

LESSON 1: WHY SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT?

JOHN 14:16-17A "AND I WILL ASK
THE FATHER, AND HE WILL GIVE
YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE TO
HELP YOU AND BE WITH YOU
FOREVER--THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH."

Connect:

Welcome the kids as they enter the room. (you may want to have music playing in the background). Tell them something about yourself! Possibly a favorite birthday memory you have. Now, let the kids share one of their favorite birthday memories with each other. Challenge them to get out of their comfort zone and tell someone they don't usually sit with.

After they have had a chance to connect for a minute or two, remind them that we are here to connect with God through the power of His Holy Spirit and His Word.

Invite one child to come up and pray for the Holy Spirit to come and encounter us today through the reading of God's word.

'Holy Spirit, we invite you to come, and be with us today. We need your presence. Speak to us through your Word. Make yourself known to us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Intro:

Hold up a DVD.

What is this? (a DVD /Movie)

Right. Now, if I gave this Movie to someone in this room, they could go home and watch it, right? (yes)

While they are watching it, could this person over here also watch it from their house? (NO)

That's right? The DVD can't be in two places at once.

What are some ways that two very different people who live in different parts of the world watch the same movie at the same time? (streaming, the internet, etc.)

That's right! There are ways that every person in the world could watch the same thing at the same time---on the internet. But it might break the internet, if everybody were to do that.

The good thing is God has found a way to be with all the people in the world at the same time, without ever leaving them alone.

How?

Well, let's find out.

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BIBLE STUDY

John 14:15-20, 25-27

Read this and ask questions----see what the kids are understanding and what they need help with.

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth.

What did Jesus call the Spirit of Truth? (an advocate)

Do you know what an advocate is? (a person who publicly supports or recommends)

Jesus is our advocate, but Jesus says He is sending another advocate that will help us and never leave us. How exciting!

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

This is the case with people who don't know God. They can't SEE with their eyes, so they don't believe. They will not ACCEPT what they cannot see.

But you know him, for he lives with you and will be¹⁸ in you.

Jesus was talking to his disciples and encouraged them saying---you know Him (Holy Spirit)

For He is right here with you now, and He will come to rest and live in you.

¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

This is Jesus direct message to His followers----I will not leave you as orphans. Jesus did not leave us as orphans. --Everyone say that out loud-- ‘Jesus did not leave us as orphans.’

Then He says---I will come to you. You see, Jesus sent His Spirit to live in us; He Came To Us. He didn't leave us alone; He didn't abandon us. He came to us.

Even though the world won't see me----my Followers will see me! (maybe not with our eyes (until heaven), but we will be able to see His Spirit moving, because His Spirit will live in us.)

We know He is alive----because we have come alive by His Spirit!

²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

What is Jesus saying here? He's saying that we will be one----by the Holy Spirit living in us.

Whoa! Do you think it's important than to have the Holy Spirit? YES! So we can be made one with God, restored.

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GOING DEEPER

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Who is the Advocate the Father was going to send? The Holy Spirit

What does the Holy Spirit do when He comes? He will teach you ALL things! He will remind you of ALL Jesus has said!

The Holy Spirit is the best teacher. He knows all things, and He’s willing to share them with us. He helps us remember God’s words when we need them, or when we’ve forgotten.

Many times, children have a hard time reading or understanding the Bible. Thankfully, The Holy Spirit can teach us the things we lack understanding in, but only if we let Him.

So Why do you think God sent the Holy Spirit? (discuss/review)

THINGS TO REMEMBER: (HAVE THE KIDS REPEAT AFTER YOU)

- 1. GOD DID NOT LEAVE US AS ORPHANS**
- 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR ADVOCATE**
- 3. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL NEVER LEAVE HIS PEOPLE**
- 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH US ALL THINGS**

MEMORY VERSE

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.

John 14: 16-17a

ALTAR CALL:

Do you want the Spirit of Truth, the one who is your advocate in life, the one who knows all things and teaches them to us, to come and live in you?

Do you want Him to breath His life into you and watch how you not only come alive inside, but begin to recognize His Presence in and around you?

If you’re saying, ‘YES, I want the Holy Spirit to be my Helper in life and never leave me’, then I want you to stand upright where you are. Be brave---for this will change your life. If you already know Jesus as your personal savior, but want more of His Spirit’s power, then stand!

Once the kids are standing, have them move to the center, and the others in the room can reach out their hands and begin to ask God to release His Holy Spirit.

