



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus promised a special helper.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Gives Us Power

THE WORD

Bible Story: Acts 1:4-11

What He Has Done: Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come.

THE WAY

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

Unit 1: The Promise of the Spirit			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	The Promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:4-11	Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come.	To know Jesus promised a special helper.
2	Pentecost: The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2:1-4	Jesus kept His promise and sent the Holy Spirit.	To know God keeps His promises.
3	Peter and the Lame Man, Acts 3:1-10	God healed the man who could not walk.	To praise God for healing us.
4	Stephen Serves Others, Acts 6:1-8	God helped Stephen serve others by feeding the hungry.	To know we can serve others by feeding the hungry.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:27-31, 34-35	God led Philip to teach the man from Africa about Jesus.	To know we can tell Bible stories to others.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read John 14:15-27. 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."

TEACHER'S TIP

Teaching young children about the Holy Spirit. It is difficult for young children to understand the concept of the Holy Spirit living within us. It may be easier to refer to the Holy Spirit as a special helper sent to us by God.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cloud
		Coloring Center: Jesus Is Taken Up to Heaven	Coloring pages of Jesus' friends watching Him being taken up to heaven, cotton ball, glue stick
		Play-Dough Center: A Special Helper	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Block and Car Center: Wait and Go	Blocks, cars
		Dramatic Play Center: Promise Keepers	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Heal Me, O Lord" "Here Am I" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 1
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Acts 1:4-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 1:9 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, inflated balloon (helium, if possible)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Wait for the Gift	Standard-size sturdy light blue paper, sturdy white and flesh-colored paper, cotton balls, crayons or markers, glue or glue sticks, tape
		Game: Up and Down	Crepe paper streamers, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might"
		Game: "By the Spirit" Tag	None
		Snack: Marshmallow Clouds	Marshmallows
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 1
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 1:4-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Hop	None
	Up to 10	Game: Close with Him	Large blanket
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about gifts from God

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a cloud. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cloud help you remember Jesus was taken up into the clouds.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: JESUS IS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Jesus' friends watching Him being taken up to heaven, cotton ball, glue stick

DO

Stretch the cotton balls before giving them to the children. Children color and attach a cotton ball to their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Our story today takes place after Jesus had grown up. He had taught people about God, died on the cross, risen to life, and now it was time for Him to go back to heaven. At first, His friends were sad, but Jesus promised to send a special helper who would always be with them. They knew God always keeps His promises.

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: A SPECIAL HELPER

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about the helper Jesus promised. Encourage children to make clouds with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Today, we will learn about when Jesus went back to heaven. Before He was taken up into the clouds, He promised His friends He would send them a special helper who would help them know what God wants us to do. He is our special helper, too. What do you think God wants us to do?

(Children respond. Some answers may include learn about Him, read the Bible, pray, do right, love others, be kind, serve others, tell others about Him.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

BLOCK & CARS CENTER: WAIT AND GO

SUPPLIES

Blocks, cars

DO

Children play a game to remember Jesus' friends had to wait for His promise to come true.

TALK ABOUT

Before starting, have the children build a town from blocks. **Jesus promised God would send His friends a special helper. But they had to wait for the helper. Do you ever have to wait?** (Children respond.) **What have you waited for?** (Children respond.) **Let's play "Wait and Go." Choose a car. When I say, "Go!" drive your car around the town. When I say, "Wait!" stop until I tell you it is time to go again.** While playing, ask the children if it is hard to wait. When the children are waiting, promise you will not make them wait long. When you say, "Go!" remind them that you kept your promise.

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: PROMISE KEEPERS

SUPPLIES

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food

DO

Children work together while talking about how God keeps His promises.

TALK ABOUT

We make a promise when we tell someone we will do something. It is important to keep our promises. We can always trust God to keep His promises. In our Bible story, we will hear about a special promise God made to people who follow Him. We can make a promise to each other. Let's promise to take turns and help each other while we are playing. While children play, make comments such as, **"I like the way you are taking turns. You are doing a great job keeping your promise."**

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

**"Not by might,
nor by power,
but by My Spirit,"**

(might) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(power) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(Spirit) On each hand, touch the tip of the pointer finger to the tip of the thumb. Hands begin at center of the chest, then move apart in a back and forth wavy motion.

says the Lord Almighty."

