devotion included in the Children’s Bulletin each Sunday. They are also posted on the Children’s Resources page of the church website.

Both children and adult Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. Our children’s classes follow the sermon series and approach the same Bible passage in a manner accessible to each age group. Coming to Sunday School regularly allows children to interact with and learn alongside others their age. It also develops Christian friendships that can last a lifetime. If you are not already plugged into an adult Sunday School class we would love to help you find a class that feeds you spiritually as well.

Our next big children’s event this year will be Vacation Bible School. So mark your calendars for June 5-9. Registration is now open on the church website: firstchurchtulsa.org/vbs

Our Children’s Resources Page is something we are hoping to grow, making it a place to find helpful tools to empower you in discipling your children. If you have ideas of what would be helpful to include on this page please share them with us.

As we continue the journey together please let us know ways we can support and assist you and your family!

Your Partners in the Journey,

The Children’s Ministry Team
of First Church Tulsa
Week 7-Easter

The journey continues...
Write or draw a picture about what God is teaching you:
This week I'm praying for:
Easter Sunday

Scripture: “On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.” Luke 24:1-8

Thought: Put yourself in the story. How surprised would you be? You just found out that the friend you thought was dead, was really alive!!! Imagine how happy you would be!!! That joy is what we celebrate on Easter. We are so thankful for all Jesus has done. Every Sunday throughout the year we come to church to celebrate this event. That’s how amazing it is that Jesus rose from the grave!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you! Thank you! Thank you for loving me with your amazing love! I love you! Amen!

Draw a picture to illustrate the story you read above:
Monday

Scripture: “While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.’” Luke 24: 36-39

Thought: When Jesus rose from the dead he wasn’t a ghost or zombie. He had a resurrected body. He had really died and now is alive again! This was hard for some of Jesus’ friends to believe, just like it can be hard for us. After Jesus had risen, he was seen on earth by more than 500 people before he went back to heaven!

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for not only dying for us but also raising from the dead! Help me remember that you not just a character from history, but you are alive today! Amen.
Tuesday

Scripture: Jesus said, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” John 14:26

Thought: An Advocate is someone that is passionate about something and helps you understand it and become excited about it too. The Holy Spirit is an advocate for us and helps us understand the will of God and what we read in the Bible.

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to be our helper and teacher. Help us listen and obey. Amen.

Wednesday

Scripture: “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” Acts 4:31

Thought: The Roman and Jewish leaders of the day did not like that Jesus’ disciples where telling people He was alive. The disciples did not want to get hurt, but wanted to share the truth. They prayed for God to give them wisdom and He filled them with the Holy Spirit that help them be bold witnesses for Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for giving me examples of ordinary people that were able to do extraordinary things for you because they were filled by the Holy Spirit. Help me to be filled with your wisdom and boldness so I can point other to you too. Amen!
Thursday

Scripture: “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13

Thought: The path that Jesus invites us on doesn’t stop at the cross. Our journey with God continues every day of our lives. The Holy Spirit didn’t just come to the first disciples. We can have the Holy Spirit too. He leads and guides us as we continue the journey.

Prayer: Jesus, thank you for making it possible for us to be filled and led by your spirit. Help us remember to ask him to teach us and show us your ways. Amen.

Friday

Scripture: “In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps us when we are weak. We don’t know what we should pray for. But the Spirit himself prays for us...” Romans 8:26

Thought: Sometimes we want to pray God’s will but we don’t know what that is. It’s ok when we don’t know what to say. The Holy Spirit knows our hearts and the heart of God. Prayer is two way communication; meaning it’s not just talking to God but also listening. The Holy Spirit can show us what to pray and also how to be a good listener to what God is saying to us.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, thank you for helping us know what to pray when we don’t have the words. Help us be good listeners to what Jesus is saying to us through your Holy Spirit. Amen.
Scripture: Jesus said: “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12

Thought: When Jesus was on earth, he operated through the power of the Holy Spirit to do mighty things that brought glory to God. In this verse, Jesus is saying that when we are filled with the Holy Spirit, he can use us to do those things too. However, we have to remember we are the one’s being led. The Holy Spirit is not our personal genie that does what we want him to, making our life easier. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit works through us to bring glory to God.

Prayer: Dear God, help us be led and used by the Holy Spirit to do mighty things that point others to you! Amen.

The Holy Spirit is often represented as a dove or as a flame. Can you think of Bible stories that might explain why Christians choose those 2 symbols?

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Read: Matthew 3:16-17 and Acts 2:1-4 to find the answers.
See if you can find this window in the sanctuary on Sunday!

This window represents Pentecost—when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

Pentecost Sunday is celebrated 50 days after Easter Weekend. That will be June 5 this year!

This is our last installment of the this year’s Lenten Devotional, but it is only the beginning of the journey.

If you have enjoyed this devotional, look for the weekly Family Devotional in the Children’s Bulletin each Sunday. You can also find it posted on the Children’s Resources page of the website: firstchurchtulsa.org
Soak it Up!

Supplies:

- 2 dry sponges—new or hard
- A large plate or bowl
- Glass of water

Place an old dried out sponge (or a never used sponge) on a plate and have everyone feel. What is a sponge used for?

Did you notice how hard and stiff it is? Our hearts can be like this dry sponge when we aren’t living with Jesus and staying on his path.

Now pour water on the sponge a little at a time. Think of the water as the Holy Spirit in our lives. Each time we pray, read scriptures or do an act of kindness, we are inviting the Holy Spirit to work in us. Those actions change us.

The sponge didn’t change completely with the first drop of water, but continued to change the more and more water it received. Is the sponge better able to fulfill its purpose when it is dry or when it has the proper amount of water added to it?

Feel the sponge now. What happens when you press on it? Did water come out? If not, keep adding little bits of water until it does.

We are like the wet sponge when we let the Holy Spirit fill our lives. We are prepared and ready to fulfil the purposes God created us for.

Now add even more water until it starts to pool on the plate because the sponge is full. Place the second dry sponge on the plate next to the soaked sponge. Watch what happens to the water on the plate and the dry sponge!

When we are full of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, it can’t help but spill out to those around us and change them too!

What do you think the sponge would feel like if we came back to it tomorrow and didn’t add any more water?

It would be hard again. That’s why it is important for us to walk with and learn from Jesus every day! We want to keep our hearts soaked in his word and love so we can give it to others!
Soaking up the overflow

1. Dry and Hard

2. Pour on the water

3. Feel how it’s changed

4. Pressure makes it leak.

5. It’s completely full.

6. 2nd Dry Sponge

7. Soaking up the overflow

Idea From: yourlifeuncommon.blogspot.com/2012/05/ fhe-doing-our-dailies-teaching-effects.html
The Children’s Ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Tulsa...

Where our mission is to encourage children and their families to trust and know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and grow in faith; connect with others in FPC’s Christ-centered community; learn to serve Christ at home, school and the neighborhood.

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