



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Aim: To know the Holy Spirit's power helps us to be witnesses.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Gives Us Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 1:3-11

What He Has Done: Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse: Acts 1:8

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Isaiah 43:12

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." Zechariah 4:6b

"I will pour out My Spirit on all people." Joel 2:28a

Unit 1: The Promise of the Spirit			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	The Promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:3-11	Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit	To know the Holy Spirit's power helps us to be witnesses.
2	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2:1-8, 32-33, 36-39, 41	Jesus kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit.	To know that all who believe in Jesus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3	Peter and John Defend Jesus' Name, Acts 3:6-8; 4:1-4, 7-12, 18-21	Jesus healed the man who could not walk when Peter called on His name.	To understand the power of the name of Jesus.
4	The Stoning of Stephen, Acts 6:5a, 8; 7:54-60; 8:1-3	God strengthened Stephen to defend and die for the faith.	To trust the Holy Spirit will help us be faithful.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:26-31, 34-40	God led Philip to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus.	To know the Holy Spirit makes us ready to tell others about Jesus.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read John 14:5-27. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the promise of Your Holy Spirit. Help the children trust in You to keep all of Your promises. Give them faith to wait on Your promises. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: I Witness	Magazines, scissors, markers, poster board (or dry erase board)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "For God So Loved the World" "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Father, I Adore You" "Spirit of the Living God"
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 145:13	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 1 Commander Cosmos script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Acts 1:3-11	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, secret ballots, pencils, one Bible, five scripts of "The Case of Believe It or Not" (available at ResourceWell.org), highlighters
		Christ Connection: Isaiah 43:12	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Witness Card (available at ResourceWell.org) and small pencil, W ³ s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Into the Clouds	Marshmallows (or any fluffy, white snack)
	Up to 10	Game: Witness to the World	Large world map (see game for other options), paper, tape, pen or pencil, blindfold
	Up to 10	Craft: God's Promises Box	Shoe box or similar container, markers, scissors, strips of paper, pens, assorted craft supplies (feathers, beads, shells, yarn, etc.), Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might," crayons or markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Memory Verse Hand Motions	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Around the World	Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, 25 pictures of the earth, labels or slips of paper
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is the best promise you have ever been given?

GAME: I WITNESS

Purpose: To define the word "witness" and discover Jesus called us to be His witnesses.

Supplies: Magazines, scissors, markers, poster board (or dry erase board)

Prepare: Cut or tear out magazine pictures of multiple people involved in an action. Write the following questions on the board:

1. What are the people doing in the picture?
2. What are the people wearing?
3. Do the people look happy or sad?
4. What noises do you think the people are hearing or what do you think the people are saying?

A witness is someone who sees something happen. Witnesses tell others what they have seen. In this game, each team will look at a picture and imagine what witnesses might say about it. Study the picture closely and then pretend you are the witnesses to what is happening in the picture.

Directions:

1. Assign children to small teams of four or less.
2. Give a magazine picture to each team.
3. Teacher reads the four questions on the board.
4. Each team talks about what they think is happening in their picture and agree on an answer to each of the four questions.
5. Each team brainstorms and decides what they would say as a witness to the scene in the picture.
6. Acting as witnesses, team members explain or act out the details of what they think happened in the picture.

When you read Bible stories about Jesus, you are a witness to all the things Jesus did. He rose from the dead, He lives now in heaven, and He will come again. Let's find out what Jesus said you should do about what you have seen and heard about Him.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



We worship the Holy Spirit who gives us power. The Holy Spirit is God. God is three in one: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us know what God wants us to do. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us the faith to believe Jesus rose from the dead, lives now in heaven, and will come again. The Holy Spirit gives us faith to believe Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Sing, "I Am the Way."

Sing: "Spirit of the Living God" as the offering is collected.



Before He was taken up to heaven, Jesus promised His disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They waited for that gift because they knew the Lord keeps His promises. Read Psalm 145:13.



Perform Commander Cosmos script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 1.



Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the power of the Holy Spirit.



Jesus makes a promise

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned that even as a newborn baby, Jesus was recognized as the King God had promised to send. The Magi and evil King Herod knew who Jesus was. Jesus grew up to serve many people as their leader, teacher, healer, and Lord. He performed many miracles. He suffered and died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. Then, God raised Him from the dead. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

Just before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to give power to the apostles. The apostles were the twelve disciples Jesus chose to be His first witnesses. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. If a map is available, point out Jerusalem, Israel. **The book of Acts is about the acts of the apostles who used the power of the Holy Spirit to do amazing things in building God's church. The book has been called Acts of the Apostles or Acts of the Holy Spirit. God's church is everyone who believes in Jesus. Let's look in Acts to see exactly what Jesus did just before He was taken up into heaven.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Acts 1:3-11. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Acts 1:8.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Read Acts 1:3-11.