As they do this, have the kids pray to receive Jesus as their personal savior. Commit to be His followers and to receive the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of their salvation!

“Father God, I come today declaring that Jesus is your Son! I believe that He was born of a virgin and died on the cross as a sacrifice for my sins. I receive His perfect gift of salvation, for I recognize my sin and my need to be made clean. I welcome your Holy Spirit to come and find His rest in me. I don’t understand all things, but I want you to teach me. Holy Spirit come and fill me today! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

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ENCOUNTER TIME

1. PRAYER

Interceding for orphans:

In our lesson today we learned that God did not leave us as orphans. What is an orphan? (a child whom both parents have died) Regardless of our situation on this earth, (whether we have both parents, one, or none) we know that Jesus is talking about our spiritual family. He did not leave us abandoned, left alone, without a Father/parents to care for us. You see, He gave us a spiritual family, a Heavenly Father, the wisdom and guidance that parents give their kids through His Spirit. He didn't leave us as orphans.

Sadly, some children are orphaned here on earth. Their parents have died and now they face this world feeling alone, and unsure of what the future holds.

Today, we are going to pray for orphans. Find a partner and a quiet place in the room. Take turns going down the list of things to pray for orphans. Also, pray your own prayers as the Spirit leads you.

Here are some things to intercede for:

- God, heal their broken hearts from the pain of the loss of their parents
- God, bring people into their life that can lead them to you and love them like you.
- I pray that they would discover security in the leadership of the Holy Spirit. That He would guide them into all truth and give them wisdom each day.
- Pour out your love on them and let them know that they are not abandoned or alone.
- Heal the pain of grief, depression, and anxiety
- Pray for each child to be placed into a loving Christian home.
- Pray for their safety

2. PRAISE

(Preparation: blow up a few balloons, use sharpie marker to write down the names used in the Bible to describe the Holy Spirit onto the balloons)

LIST OF HOLY SPIRIT NAMES HERE: (there are so many more) (pick some and word it easily for the kids)

Breath of God
Spirit of Comfort / Comforter
Spirit of Counsel / Counselor
Eternal Spirit / Eternal
God
Spirit of Holiness / Holy
God's Power / Power of God
Spirit of Adoption
Spirit of conviction
Spirit of Knowledge / Wisdom
Spirit of Truth
Spirit of Revelation
Spirit of Life

HOW TO PLAY

*Have the kids hit the balloon across the room to someone else. That person catches it and then completes this sentence of praise declaring who the Holy Spirit is. (Say it out loud)
"Holy Spirit you are...." (Fill in the blank with the descriptions on the balloon.) (You can't use one that's already been said)*

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ENCOUNTER TIME

3. PROPHECY (application)

We mentioned today that the Holy Spirit will teach you all things. He even reveals to us the hidden things of God. That means He may share with you hidden knowledge about something or someone, in order to bring glory to His name and reveal His heart to them. Many times, this is what prophecy looks like.

Today we are going to play a Hearing God's Voice game. This is an opportunity to stretch us in our prophetic gifts and practice using those gifts in a safe and fun way.

Prophetic Wall: Use the chalk or whiteboard or a large sheet of art paper.

-Pick the name of one of your students out of a hat.

-Have the kids pray over that student. Ask the Lord how He loves that person and how He sees them

-When the kids think they have something, they may go up to the board and write it down. (or have the teacher write it for them—remind kids that prophecy is for building the church up)

-When everyone has finished, check to see what is on the board.

-Have your helper jot down what is said to remember it by.

Make sure to go over everything with the child receiving the prophetic words, and then pray those things into their life. Also, use discernment and provide interpretation when necessary.

4. POWER

Set up four areas. (leave enough space)

Have the kids rotate to different areas and go through releasing power into those areas of their families.

- A. *Salvation Station-* kids write the names of people they want to pray will come to know Jesus and be saved from their sin. Encourage them to list more than one. (Family members, Friends at school, people on TV, Teachers, Neighbors, etc.). As they add names to the list, they can pray for God to **release His power in their lives and reveal Himself to them.**
- B. *Money Problems-* Have a bunch of pennies(attached to small paper) scattered around the table. Let the kids come over and write down their family name (last name) and **release God's power into their family's finances by declaring that 'God is Our Provider—We Trust in You.'**
- C. *Health/Healing-* Make a poster board into a large Band-aid. Have the kids write names of people they know that need healing in their bodies. **Release God's power to heal them in Jesus' name.** (If kids can't think of someone to pray for, provide some church members with health needs to pray for)
- D. *Wisdom for Leaders-* Explain to the kids that the Bible says to pray for our leaders. Today, we are going to pray for the many different leaders in our life (mayor, city council, president, congress/senate, Principal, Pastor, Parents, teachers, etc.) Have a mic set up for them to go up to and pray--- **"Jesus, release the Spirit of Wisdom over _____."**

