

LESSON 34

Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit

JOHN 14:15-21



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 112)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 34—one for each child; markers or crayons

Anticipation

SUPPLIES: felt board with figures to tell the story of the Last Supper through Jesus’ death and resurrection; candy

Helper

SUPPLIES: six index cards with the words “Holy Spirit” printed on them

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children are going to learn about the Holy Spirit.

Ask them to tell you about the Holy Spirit. (The Holy Spirit is God. God puts the Holy Spirit in our hearts to change us.)

To help the children understand that the Holy Spirit is a helper, place a Bible high out of their reach on, say, a cabinet or shelf. Ask for volunteers to reach up and grab God's Word. You can let them all try and jump high enough to touch it. Then ask them the following question: Can you jump high enough to get God's Word? (No, it is too high.)

Tell them that you can help them reach the Bible. Take one volunteer, lift them up, and say out loud, "I'm your helper." Lift them high enough to reach the Bible.

Ask the children why the volunteer could reach the Bible. (He could reach it because you helped him.) Was it important to have a helper? (Yes, he couldn't do it by himself.) Who grabbed the Bible? ([insert his or her name] grabbed the Bible.)

Share with the children that the Holy Spirit helps us to follow God, but we still need to work with the Holy Spirit and reach out to God to know, love, and follow him. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word, but we still need to reach out and grab for it ourselves.

Explain to the children that because the Holy Spirit is God we can pray to the Holy Spirit.

Take time and pray and ask God to send the Holy Spirit to touch the heart of every child in your class. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 112, "Jesus Promises to Send the Holy Spirit," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What did Jesus promise his disciples?**
(Jesus promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them.)
- **Who did Jesus say he would ask to send the Holy Spirit?**
(Jesus said he would ask God the Father to send the Holy Spirit.)
- **What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do for the disciples—and for us?**
(Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be a helper, but not just any old helper. The Holy Spirit is such a good helper that one of his names is Helper. Share with the children how wonderful it is that even though Jesus left, he did not leave us alone but gave us a Helper to be with us.)

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.

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

Read John 14:25–29 to the children and talk to them about how the Holy Spirit was to help the disciples and us today as well. While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking the following questions:

- **What does Jesus call the Holy Spirit in this passage?**
(Jesus again calls the Holy Spirit the Helper.)
- **How does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will help the disciples?**
(The Holy Spirit will teach them all things and bring back to their minds all that Jesus taught them.)
- **Why is it a blessing to us that the Holy Spirit helped the disciples remember what Jesus taught them?**
(We are blessed today because some of the disciples wrote down what the Holy Spirit reminded them that Jesus said. The gospel of John, for example, is the apostle John’s account of what Jesus said.)
- **How can the Holy Spirit help us today?**
(The Holy Spirit can help us understand the meaning of Jesus’ words in the Bible and help us apply them to our lives. The Holy Spirit can help us remember Jesus’ words too!)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5–10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20–30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

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 go 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.)

Anticipation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ felt board with figures to tell the story of the Last Supper through Jesus' death and resurrection
- ✓ candy

Tell the children you would like to tell today's story using the flannel board. Explain to them that when you get to the resurrection from the tomb, you will give everyone a gift.

Teach about Jesus' promise, then quickly take the story through the crucifixion and the resurrection. When you are done telling about how Jesus rose from the dead, ask them "Now what?" The children should answer "We get a gift!" Ask them how they knew. They should remind you that you told them. Ask them how it felt to wait for the gift. Pass out a treat to each child.

Explain to them that telling them ahead of time created a desire in them. Jesus told his disciples about the Holy Spirit both to build their faith and later to create the same kind of desire to receive the promised gift.

Helper

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ six index cards with the words "Holy Spirit" printed on them

One of the ways the Holy Spirit helps us is to bring back to our memory all that Jesus taught.

Divide the room into two teams. Each team should have an adult helper. Assign one helper to play the role of the Holy Spirit. Use the following list of Bible trivia to test the teams. Take turns asking the questions of the teams. Give each team three index cards, which each say “Holy Spirit” on them. (Though quizzing preschoolers with trivia is a bit advanced, the point of the object lesson is to demonstrate how the Holy Spirit helps us. Use each team’s adult helper to guide their team if they get stumped and are unsure what to do next.)

If a team gets stumped on a question, they can ask the teacher playing the role of the Holy Spirit and he will give them the answer. When the game is finished talk to the children about how the Holy Spirit is helpful in reminding us of Jesus’ teaching. Make sure to connect the receiving of the Holy Spirit to becoming a Christian. Jesus places his Spirit in our hearts to live with us when we are born again.

Trivia questions:

- What was the name of the disciple that betrayed Jesus? (Judas)
- Which disciple denied Jesus before the cock crowed? (Peter)
- Who wrote the four gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist)
- What town was Jesus born in? (Bethlehem)
- On what day of the week did Jesus rise from the dead? (Sunday)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

