

HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 1: HELP FROM ABOVE

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This lesson teaches children that the Holy Spirit helps us live like Christ.

TOPICS

Holy Spirit, Truth, Wisdom

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 minutes)

Introduction:

Jesus gave His disciples a wonderful promise – that a helper would come and show them how to obey God! Jesus also told them what the helper would do and what He would give to those who believe. Today we will learn who this helper is, and why Jesus made this great promise.

Read John 14:15-21 & 25-27 (A helper is promised.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the word “advocate” mean? *(Someone who outwardly supports something.)*
2. Who did Jesus promise would be our advocate? *(The Spirit of truth/Holy Spirit.)*
3. How do we know the Spirit? *(Because He lives in those who believe.)*
4. Why did Jesus promise to send the Spirit? *(So, He can be with us, so we can live/be united with Him, so we can love like Him, so we can have peace and not be afraid, etc.)*
5. What did Jesus promise the Spirit would do? *(Teach us and remind us of His teachings.)*

Read John 15:26-27 and John 16:12-15 (The Holy Spirit testifies and guides us.)

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the word “testify” mean? *(To witness and give evidence for something or someone.)*
2. Who does the Spirit testify about? *(Jesus.)*
3. Why should we also testify? *(Because we have witnessed Christ's salvation, love, truth, etc.)*
4. How does the Holy Spirit guide us? *(In truth.)*
5. How and what does He speak to us? *(He will speak what He hears from Christ and what is yet to come.)*

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit is our helper, and He testifies about Jesus, helps us live an obedient life, gives us peace, teaches us how to love like Jesus, and guides us in the truth. And because the Holy Spirit lives inside believers, we should share with unbelievers that they too can experience the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit by trusting in Jesus.

CLASS EXERCISE (15 minutes)

Seeing Clearly (Video)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)

Promise Hearts (See page 2)

APPLICATION (5 minutes)

Talk about broken promises and/or things the world tries to convince us will make us happy but actually make us feel empty inside. Possible topics include materialism (the misconception that possessions will make us happy), popularity (the falsehood of others' attention), and pride (independence gets us what we want). Tell the children that these false beliefs are broken promises from the world because we can't rely on something other than God and still find peace. Consider sharing about a time when you relied on a possession, person, or experience to give you satisfaction, but you only ended up feeling more discontent. Remind the children that only surrendering our hearts to Christ and accepting the gift of salvation gives us true peace. And the promised helper, the Holy Spirit, then lives inside of us and shows us real peace and joy!

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

PROMISE HEARTS

The children will make a craft that helps them understand the role of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.

by Leah Pittsinger

TOPICS:

Holy Spirit, Promises, Truth

MATERIALS:

*Colored construction Paper
Bibles, scissors, markers
Stickers (optional)*

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



PREPARATION:

Lay out the materials on a table where they are easily accessible by the children.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

You and your child(ren) should know that Jesus promised a special helper in John 14-16. Take a moment to scan these chapters in the Bible to discover truths about the helper. Help your child(ren) understand that the promised helper is the Holy Spirit, and He lives inside of us when we become believers. Next, show the children how to fold a piece of construction paper in half and cut out a heart shape (use the whole sheet of paper). Then write "Jesus Promised a Helper" in the middle of the hearts. Next, the children will use the markers to write "truths" about the promised helper, or Holy Spirit. Suggestions include, "teacher," "speaker," "guide," and "helper." As you all finish the craft, post the hearts in the child's bedroom or playroom (or any other room you'd like) as reminders of Jesus' fulfilled promise to send the Holy Spirit.

Application: Jesus' wonderful promise to send a helper is one of the greatest things we could experience! When we choose to believe in Him we receive the promise of the helper, or Holy Spirit, who then lives inside of us and guides us.

Time-Saver Option: Cut out the hearts ahead of time.

Increased-Difficulty Option: Instead of cutting out one big heart, instruct the children to cut out a medium-sized heart for every "truth." Then the smaller hearts may be posted instead of the large hearts.