

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-21

Lesson Focus: Jesus told the truth and The Holy Spirit helps us love Jesus in a big way!

----- Lesson -----

Before the lesson at approximately 8:50am, start by playing the Casper video:

Casper the Friendly Ghost - Professor's Problem / Little Lost Ghost (12:18)

Casper helps the professor take his rocket into space and helps a lost ghost find his mother.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha6th1ftbJ4>

Starting the lesson, ask the children who loves Casper? (relates to the story of "ghosts" or "spirits" as in "The Holy Spirit".

Everyone, go get a favorite stuffed animal, a toy, a safety blanket. Anything that makes you feel calm and relaxed, safe.

Have you ever traveled somewhere without your parents, away from your home? A trip with a friend, stay over at your grandparents house, go to camp, or even a sleep over? Did you get scared? Lonely? You miss your parents, your toys, and your bed? Or maybe even with your parents, you just go on a big trip.

<interact with/ask the children>

What can you do to make yourself feel better?

<interact with/ask the children>

Sometimes having a little something with you helps, because it makes you think of what has been left behind, and it lets you rest assured that you'll be together with those you love again, or get back to your own home, your bed sometime.

Well last week we discussed that Jesus was going away to prepare the way in Heaven for us. He left us and just like we may be scared of leaving our own loved ones, we may feel scared, lonely about missing Jesus. Or maybe we stop believing, or having faith, feeling like Jesus is not with us.

But Jesus knew we would feel sad. The disciples themselves even asked Jesus "Tell us where you are going so that we can follow..." So Jesus left us with a "safety blanket" too, to keep us comforted until Jesus returns. He said he would not leave us as orphans and so when Jesus left, he left us with his Spirit - we call it the Holy Spirit. He lives in us. You don't see him but you can be sure He is there.

How can you tell that the Holy Spirit lives in us?

<interact with/ask the children>

When you forget, He is there inside you can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit within us when we show love to one another, when we do our good behaviors, help others, care for others, follow in Jesus footsteps, follow God's rules and commandments. All these things show that the Spirit is alive and working everywhere.

<show video about Holy Spirit>

God Sends the Holy Spirit (3:29)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

Pick up on these hints from the video; most of these we discussed last weekend to describe "the church":

- flames that settled on the disciples
- speaking in other languages
- speaking about wonderful things God has done
- spread the word of God
- repent our sins and turn to God and baptize in the name of Jesus
- practice what the disciples taught
- all the believers met in one place
- help those in need
- worship together
- share their meals
- praise God

But what is the Holy Spirit? Is it like Casper? (pause)

If you met someone who had never heard of the Christian Church before, what would you tell them we believe in? Who do we believe created the earth? What do we believe happened to Jesus on Christmas/Easter? Who do we believe was the Mother of Jesus? What do we believe happens when we die?

<show video about Holy Spirit>

The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Lord and Giver of Life in the Nicene Creed. (We say the Nicene Creed in worship every Sunday). He is The Creator Spirit, present before the creation of the universe and through his power everything was made in Jesus Christ, by God the Father. The Holy Spirit is understood to be one of the three persons of the Trinity.

Trinity - three people in one.... (more in a minute about this....)

Reference the Nicene Creed PDF; notice that most slides have a "dove" to signify the Holy Spirit.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth

(draw the earth, sun, and stars)

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary
(draw a nativity scene with Mary and baby Jesus, and a dove for the Spirit)

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried
(draw Jesus on the cross)

He descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead
(draw a risen Jesus and empty tomb)

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead
(draw Jesus' feet sticking out of a cloud as he ascends to heaven)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints
(draw a church with lots of people, and again a dove for the Spirit)

The forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.
(draw happy faces and hearts)

In the Nicene Creed we mention God, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There's that Trinity again - three people in one.... how can that be? Can be difficult to understand. Here's another way to maybe show you.

You ever heard of super heroes? Same person but different inside? Here's a few video clips for super heroes that are multiple people/personalities in one:

PJ Masks (for the younger children)

<https://youtu.be/vHpJpLEDVIE>

Superman (for older children)

<https://youtu.be/vjI0G-9r4LY>

Think of the transformers (my favorite)

<https://youtu.be/gZl9e84h438>

We will take comfort in knowing that the Holy Spirit never leaves us.

That little voice you hear inside you, some call it your conscious; maybe it's the Holy Spirit.

GO BE A SUPER HERO!

----- References -----

Animal Fact Guide: Emperor Penguin

<https://animalfactguide.com/animal-facts/emperor-penguin/>

The emperor penguin is the largest of 17 species of penguin at 45 in (just under 4 feet) tall. It is also the only animal to inhabit the open ice of Antarctica during the winter. This relates to the story because the egg/chick is never left alone no matter how hard things get.

Preteen Bible Study: The Holy Spirit

<https://childrensministry.com/preteen-bible-study-holy-spirit/>

(Make silly putty to describe how the Holy Spirit lives in us but we don't see Him)

Children's Message (John 14:15-21) The Holy Spirit Comforter

<https://ministry-to-children.com/holy-spirit-comforter-sermon/>

In times of difficulty and trouble, it is a blessing to recognize that God loves us and cares about us no matter what. The goal of this message is to remind children that we can feel comforted by the presence of God.

God Sends the Holy Spirit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKy1Mx49M>

Three Ways to Teach the Creed to Younger Children

<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/2017/01/three-ways-to-teach-the-creed-to-younger-children/>