



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 72

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: The Holy Spirit will take Christ's place, marking believers and bringing power.

Bible Character(s): Jesus Christ and the disciples

Scripture Reference: Acts 1:6-11; Acts 2:1-13



PERSONAL PREPARATION:

Before this weekend, read through Acts 1-2. Before Jesus ascends to Heaven, He leaves the disciples with a promise. He told them He would leave the Holy Spirit to live inside all believers and bring power to be witnesses of the Gospel to the whole world. The promise of the Holy Spirit is fulfilled at the feast of Pentecost, where the disciples experienced the power of the Spirit through their temporary ability to speak in other languages in order to preach the Gospel.

As you think about the Holy Spirit being inside you, do you fully believe that you have access to the power of the Holy Spirit? It is easy to start depending on ourselves, believing that we can control our lives. As we rely less on the grace that Christ has given us and depend more on our own strength, we miss out on the power, comfort and wisdom that can be ours through the Holy Spirit. How do you struggle with fully believing and trusting that you have access to His power and life? Do you try to live out of your own strength rather than resting in Christ and His grace? God provides us with His Spirit living inside of us so that we can spread His kingdom. He wants to use us, but we need to rely on the power of the Spirit working in us. Spend a few minutes in prayer, asking God to reveal to you how you are not depending on the power given to you through the Holy Spirit. Pray for dependence on God, and for His power to be worked out through you so others can know the Good News of Jesus.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will discuss the background of Acts, set the stage for the Pentecost and talk about the

characteristics of the Holy Spirit, as well as the Holy Spirit's role in our lives.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did the Staff Member learn about his stuff that he thought didn't have any purpose? (He learned each one had a purpose, and realized they had value.) What promise did Jesus give the disciples before He ascended to heaven? (Jesus told them the Holy Spirit would be with them, and all believers.) What does the Holy Spirit do for us? (The Holy Spirit lives inside of all who believe in Jesus, giving us the power of God to make us so much more than we could ever be without Him.)

Last week we learned about the specific instructions Jesus left His disciples. Can anyone remember what those instructions were? (They were told to go out and make disciples by sharing their faith.) Can anyone remember how we defined a disciple? (A disciple is a follower of Jesus.) Those instructions were not just for the disciples that lived with Jesus. They are for Jesus' disciples today too. If you believe and trust in Jesus as your Savior, then you are a disciple! You are instructed to share your faith with others and make disciples.

Today we are beginning our study in the book of Acts. Acts is the 5th book in the New Testament, right after the book of John. In chapter 1, Jesus was walking among the disciples and talking with them, after His resurrection. Let's begin reading the Bible in Acts 1 [NLT].

Acts 1:6-7

⁶ So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

⁷ He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know."

The apostles did not fully understand what Jesus' death and resurrection meant. They wanted Jesus to give them an earthly kingdom. Jesus told them it is up to God the Father and His plan. We do not have to worry about when things will happen. We can trust that God is in control of all things because He is sovereign. Let's continue reading the Bible.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Last week, we learned that Jesus gave His disciples the command to go and tell others about His death and resurrection. In verse 8, Jesus told them that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit

comes to help them. Does anyone remember studying about the Trinity? (Allow responses.) The Trinity is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. God is three persons in one. The Holy Spirit is God, just like Jesus is God. When we believe and trust in God, and in what Jesus has done for us, we also receive the Holy Spirit. He lives with us and supplies us with power and wisdom to do what God wants us to do. The Bible tells us what happened next, let's read more.

Acts 1:9-11

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

Even though Jesus was taken up to heaven, He did not leave us alone; He promised the Holy Spirit to come and be with all who believe in Him. Because Jesus was fully God and fully man, he could only be in one place at one time like each of us. He could not be everywhere at once, but the Holy Spirit can.

The Ascension



The purpose of this activity is to review Jesus' ascension and his promise to come back. Discuss the following questions with your cabin.

