**Materials Needed**: Plaid pieces of fabric cut into 36-inch-long strips (one for each child).

**Teacher Script:**

Good morning, Children of God!

I wonder if you can tell me some things you’ve noticed today that are different from our normal worship services? (allow time for children to answer)

Wow, you all are wonderfully observant!

Today is Kirkin ‘o the Tartan. It is a special day where all the families gather together during worship for a special blessing. But what is a Kirkin anyway, and what is a tartan? Well, in order to explain it to you I’ll tell you about an old Scottish legend.

A very long time ago, the people of Scotland lived groups called clans. Each clan had a tartan- a piece of fabric like this one (hold up one of the plaid strips). These tartans represented their clan. Well one day, the British Parliament oppressed the people of Scotland. Oppression is a word for cruel or unfair treatment. They tried to control the people of Scotland by making it against the law to wear their tartans. Well, the legend says that the leaders of the clans found a way to still “wear” their tartans by hiding them in their shoes or under their shirts. They would hide their tartans and walk to the kirk. Kirk is a Scottish Gaelic word for church. While at the kirk, the priest would give a secret cue and everyone would touch their tartans. Then the priest would bless their clans, or families. Legend has it that this tradition went on for hundreds of years.

Kirkin ‘o the Tartan as we know it is actually a Scottish-American tradition. It was started by Dr. Peter Marshall in 1943. Dr. Marshall started Kirkin ‘o the Tartan to raise funds for war relief. The funds went to a mobile kitchen in Britain! Isn’t that something? Remember that the British Parliament oppressed the Scottish people in our Legend. I think that says a lot about forgiveness and God’s grace, don’t you?

So, there you have it. A kirkin is a church blessing, and tartan is a cloth that represents family. So Kirkin ‘o the Tartan translates to a family blessing at church.

I’ve brought you your very own tartan that you can wear today to remember our legend and history.

**Let’s Pray**: (this is a repeat after me prayer)

Dear God,

Thank you for legends and history,

Thank you for traditions,

Thank you for family.

Thank you for your Grace and forgiveness.

Please help us to honor you and our families,

By following you every day.

We love you.

Amen.