

JESUS PROMISED TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 14:15-21



The STORY

Read about the promise Jesus gave His disciples just before His death in John 14:15-21.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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? (Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be a helper for them. Not just any old helper, but the Holy Spirit is such a good helper that one of His names is Helper.)

Note: 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.

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus teaching the disciples.

Engage the children by asking:

- Have the children draw a dove to represent the Holy Spirit in the sky between Jesus and the disciples. (Remind them about the story of Jesus' baptism when the Spirit of God appeared as a dove.)
- Why do you think Jesus wanted to tell the disciples about the Holy Spirit? (Jesus would soon be arrested and then die on the cross. The disciples would be very discouraged. Jesus wanted to help them stay full of faith. Perhaps some of them thought of His words after He died.)
- Why do you think Jesus telling them He was going before it happened would help them to believe? (Only God knows the future before it takes place.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

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

- 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 had 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!)



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WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus told His disciples that He was going to go to the Father in heaven and ask Him 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 would take the penalty for the sins of mankind. The Holy Spirit did not dwell in men apart from Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, making us holy and acceptable in God's sight. It is only when we have been forgiven by the blood of Christ that we are declared righteous and then the Holy Spirit makes His home in our hearts. The gospel makes Jesus' promise possible.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

