

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - "Our Helper"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I Need The Holy Spirit To Help Me!"



Power Verse:

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever."

– John 14:16 (NKJV)

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Bible Story Print Piece (provided; print one per kid)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Bible Story Print Piece and familiarize yourself with the story so you can facilitate and guide discussion. Also, gather all classroom materials. Once small group begins, give each kid a Bible Story Print Piece and something to write with. Tell the kids to read the story in small groups and underline at least four things that stand out to them from the story. They can also underline anything they have questions about. Once this is complete, ask everyone to share their thoughts and ask their questions. Discuss the story and its main points, filling in any gaps in the storyline as needed.

Say- Do you need help? Do I need help? Why do we need help? Let's see if we can find some answers!

Read the Bible Story, choose at least four things that stand out to you or things you might have questions about, and underline them on your page. Once everyone is ready, we will share our discoveries with each other.

-Allow time for the kids to read the story and underline their four things-

Say- Thank you for reading the story! Now it's time to share your four things and discuss the story together.

Ask- Who would like to share?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group. Continue on this way until everyone gets a chance to share and the story has been thoroughly reviewed. Guide discussion, and fill in any gaps in the storyline as needed-

Ask- What did this story teach you about Jesus?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask- What did this story teach you about the Holy Spirit?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity**SUPPLY LIST:**

- * Lifesaver candies (*plenty for the activity*)
- * Chopsticks (*one chopstick per person*)
- * Cups
- * A way to keep time

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, gather the necessary supplies. Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. This game should be played “Minute To Win It” style. To play the game, each team will choose one player to represent their team. Place a pile of Lifesaver candies and one empty cup in front of each team’s player. Give the player one chopstick and tell them to hold it in their mouth. When you say “go,” the players will have 60 seconds to transfer the Lifesavers to the empty cup, using only the chopstick. The player who moves the most candies wins! Continue on this way until every player has a chance to compete. This can be played multiple rounds as time allows and is a fun, lesson concept reinforcing activity.

Say- Jesus promised a helper, the Holy Spirit. This reminded me of a certain candy known for its holey design, the Lifesaver! We’re going to use them for a minute to win it game. I am dividing you into teams. Teams will have one pile of Lifesaver candies and one empty cup. Each team should choose one person to play per round. When I say “go,” players will have 60 seconds to move the Lifesavers to the empty cup. Sounds pretty simple, right? There is a catch. You must hold one chopstick in your mouth and move the candies using only that chopstick! The player who moves the most candies wins! Are you up for the challenge? Let’s find out!

-Play the “Lifesaver Candy Minute To Win It” game; this can be played multiple rounds as time allows –

Group Sharing**SUPPLY LIST:**

- * Holy Spirit Print Piece (*provided; print one per kid*)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Holy Spirit Print Pieces. Once group sharing begins, give each kid a print piece and something to write with. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up, discuss the lesson concepts, and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

Say- I am excited to spend the next few weeks learning about the Holy Spirit together. There can be confusion surrounding the subject of the Holy Spirit. Today, we’re going to take a closer look at the subject and see what we can discover! First things first, the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.

Ask- Has anyone ever heard the term “Trinity”? What does it mean?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

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Say- “Trinity” is a term used to describe the three different persons of God - God the Father, God the Son-Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit. There are three parts, but they are one God. Think of it like a cake. You have the cake, the filling, and the frosting - three parts but altogether one cake. Three parts, one God. Maybe you’ve tried to understand the Holy Spirit, but you feel like you’re just throwing out guesses as to what He’s all about, never really getting the whole picture. It doesn’t have to be that way! Jesus gives us a clear picture of who the Holy Spirit is and His function in the life of believers. The Bible tells us that life on Earth wouldn’t always be easy. *John 16:33* says, “*I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart! I have overcome the world.*” Things on Earth can be challenging, but Jesus doesn’t intend for you to face them alone. He knew you would need a helper, so He sent the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit help you? Let’s talk about that! First things first, the Holy Spirit helps you with guidance. Write that on your page.

-Allow time for the kids to fill in the blanks on their page-

Ask- What is guidance, and why do you need it?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say- Have you ever felt confused and like you didn’t know the right choice to make? We’ve all been there! The Holy Spirit helps guide as you make decisions, like having a GPS navigation system straight from Heaven. If you ask for help, listen, and follow the Holy Spirit, He will guide you through life. This goes hand in hand with the next way the Holy Spirit helps. The Holy Spirit helps you have comfort and peace. Write that on your page.

