

Hello everyone,

My name is Janis Cox. I have volunteered to help Harry with the Sunday School lessons while we are in COVID. This lesson is based on the lectionary reading for Sunday.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at authorjaniscox@gmail.com. And don't forget to send pictures and videos to Harry.

Lesson: Choose to Listen to the Holy Spirit

The Story

Before Jesus was killed, He told His disciples that He would send a Helper, the Holy Spirit, so they would not be alone.

The disciples had seen Jesus crucified and had seen that He had risen. They had talked, walked and ate with Him after He had risen. For 40 days He was with them. Then He disappeared in a cloud. The disciples were told to wait. And wait they did. For 10 days they waited.

Then the Helper arrived. The Holy Spirit came on each disciple and they were able to talk in other languages. Many people saw and heard them.

Scripture

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

²⁶ “And I will send you the **Divine Encourager** from the very presence of my Father. He will come to you, **the Spirit of Truth**, emanating from the Father, and he will speak to you about me. ²⁷ And you will tell everyone the truth about me, for you have walked with me from the start.”

⁴ I'm telling you this now so that when their time comes you will remember that I foretold it. I didn't tell you this in the beginning because I was still with you. ⁵ But now that I'm about to leave you and go back to join the One who sent me, you need to be told. Yet, not one of you are asking me where I'm going. ⁶ Instead your hearts are filled with sadness because I've told you these things. ⁷ But here's the truth: It's to your advantage that I go away, for if I don't go away the **Divine Encourager** will not be released to you. But after I depart, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will expose sin and prove that the world is wrong about God's righteousness and his judgments.

⁹ “ ‘Sin,’ because they refuse to believe in who I am.

¹⁰ “God's ‘righteousness,’ because I'm going back to join the Father and you'll see me no longer.

¹¹ “And ‘judgment’ because the ruler of this dark world has already received his sentence.

¹² “There is so much more I would like to say to you, but it’s more than you can grasp at this moment. ¹³ But when the truth-giving Spirit comes, he will unveil the reality of every truth^[c] within you. He won’t speak on his own, but only what he hears from the Father, and he will reveal prophetically to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me on the earth, for he will receive from me what is mine and reveal it to you. ¹⁵ Everything that belongs to the Father belongs to me—that’s why I say that the **Divine Encourager** will receive what is mine and reveal it to you. (The Passion Translation)

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15, NIV

The Work of the Holy Spirit

²⁶ “When the **Advocate** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the **Spirit of truth** who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵ but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹² “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Acts 2:1-4, TPT (The Passion Translation)

2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

2:2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

2:3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:1-4, NIV

1. When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues[a] as the Spirit enabled them.

Questions: for John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

1. Before Jesus died whom did He say would come to help them? (*the Divine Encourager, the Spirit of Truth, the Advocate*)
2. Why did Jesus say He would send someone? (*Jesus wanted someone would speak to them about Jesus after He was no longer on the earth. John 15:26*)
3. Why did Jesus tell them this information beforehand? (*He wanted them to remember all that had happened. John 16:4*)
4. What was one reason Jesus had to die? (*Jesus wanted to send Someone to help them always. Jesus also wanted to prove to the world that there was sin, and there was righteousness. And there will be judgment. John 16:7*)
5. How will the Holy Spirit (The Advocate, The Divine Encourager and the Spirit of truth) speak to us? (*The Father will speak to the Holy Spirit and then He can speak to us. John 16:13*)
6. What else can the Holy Spirit tell us? (*He can tell us what will come – what will be in our future. He can prophesize.*)

Acts 2:1-21

1. What does Pentecost mean? (*50 days after Easter when Jesus rose from the dead. The Holy Spirit arrived just as Jesus had told His disciples.*)
2. Who were together on that 50th day? (*all of the disciples – the eleven and the new one, Matthias*)
3. Describe what happened. (*A sound like a violent wind filled the house where they were. Tongues of fire reached out to each disciple. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. Each one of the disciples spoke a different language as the Holy Spirit gave them ability.*)

Memory Verse for youngest ones

The Holy Spirit is my Helper. I am not alone.

Memory verse for older ones

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. (John 16:26, NIV)

Here are a few ideas to memorize verses:

1. Cut the words out separately and then mix them up. Now try to put them back together. 2. Using actions say the verse.

For this week you could use these actions:

When the Advocate (reach up your arms high and pull down) comes, whom I (point up to God) will send (point to everyone) to you from the Father (point up) —the Spirit of truth (extend the pointer finger of your right hand and touch your lips. Then bring that hand down into your other hand which is open) who goes out (point away) from the Father (point up) —he will testify (make a fist with one hand and tap it on the open palm of the other hand) about me (point up). (John 16:26, NIV)

3. Print out the words on a card. On the back of the card, print the first letter of each word. Now try to say the verse.

Thinking about the Lesson

If you need help whom do you ask? (Mom, Dad, friend, teacher, God)

We all need to have help at some time. Asking for help is a great idea.

God has made sure there is a way that we will never be alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to help us. Deep inside of us we can know the right answers because the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Prayer:

Thank You, Father for sending us Jesus who taught us many things while he lived on earth. Thank You for the sacrifice that Jesus made so that He could send a Helper, an Advocate, to always be with us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Pray together

Ask your child what he/she would like to talk to God about. Then pray that prayer together.

Lord, we ask..... (put your child's request here). We thank You that You hear our prayers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Activities

1. Draw a picture of the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit. Draw the tongues of fire, show the wind, and show the disciples speaking different languages.

2. Word Search

3. Colouring Page

Janis

You can reach me at authorjaniscox@gmail.com for questions or comments.