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

Zechariah 4:6b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Today, we are going to hear about a very special promise Jesus made. Let's pray and thank Jesus for keeping His promises. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear Jesus, thank You for keeping Your promises. Help us to always trust in You. Amen.**



Jesus promised to send His friends a special gift. Jesus' friends waited for that gift because they knew God always keeps His promises. Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful."

The gift Jesus promised was the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us follow God. One of the things we can do to show we follow God is to give our offering to His church. Let's praise Him while we give our offering. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath" while collecting the offering.



Let's call on Delbert and Lello to see if they know about Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 1, Lesson 1.



Our Bible Memory Verse tells us that when we do great things, it is not by our own might or power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty," Zechariah 4:6b. Let's say our verse together. Practice a few times with the motions.

**"Not by might,
nor by power,
but by My Spirit,"**

says the Lord Almighty."

Zechariah 4:6b

(might) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(power) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.

(Spirit) On each hand, touch the tip of the pointer finger to the tip of the thumb. Hands begin at center of the chest, then move apart in a back and forth wavy motion.

(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Let's sing our Bible Memory Verse Song together. Sing Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Not by Might."



Jesus is taken up to heaven

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Acts 1:9, picture of the Bible story, inflated balloon (helium, if possible)

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Show children the balloon. Hold balloon close to you. **Who can tell me what I brought today?** (A balloon.) **I love balloons. I love their pretty colors. What color balloon do you like?** (Children respond.) **I especially like to watch them float through the air.** Allow balloon to float upward or if it is not helium, slowly lift it above your head. **When I am outside, if I don't hold it tight, it might be taken up higher and higher until I can't even see it.**

In our story today, Jesus is all grown up and it is time for Him to be taken up to heaven. At first, His friends were sad. They would miss Jesus, but He promised to send them a special helper, called the Holy Spirit, who would be with them. Let's listen. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 1:9.



WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 1:4-11

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Jesus was born as a gift from God.**
- **He gave His life to save everyone.**
- **He rose again and promised His friends:**
- **"Wait for the gift of the Spirit to come."**

- **Then Jesus was taken up into heaven,**
- **Everyone stared up at the clouds.**
- **Two men said, "Why are you looking up there?"**
- **In the same way, one day He'll come back down!"**

What did Jesus tell His friends to do? (Wait for the gift of the Spirit to come.) **Jesus sent us the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us know how to follow God.**



Giving treasures to Jesus

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: WAIT FOR THE GIFT

Purpose: For children to remember the promise Jesus made as He was taken up into heaven.

Supplies: Standard-size sturdy light blue paper, sturdy white and flesh-colored paper, cotton balls, crayons or markers, glue or glue sticks, tape

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, cut out an outline of Jesus and a cloud shape which is large enough to cover Jesus. From sturdy flesh-colored paper, cut three 1-inch circles. On the bottom of a standard-size sheet of sturdy light blue paper, print:

Wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-11

Optional: Instead of three 1-inch circles, you may choose to draw or print people for the children to color and add to the bottom of the blue paper.

Adaptation for Ages 2-3: This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5.

Directions:

1. Color Jesus.
2. Glue Jesus to the upper portion of the blue paper.
3. Place the cloud shape over Jesus. Attach the top of the cloud to the blue paper so the cloud can be lifted to see Jesus.
4. Glue cotton balls to the cloud shape.
5. Draw faces on the three 1-inch circles. Attach them at the bottom of the light blue paper.
6. Show children how to lift the cloud to show how Jesus was taken up into heaven.

Craft Discussion:

- **Where is Jesus now? (In heaven.) His friends saw Him as He was taken up into heaven.**
- **As He was taken up, what did Jesus promise to send His friends? (The gift of the Holy Spirit.) Jesus wanted His friends to wait for His gift.**
- **What is the most special gift you have ever received? (Children respond.) Did you have to wait to open your gift? (Children respond.)**
- **Just like Jesus asked His followers to wait, sometimes God asks us to wait for His good gifts, too.**
- **We will find out more about the gift of the Holy Spirit next time. Together, we will wait to hear about this gift.**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: UP AND DOWN

Purpose: Children remember Jesus went up to heaven and promised to send a gift to His friends.

Supplies: Crepe paper streamers, Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song "Not by Might"

Prepare: Cut a 12-inch crepe paper streamer for each child.

Jesus went up to heaven. One day, He will come back again! Jesus said He would send a special gift down to His friends while they were waiting for His return. What did He say that gift would be? (The Holy Spirit.)