Being a witness

THE WAY

After He rose from the dead, over a period of how many days did Jesus appear to people? (40.) What did Jesus tell the apostles to do in Jerusalem? (Stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.) Jesus promised the Spirit would give them power to be His witnesses. What is a witness? (Someone who has seen something and then tells others about it.) If you had been there to witness Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and return to heaven, what might you have told others about Jesus? (Children respond.)

As His witnesses, what did the apostles see on the day Jesus was taken up to heaven? (Children respond.) There are three important things Jesus proved to His witnesses that day:

- 1. JESUS IS ALIVE. How had Jesus proved to the apostles over the past 40 days that He had risen from the dead? (He appeared to them, spoke with them, and ate with them.)**
- 2. JESUS IS NOW IN HEAVEN. How did the apostles know Jesus was taken up to heaven? (They saw Him disappear behind the clouds.)**
- 3. JESUS WILL COME AGAIN. What did the two men who suddenly appeared say to everyone staring up into the clouds? (Jesus will return one day in the same way He left.)**

GAME: THE CASE OF BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Purpose: To identify events witnessed by the apostles and clarify the role of Jesus' witnesses.

Supplies: Secret ballots, pencils, one Bible, five scripts of "The Case of Believe It or Not" (available at ResourceWell.org)

The apostles were witnesses for Jesus. As witnesses, what did they see on the day He was taken up to heaven? (Children respond.) To remember what the apostles witnessed that day, let's act out "The Case of Believe It or Not." Follow the instructions on the script.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

700 years before Jesus was taken up into heaven, the Lord spoke about His witnesses through the prophet Isaiah.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 43:12. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Isaiah 43:12.

What did the Lord say His witnesses have seen? (That He is God.) How has the Lord showed you He is God? (Children respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Witness Card and a small pencil. Keep them in a safe place and when you see something happen that might help others know God better, write it down and tell someone—be a witness!

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #1. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the followers watching Jesus being taken up into the clouds.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: INTO THE CLOUDS

Purpose: A cloud-like snack sparks discussion of the witnesses to Jesus' ascension into the clouds.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows (or any fluffy, white snack)

Imagine how you might have felt if you witnessed Jesus being taken up into the clouds. What do you think you would have done next? (Children respond.) Jesus told His apostles to tell the whole world what they witnessed about Him. You are witnessing Jesus' words and actions when you read the Bible. Jesus wants you to tell others what you've witnessed!

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask each child to answer this question: **"What is the most amazing thing you have ever seen?"**

GAME: WITNESS TO THE WORLD

Purpose: This variation of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" helps children realize Jesus wants them to be His witnesses to the world.

Supplies: Large world map*, sturdy paper, tape, pen or pencil, blindfold

Prepare: From sturdy paper, cut enough 1" squares for each child to have one.

***Option:** If a world map is not available, sketch a map on the board, shine one on the wall using a projector, or ask children to help you sketch a world map onto a piece of poster board.

What does Jesus want His witnesses to do? (Tell people all around the world about Him.) When we follow Jesus, we have a special job. He wants us to tell others about Him. He wants everyone to know Him. Let's discover some of the places Jesus wants His witnesses to go.

Directions:

1. Display a world map on the wall.
2. Give each child a 1" square. Each child writes his or her name on the square and then attaches a loop of tape on the back of the square.
3. Children stand in a line several feet away from the map.
4. Blindfold the first child. Spin the child in a circle three times.
5. Child walks to the map and attaches his or her paper square to it.
6. Child removes blindfold and reads the name of the country under or nearest to the paper square.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until each child has a turn.
8. Lead children in a prayer for Jesus' witnesses throughout the world.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: GOD'S PROMISES BOX

Purpose: Children create boxes in which they can place promises from God.

Supplies: Shoe box or similar container (cardboard box, milk or soda jug, etc.), markers, scissors, strips of paper, pens, assorted craft supplies (feathers, beads, shells, yarn, etc.), Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might," crayons or markers

Prepare: For younger children, or if the boxes are made from very stiff material, pre-cut a slit in the top of the box. Write "**God Keeps His Promises**" where children can see to copy it. Display the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster.

What are some things Jesus' disciples witnessed? (They heard and saw Jesus teach, perform miracles, die, rise from the dead, appear to many people, and be taken up to heaven.) **Each time you read the Bible, you witness something God has done. What other times have you witnessed God's work?** (When He answers prayers, in His creation, while worshiping and learning about God.) **This year, we are going to learn about the promises God made in the Bible. We will be witnesses to His promises! Let's each make a special box where we can put God's promises.**

Our new Bible Memory Verse is a special promise from God. God promised to pour out His Spirit on all people. We can add it to our Promise Boxes. Play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," as background music while children work on their boxes.