-Allow time for the kids to fill in the blank on their page-

Say- Remember the words I just read from *John 16:33*? “*In this world you will have trouble.*” Yikes! I don’t know about you, but facing trouble and difficulties isn’t something I look forward to. Tough times can bring sadness, anxiety, and feelings of loneliness. Helpers meet needs, and that is exactly what the Holy Spirit does when you’re going through difficult seasons in life.

Ask- What are some ways we experience the Holy Spirit’s comfort and peace?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say- If guidance, comfort, and peace weren’t awesome enough, the Holy Spirit also helps you know when you have sinned. Write that on your page.

-Allow time for the kids to fill in the blank on their page-

Ask- Why do people need help knowing when they have sinned?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

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Say- The Holy Spirit helps keep you in close and right relationship with God. Sin is part of human nature, and sin separates us from God. The Holy Spirit nudges when sin goes unchecked so you can ask for forgiveness! There is one last thing I would like to talk about. How do you get the Holy Spirit to be part of your life?

Ask- What are your thoughts on that question? How do you get the Holy Spirit to be part of your life?

-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-

Say- The Holy Spirit is a helper God has already promised every believer. If you want the Holy Spirit to be part of your life, all you have to do is ask! The Holy Spirit is ready and willing to be active in your life. Ask and you will receive!

Prayer Time

Say- Would you like the Holy Spirit to be your helper? As we pray, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Thank God for this awesome gift, and then receive Him into your life!

Pray

Closing

Say- The people who followed Jesus while He was on Earth had been on a rollercoaster journey. Jesus had a whirlwind three-year ministry. He did amazing things, and people’s lives were forever changed. It all seemed to come to a halt when Jesus died on the cross. His followers were in despair. You know what happens next! Jesus rose from the grave, and everyone rejoiced. I’m sure His followers sighed in relief at the thought of Jesus being with them once again. To their dismay, Jesus then announced that He was leaving - again! His followers had to be filled with anxious thoughts as they wondered what would happen next. Then Jesus said something amazing and encouraging. He was going away, but He wasn’t leaving altogether. He was sending a helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would be a gift straight from Heaven to give believers guidance, comfort, and peace and to help them recognize sin. The world hasn’t gotten any less crazy since Jesus walked the earth. Life can be a rollercoaster journey. You face despair, joy, pain, love, sorrow, tough choices, grief, and everything in between. You could begin to wonder where God is and why He left His followers here. It’s true - Jesus went away, but He didn’t leave altogether. He sent a piece of Himself for every believer - the Holy Spirit. This Helper brings guidance, comfort, and peace and helps you recognize sin. With the help of the Holy Spirit, you can face anything that comes your way! Thank you for coming today. I will see you again soon.

Jesus had been with His disciples for three years, teaching them how to live powerful lives for God. The disciples trusted Jesus, and they depended on Him for instruction and knowledge. One night, Jesus gathered His disciples together for a meal. He began to tell them that soon, He would not be with them any longer. As you can imagine, the disciples began to get very concerned. Jesus had been with them since the beginning of His ministry. What would they do without Him? Jesus understood their concern, and so He told them. "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever." This gave the disciples some hope for the future.

Several weeks later, after Jesus had been crucified and risen from the dead, He gathered the disciples together and explained to them exactly who this "Helper" was going to be. He told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. He said, "And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and Judea, and Samaria, and unto the ends of the earth." Then, just as He said these things, He ascended up into Heaven. The disciples watched Jesus rise up to Heaven, but then they stood there not knowing what to do. Two angels appeared and encouraged them, sharing that one-day Jesus would return, so they needed to prepare themselves.

The disciples went to Jerusalem, gathered together in a room, and began praying. Jesus had told them to go pray and wait for the Helper – the Holy Spirit. They did not have any idea what was about to happen. Do you know what happened? Jesus' promise came true! The Holy Spirit did come upon the disciples and began to help them in many ways. From that day on, the disciples began to preach all over the world, sharing how Jesus came and died for the sins of everyone. Many others received the gift of the Holy Spirit over the years.



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