Directions:

1. Give each child a crepe paper streamer.
2. **Jesus went up into the clouds. Raise your streamers like Jesus went up.**
3. **Jesus told His friends He would send down a gift. Lower your streamers like the gift coming down.**
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3.
5. While you play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song lead the children in raising and lowering their streamers. Add motions such as waving the streamers from side to side, low to the ground, high above their heads, or while turning in a slow circle. You may also choose to lead the children in marching around the room.
6. **Jesus went up higher than our streamers. He went up through the clouds to heaven. He promised to send down a gift. What was that gift? (The Holy Spirit.)**

GAME: "BY THE SPIRIT" TAG

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

Supplies: None

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." That means when we do great things, the Holy Spirit will help us. Let's play a game that will help us remember our Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Practice saying the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.

"Not by might,	(might) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.
nor by power,	(power) Push fists up and forward in a forceful manner.
but by My Spirit,'	(Spirit) On each hand, touch the tip of the pointer finger to the tip of the thumb. Hands begin at center of the chest, then move apart in a back and forth wavy motion.
says the Lord Almighty."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Zechariah 4:6b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.
3. **While you say the Bible Memory Verse, I'm going to walk around the outside of the circle. If I tap you on the shoulder, jump up and run around the circle.**
4. Have a helper sit in the circle to lead the children in saying the verse and doing the motions while you walk around the outside of the circle. When the verse is done, tap the child in front of you. That child runs around the circle back to their original spot.
5. Play until each child has a turn to run around the circle or for as long as you have time.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: MARSHMALLOW CLOUDS

Purpose: Children will eat marshmallows to remind them of the clouds.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **The marshmallows we are eating remind me of the clouds in our story.**
 - **Where did His friends see Jesus go?** (Up to heaven, hidden by a cloud.) **Jesus went up through the clouds.**
 - **Is Jesus going to come back to earth?** (Yes.) **Jesus wants us to wait for Him. Sometimes, God asks us to wait for His good gifts for us.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

**"Not by might,
nor by power,
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Zechariah 4:6b

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(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: ACTS 1:4-11

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Jesus was born as a gift from God.** (Pretend to hold a baby.)
- **He gave His life to save everyone.** (Put hands on heart.)
- **He rose again and promised His friends:** (Point to heaven.)
- **“Wait for the gift of the Spirit to come.”** (Push hands downward.)

- **Then Jesus was taken up into heaven,** (Point to heaven.)
- **Everyone stared up at the clouds.** (Look straight up.)
- **Two men said, “Why are you looking up there?”** (Palms open, as if asking.)
- **In the same way, one day He’ll come back down!”** (Point up, then point to ground.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

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

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE HOP

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verses.

Supplies: None

After He promised to send the Holy Spirit, Jesus was taken up through the clouds. Let’s pretend we are above the clouds and say each Bible Memory Verse word as we hop from cloud to cloud.

Directions:

1. Children line up behind you.
2. As you say each word from the Bible Memory Verse, hop around the room.
3. If you have time, use other motions while saying the verse such as taking big steps, taking baby steps, clapping, or skipping.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: CLOSE WITH HIM

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the promise in Joel 2:28a.

Supplies: Large blanket

Jesus promised to send a special helper, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. Let's imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.

Directions:

1. Have the children stand close together and wrap the blanket around them.
2. **God wants you to know that He is as close to you as this blanket. That's why He gives you His Spirit—so you can be close with Him.**
3. **The Holy Spirit will help us in everything we say and do. That's why our Bible Memory Verse says, "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord Almighty." Can we say it together?** Practice the Bible Memory Verse with the children. You may choose to drop the blanket and have them say the Bible Memory Verse with the motions.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about gifts from God.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 1, Lesson 1: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

PONDER! Jesus promised to send His friends a special helper, then He was taken up to heaven (Acts 1:4-11). Who did Jesus promise to send to His friends? (The Holy Spirit.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for sending Your gift of the Holy Spirit. Help us to wait for the gifts You have for us as we trust You to keep Your promises. Amen."

PLAY! Wrap an open box in gift paper or use a gift bag. Take turns drawing pictures of special gifts God has given you. Place the drawings in the gift box or bag. You may choose to add pictures during the week. Talk about the many gifts God has given us.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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nor by power,
but by My Spirit,"**

says the Lord Almighty."

Zechariah 4:6b

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Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.