Directions:

1. Cut a slit, approximately 1 ½-inches long, on the top or side of the box.
2. Write "**God Keeps His Promises**" anywhere on the box.
3. Decorate with craft supplies and crayons or markers.
4. Write the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse onto a strip of paper.
5. Insert the paper through the slit.

Each time you see or hear one of God's promises, write or draw it on a piece of paper. Then drop it in your Promise Box. You can open your Promise Box any time to remember the promises God has made in the Bible. He always keeps His promises.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord Almighty.” Zechariah 4:6b
“I will pour out My Spirit on all people.” Joel 2:28a

GAME: MEMORY VERSE HAND MOTIONS

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster

This year, we are going to learn about God’s promises. Our new Bible Memory Verse tell us one of God’s promises. God promises to pour out His Spirit on all people. We can’t do the great things God wants us to do by just using our own might and power. We need God’s help, so He promised to send us a special helper—the Holy Spirit. Let’s learn some motions to help us remember Zechariah 4:6b and Joel 2:28a.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. As you say the Bible Memory Verse together, demonstrate the corresponding actions:
 - **Not by might** (Flex arm muscles up.)
 - **Nor by power** (Flex arm muscles down.)
 - **But by My Spirit** (Point to heaven.)
 - **Says the Lord Almighty** (Sign for the word “Lord”: Make an “L” shape with thumb and index finger, cross “L” shape from shoulder to hip as royal sash.)
 - **I will pour out** (Pretend to hold up a jug and pour.)
 - **My Spirit** (Point to heaven.)
 - **On all people** (Spread arms wide.)
3. Assign each child (or a group of children) one phrase and action.
4. Seat children in a circle.
5. In order, each child (or group) quickly stands, says and does their motion, and then sits.
6. Repeat step 5 and challenge children to be faster each time.

Option: Divide the children into two teams and make it a race.

GAME: AROUND THE WORLD

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster, labels or slips of paper, 25 pictures of the earth (Pictures can be computer printouts, magazine cutouts, or your own sketches. They do not need to be identical.)

Prepare: Display Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse poster. Write one word or verse reference of the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse on a label or slip of paper. Attach each label to an earth picture. Place the earth pictures word side up and in a large circle approximately 1-foot apart from each other.

Directions:

1. Each child takes a turn stepping on the pictures in order, saying each word as he or she steps.
2. Each time the children repeat the game, turn over some of the pictures so children must remember the missing words when they step on those pictures.
3. The goal is for the children to continue playing until all the pictures are upside down and they are able to remember all the words of the Bible Memory Verse without looking at the poster.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Specific dates and a confirmed chronological order of all events covered in Lessons 1-21 are not available. Events will be ordered as they appear in the Bible. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.) Where was Jesus born? (In a manger in Bethlehem.) **What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus in the manger?** (They told everyone what the angel had said about Him. They went back to their fields praising God.) **What did the Magi do when they saw Jesus?** (They worshiped Him and gave Him gifts.) **Jesus grew up to serve people as their leader, teacher, healer, and Lord. He performed many miracles. He suffered and died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world. Then, God raised Him from the dead.**

Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) After Jesus proved to many people that He was alive, He was taken up into heaven. What did Jesus tell His apostles just before He was taken up? (To wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to give them power. They would be His witnesses.) **What is a witness?** (Children respond.) **A witness is someone who has seen something and then tells others about it.**

How to create a Bible Timeline from Acts through Revelation:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Acts – Revelation: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.) > Jesus Ascends (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Holy Spirit Comes (Circa 33 A.D.) > Peter and the Lame Man (Circa 33 A.D.) > The Stoning of Stephen (Circa 33 A.D.) > Philip and the Ethiopian (Circa 33 A.D.) > God Changes Saul's Heart (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Saul Escapes from Damascus (Circa 33-34 A.D.) > Peter and Tabitha (Circa 34-37 A.D.) > Peter Visits Cornelius (Circa 38 A.D.) > Peter Escapes from Prison (Circa 41-44 A.D.) > Barnabas and Paul (Circa 46-47 A.D.) > Paul Visits Macedonia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Lydia (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Paul and Silas in Prison (Circa 48-49 A.D.) > Priscilla and Aquila (Circa 49-54 A.D.) > Paul's Third Journey (Circa 52-57 A.D.) > Paul's Arrest in Jerusalem (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and King Agrippa (Circa 57-59 A.D.) > Paul and the Shipwreck (Circa 60 A.D.) > Paul Imprisoned in Rome (Circa 62 A.D.)