

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 **15 MIN**

Three Paths to Heaven

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costumes and props for the barkers as desired, e.g., fancy hats, a beard, or a suit jacket

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

List the Blessings

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Grapevine

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN**

Jesus Is the Way

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

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).

A LITTLE BIT MORE***Holy Spirit***

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is also called the Spirit of Christ in Romans 8:9 and 1 Peter 1:11. Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit lives in believers (John 14:17). In the same passage Jesus tells us that he will be in us (John 14:20). This is the mystery of the Trinity: To say that Jesus lives in our hearts is just as correct as to say the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our counselor and that he will convict the world of guilt with regard to sin and righteousness (John 16:8). The Holy Spirit will teach us and remind us about Jesus (John 14:26).

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52). In Ephesians 5:18 Paul exhorts believers to continue being filled with the Spirit. The Bible also tells us that there are gifts of the Holy Spirit that we should eagerly desire (1 Corinthians 12:1–11).

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 15 MIN

Three Paths to Heaven

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ costumes and props for the barkers as desired, e.g., fancy hats, a beard, or a suit jacket

This skit is designed to show the true way to heaven and two of the most enticing false ways. The following dialogue is suggested. You may memorize it or simply ad-lib.

The setting is a carnival atmosphere where each of three barkers is appealing to the audience to buy his product.

BARKER 1 – I AM THE WAY:

Ladies and gentlemen, don't take another step. Do you wonder what the way to lasting peace really is? Do you walk under a cloud of guilt? Why go on struggling with all your failures? Look positive, man! Think good thoughts, woman! Don't dwell on your mistakes. You're the best thing that ever happened to you. You have everything that you need. Take a look at me; I have never been happier in my life. And when I die I have plenty of good to fall back on. Why, I give time each week to help and serve others. I try to be a good and honest citizen. I know that when I die I will live forever. God loves you. He is not a condemning God. Stop beating yourself up. You can do it. Just repeat after me, “I can do it! I can do it!” Remember, even the Bible tells us, and I quote, “I am the way.”

BARKER 2—THERE IS NO WAY: Don't listen to him, ladies and gentleman. His religion is worthless. There is no way! There is no everlasting life! All we have is what we see. Sure, we should serve others. You know the golden rule: "You rub my back, and I'll rub yours." You treat someone right today because you never know when you will need a favor. Look at me. I love life! I work hard for decent money. The weekends are my time to play. Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you die. Sorry for the bumper of death, but everyone comes to an end, my friend. Do you want to get to the end of your life and realize you didn't do half of what you wanted? Listen friend, live a good life because it is the only one you're going to get. This life is all there is. Forget this religion stuff—there is no way; there is only today!

BARKER 3—JESUS IS THE WAY: Jesus is the only way. Don't be fooled by these barkers. You know in your heart there is a God. The Bible tells us who he is and who we are. We are sinners; we have all done things wrong. God, on the other hand, is sinless and perfect. We are lost sinners who would love to do good but always fail. We are under the curse of sin and death. And worse, our sins are crimes committed against a holy God. God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sin, to pay the penalty we deserved. God poured out on Jesus his wrath for our sin. Now friends, eternal life can be ours if we place our trust in what Jesus did. He lived a sinless life, yet took our punishment. In exchange for our sin he offers eternal life. We can try to work ourselves, but we can never be perfect. We can fool ourselves into believing there will be no judgment and live only for today, or we can give our lives to Jesus, the only way.

Talk to your class about how the false ways can confuse us.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

List the Blessings

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Just before his death, Jesus encouraged his disciples with many wonderful blessings and promises. Have the class read through John 14 and, on the whiteboard, list all the promises Jesus gave his disciples. Consider together how these same promises can encourage us.

Here are a few, for example:

- **Jesus promised to prepare a place for us in heaven.**
(It is a great encouragement to know that when we die we will go to be with Jesus in heaven.)
- **We can know the Father by knowing Jesus.**
(The Father lives in unapproachable light, but through Jesus and what he did, we can know God.)
- **Jesus would send the Holy Spirit as a counselor to the disciples.**
(We also receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts when we believe.)
- **The Holy Spirit will remind us of Jesus' teaching.**
(We can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us understand God's Word.)

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**

Grapevine

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of a grapevine with a small branch coming out bearing a huge bunch of grapes. Write the words, “Whoever abides in me...bears much fruit” (John 15:5).

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:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Compare the following verses: John 10:7–9; John 14:6; and Acts 4:12.

- **What do these passages teach?**
(Jesus is the only way to the Father and Jesus is the only way to salvation.)
- **What about all the other religions of the world?**
(All the other religions of the world are false. No one can get to heaven by following false gods.)
- **Will people who sincerely believe in other gods go to hell?**
(Yes, the Bible clearly tells us that everyone knows there is a true God. In spite of this, they reject the truth and worship idols. [See Romans 1:18–25.]