

LESSON 34

Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit

JOHN 14:1-26



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read John 14:1–26 from the Scriptures or read story 112, “Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

A Few Short, Quick Ideas

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ string
- ✓ capped two-liter soda bottle
- ✓ marble
- ✓ tomato plants (Good for summer months, or force some seeds ahead in winter.)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

The Trinity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 34—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Jesus Is the Way

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large sign with the word “Jesus” in large bold letters taped to your classroom door

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus is the way and the truth—Just before his death, Jesus took time to give some very important instructions to his disciples. Jesus told them that he was leaving to prepare a place in heaven with his Father for the disciples (John 14:3). However, they had no clue what he was talking about. They wanted Jesus to show them the way. That is where Jesus made it clear to them that he himself is the way. There is only one way a person can get to heaven—through Jesus himself. By his death on the cross, Jesus would make a way for men to know God and fellowship with him forever. Jesus is the way to salvation; he is the way to the Father; he is the way to heaven. He will return and take us to heaven when he comes again.

Now that Jesus is gone, how can we know the truth? God has given us two wonderful gifts. First, we have his Word, the Bible, which records the life and ministry of Christ. It does not record everything he said but it does record everything we need. The second gift is the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). This is the primary mission of the Spirit of God, to point people to Jesus and his words.

In this passage of Scripture, we see the Trinity wonderfully displayed. Jesus said that the Father would send the Holy Spirit. But then he said he was the one coming back (John 14:28). So it seems that Jesus and the Spirit are one. Jesus also said, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (John 14:11). So it seems that Jesus and the Father are one. If Jesus and the Father are one, and Jesus and the Spirit are one, they are all three in one!

Jesus is the life—Jesus is the way and the truth, and now he describes himself as the life. He uses the picture of a grapevine. Jesus tells us that he is the true vine, and we are branches that will bear much fruit. If you cut off a branch, it cannot survive. A branch’s only hope of bearing fruit is to remain in the vine. Our lives must be spent pursuing Jesus and remaining in him. We do this by following his Word, offering our lives in service to the Lord, and worshiping him in our hearts every day.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit—Although Jesus said he was leaving his disciples, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit would help them remember all that Jesus taught (John 14:26). The disciples, Jesus said, would be able to know the Holy Spirit was with them because the Holy Spirit would be in them (John 14:17). Most amazingly, because the Holy Spirit would be in them, Jesus would be in them too (John 14:20). Later in John 16:7 Jesus tells the disciples that it is to their “advantage” that he is leaving so that he could send them the Holy Spirit who would guide them into “all the truth” (John 16:13).

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Jesus is the way, Jesus is the truth, and Jesus is the life. He is the beginning and the middle and the end. The spiritual food that sustains us is his Word, and his regenerating Spirit gives us everlasting life.

In these final instructions, Jesus told his disciples that he was going to go to the Father in heaven and had asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit. The disciples didn't realize that in a few hours Jesus would be arrested, tried, and sentenced to death.

On the cross, Jesus took the penalty for the sins of mankind. He made a way for people to be forgiven by taking the punishment for the sins of all those who would believe in him (John 14:1). He also made a way for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus makes us holy and acceptable in God's sight. It is only when we trust the blood of Christ for forgiveness for our sins that we are declared righteous. Then the Holy Spirit makes his home in our hearts. The gospel makes Jesus' promises possible.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read John 14:1–26 from the Scriptures or read story 112, "Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Few Short, Quick Ideas

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bible

- ✓ string
- ✓ capped two-liter soda bottle
- ✓ marble
- ✓ tomato plants (Good for summer months, or force some seeds ahead in winter.)

Here are a couple of short object lessons to help you illustrate the lesson.

Prior to class, tie your Bible by a string to the ceiling or place it on top of a high shelf or cabinet. Then ask the children to reach it. They, of course, cannot do it without help. Have someone figure out a way to get it down. Once they get it down, use this as an illustration of how we need to rely on the Holy Spirit to help us reach God’s Word with our understanding (see John 14:26).

Place the capped soda bottle and the marble on the table and ask for a volunteer to put the marble inside the bottle. After you get your volunteer, tell them that they need to do it without removing the lid. Coax them as though you are aware of a way. Finally agree with them that there is only one way to get the marble into the soda bottle. Then use this as an illustration of Jesus being the only way (see John 14:6).

Show the plant to the class. Ask the class what we call the stalk of a tomato plant (a vine). Ask them if they knew that the tomato is also considered a fruit. Ask them who has a garden and would like to grow a few tomatoes. Then, proceed to cut off branches for each person enthusiastically. They should look at you strangely when you tell them to go home and set the branch in front of a sunny window and watch it grow. Use this to illustrate the need we have to remain in the vine to bear fruit from John 15:1–8.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

The Trinity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase markers

The Trinity is a difficult concept for adults to grasp—even more difficult for children to understand. This exercise is designed to help the children understand more fully.

Write the words “Father,” “Son,” and “Spirit” in two rows. The word Father should be on the top row with Son and Spirit underneath, written side by side. This should form a triangle with the Father on top of the Son and Spirit.

Read John 14:9–13 and ask the class, “What do we learn about the relationship between the Father and the Son?” (We learn two things. First, they are separate persons—they each have a name. Second, they are one—the Father is in the Son and the Son is in the Father.)

Draw an oval encompassing the words Father and Son.

Read John 14:16–19 and ask the class, “What do we learn about the relationship between the Son and the Spirit?” (Again we learn two things. First, they are separate persons—they each have a name. Second, when Jesus leaves and sends the Spirit, somehow Jesus remains. So when Jesus sends the Spirit to a person, that person also receives the Spirit as well as Jesus (John 14:17–18).

Draw an oval encompassing the words Son and Spirit.

Tell the class if the Father and the Son are the same God (trace around their joining oval) and the Spirit and the Son are the same God (trace around their oval) then the Father and the Spirit have to be the same God. Draw an oval around the words Father and Spirit. Finally draw one large circle around all three. Tell the class, “Three persons in one God.”

Ask the class if they have any questions.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 34—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Which disciple is missing from the picture?
(Judas is missing.)
- Where did Judas go?
(He went to betray Jesus and tell the chief priests where they could come to arrest Jesus.)
- What did Jesus teach his disciples about after Judas left?
(Jesus taught them about the Holy Spirit. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Jesus Is the Way

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large sign with the word "Jesus" in large bold letters taped to your classroom door

Prior to class, affix the sign to the outside of your door. After reading the Bible story and explaining the lesson to the children ask them if they can remember what was different about your classroom door today. (It has a sign with the word "Jesus" on it.)

Have the class stand up, forming a single-file line and lead them out of your classroom to the hallway. Close your door so they can see the sign.

Then read John 14:6 to the children again. Ask them how the door to your classroom is like Jesus. (It is the only way into your classroom just as Jesus is the only way to heaven.) Ask the class if a student refused to go through the door could they get into the classroom. (They may say through the windows, but tell them they are all locked. You want them to see that the door is the only way.) Ask them if they ever considered trying to break through the walls when they were coming to class. (They will say they have always used the door.)

Tell the class that some people foolishly think there are other ways to heaven besides Jesus. However, the Bible is clear: if we are going to be with God in heaven we must go through Jesus. What did Jesus do that made a way for us to go to heaven? (Share the gospel here and help the class remember that Jesus died on the cross for their sins. The only way to get to heaven is to believe in Jesus.)

Take the children back into class through the doorway.