1. How do you think the apostles felt as they watched Jesus ascend? (Amazed, wondrous, impressed.)
2. How does knowing Jesus will return affect how we act? (We try to do what is pleasing to Him, we have hope in the future.)
3. If Jesus' final command was to teach others about Him, what should we spend our time here doing?

Tie It Together



Jesus ascended into heaven, but He promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would come in His place. He left them with instructions and a promise. We are also included in these instructions and in this promise. We know that if we believe and trust in Jesus as our Savior, then we have the Holy Spirit living inside us to guide us. We also know that Jesus wants us to share who He is with others. Until Jesus comes back, we have the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and direction in our life so that we can obey Jesus' command to share our faith with others. The Holy Spirit helps us to live a life that brings glory to God.

Let's continue reading the Bible and see what the 2nd chapter of Acts can tell us about the role that the Holy Spirit plays in the disciples' lives and in our lives.

Acts 2:1

¹ On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.

The day of Pentecost was the day God sent the Holy Spirit to be with the believers. This happened several days after Jesus ascended into heaven. The Bible tells us more.

Acts 2:2-4

² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

The Holy Spirit came to this place and gave each believer the ability to speak in other languages so that they could share Christ with people from other cultures. Jesus' promise was fulfilled. He said, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit provides us with the power to share with others about Jesus, and help them know who He is and what He has done for them. Let's continue reading the Bible now.

Acts 2:5-12

⁵ At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

⁷ They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, ⁸ and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! ⁹ Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome ¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" ¹² They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.

Languages of the world



The purpose of this activity is to see how many languages were heard and how miraculous this event was.

Supplies:

Map (1 per session)

Have campers help in marking the locations listed in the text (Acts 2:5-12 above) on the map. Point out the distance between these areas.

Tie It Together



During the time that this took place, you could not learn other languages online or through CDs like we can today. At that time, it was only the power of the Holy Spirit that gave the disciples the ability to speak different languages so that they could tell other nations about Jesus. How would you feel if you heard someone speaking your language who did not know your language five minutes ago? (Allow responses.) This shows the power of the Holy Spirit. God uses the Holy Spirit to help us

to do the work He wants us to do. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to work in us so that we can live as God wants us to.

The Holy Spirit



The purpose of this activity is to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “The Holy Spirit Worksheet” side (1 per session)

As a class, check off the roles of the Holy Spirit.

Tie It Together

 When we believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us power, wisdom, direction, comfort, etc. God continues to change us through the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart. It is amazing that we can have God with us all the time. How does this change your life? How does it make you feel to know that God is with you all of the time? (Allow responses.) We can be bold in telling others about Jesus, and we can know that God will help us to do His work because He lives in us.

Living With the Holy Spirit



The purpose of this activity is for the campers to recognize how the Holy Spirit works in their life.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Living with the Holy Spirit” side (1 per session)

Blanket (1 per bin)

Flashlight (1 per bin)

Read through each situation, and discuss examples of how the Holy Spirit could work in the campers' lives in each situation. Use the blanket and flashlight to help illustrate some of the roles of the Holy Spirit (blanket – Holy Spirit comforts us; flashlight – Holy Spirit brings light to God's Word and plan, helps us know how to be the light of the world).

Tie It Together

 If you have put your faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior, then you have the Holy Spirit living in you. We have learned some of the roles of the Holy Spirit are to provide wisdom, direction, power and comfort. When we choose to follow Jesus, we can recognize how the Holy Spirit is working in us to help live the way that God wants us to live. The Holy Spirit is always with us, and so we do not have to be afraid (blanket). The Holy Spirit comforts us when we are sad or having a hard time (blanket). The Holy Spirit can help us to be bold in our faith, and give us courage to do something that would bring glory to God (flashlight). The Holy Spirit convicts us when we are doing something that is disobeying God (flashlight). The Holy Spirit gives us a desire to love others more than

ourselves. There are many ways the Holy Spirit works in our lives to help us give God the glory and praise. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us worship God in everything we do.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live with us so we do not have to be alone. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working in our hearts to show us how we can live more for God, and not ourselves.



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