Prayer Cards:

Here are some things to intercede for:

- God, heal their broken hearts from the pain of the loss of their parents
- God, bring people into their life that can lead them to you and love them like you.
- I pray that they would discover security in the leadership of the Holy Spirit. That He would guide them into all truth and give them wisdom each day.
- Pour out your love on them and let them know that they are not abandoned or alone.
- Heal the pain of grief, depression, and anxiety
- Pray for each child to be placed into a loving Christian home.
- Pray for their safety

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WHY SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT?

TAKE IT HOME

TIME WITH GOD

Use this as a 5-minute family devotion around the dinner table, or you can use it in your personal alone time with God.

DAY 1: Read *Luke 11:13* “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

-Think about a special gift you’ve received from your parents/guardians. What made that gift special to you? How do you think your parents knew it was something you would like?

-The first line says, “If you then, though you are evil”, why does it call us evil? (because we are sinners) So even though we are not perfect (we are sinners), we still know how to give good gifts.

-God the Father is perfect in every way. Don’t you think that His gifts would be perfect too?

-From this passage, do you think God wants everyone to have the Holy Spirit?

PRAYER—*Lord, we know that you are a good Father that gives good gifts. Just reading that you desire to give this gift to us let’s us know how perfect the gift of the Holy Spirit is. Today, I come to you asking for more of your Holy Spirit in my life. In Jesus name, Amen.*

DAY 2: Read- *Acts 1:8* “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

-Do you know who is saying this? Jesus is telling His disciples what will soon happen.

-What does He say they will receive when the Holy Spirit comes on them?

-What does the Power from the Holy Spirit help them accomplish? (to share what Jesus has done and who He is with others)

-What are some things you need to be a witness for Jesus?

(boldness to speak about Him, courage to do what God leads you to do, Faith, etc.)

PRAYER—*Holy Spirit, give me courage and boldness to share your life and your love with the people I see each day. I pray that even the things that seem impossible, would be accomplished by the power of your Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

DAY 3: Read- *1 Corinthians 3:16* “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?”

-What is a temple? Temples were meant to be a structure where deities could live in here on earth.

-In this passage it says that we are God’s temple. That is huge! We are the structure in which God is choosing to live in here on earth. But He only comes when He is welcomed in.

-God’s Spirit dwells or lives among us. He does not leave us abandoned and alone. He is still living here with us by His Spirit.

-Have you welcomed Him into your life?

PRAYER—*Lord, I know that you sent your Spirit to come and dwell in your people. I believe in you. I believe Jesus came to die for my sins so that I can be free from the chains of sin. I give my life to you. Holy Spirit come and find rest in me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

DAY 4: Read- *Romans 5:5* “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

-Highlight--- ‘Hope does not put us to shame’. Another way of saying this is ‘hope does not disappoint us.’ The passage is saying we can hope in the Lord, and we will not be disappointed in the end because He will not fail us.

-How do we know what we believe is true? How do we know we won’t be disappointed? Well, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit! When we receive salvation, when we receive His Spirit, we experience the Love of God in a new way. The Spirit is our guarantee, our proof, of all that He has promised.

PRAYER—*Lord, I thank you for the Holy Spirit and that His presence in me allows me to hope with greater faith in all that you have said. I thank you for your gift of the Spirit. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

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TAKE IT HOME

(Continued)

TIME WITH GOD

Use this as a 5-minute family devotion around the dinner table, or you can use it in your personal alone time with God.

DAY 5: Read- 2 Corinthians 3:17 “*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*”

-Underline or highlight this passage in your bible.

-What is the first thing this passage tells us? (the Lord is the Spirit) This is another passage declaring the Trinity. God the Father, Son, and Spirit. They are three in one. God is the Spirit.

-What does the Spirit of the Lord bring? Freedom from what?

-Is there anything you need freedom from?

PRAYER-*Father, You have come to bring freedom to those who are captive. Thank you for your Son who died to bring that freedom to mankind. Holy Spirit, I ask for you to help free me from*

Give me strength and be with me now. I am made free when you live in me. Come, Holy Spirit, Come!

Notes:

Memory Verse: “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever-the Spirit of Truth.”

John 14:16-17a