



The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Aim: To know that sometimes we must wait for God's gifts.

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

Whisper Verse: "Wait for the gift."

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 1:4-11	Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come.	To know that sometimes we must wait for God's gifts.
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."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cloud
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Wait for the gift."
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: "Heal Me, O Lord" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Hymn Suggestions "Hallelu, Hallelu" "How Great Is Our God" "I've Got the Joy"
		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 Visual: Cotton balls (as clouds)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Wait for the Gift	Standard-size sturdy light blue paper, sturdy white and flesh-colored paper, cotton balls, markers or crayons, glue or glue sticks, tape
		Game: Wait for the Gift	Wrapped gift
		Game: Up and Down	1 Non-helium balloon per child
		Snack: Marshmallow Clouds	Marshmallows
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 1, Lesson 1 Color This Story: "Jesus Promised to Send the Holy Spirit"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Acts 1:4-11	None
	Up to 10	Game: Cloud Hop	Sturdy white paper or paper plates
	Up to 10	Game: God's Blanket for Us	Large blanket
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about gifts from God

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Wait for the gift

THE 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. That's when He told His followers to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Today's Whisper Verse is "Wait for the gift."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Wait for the gift."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

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|----------------------|---|
| "Wait (for)" | The fingers of both hands are wiggled with one hand in front of the other and both palms facing the body. |
| "(the) gift." | With both hands closed as if holding something, slightly rotate the arms two times in front of the body as if handing something to someone twice. |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Wait for the gift," Acts 1:4. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His friends He would send the gift of the Holy Spirit who would give them power. Jesus told them to wait for the gift. That is today's Whisper Verse: “Wait for the gift.” Let's try it together now. Review Whisper Verse together: “Wait for the gift.” Include sign language.

The Holy Spirit is God. God is three in one: God is the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit points us to God. He helps us know what God wants us to do. One of the great things God wants us to do is to give our offering to His church. We can praise Him while we give our offering. Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath” while collecting the offering.

When we do great things, it is not by our own might or power, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. That reminds me of our new Bible Memory Verse Song about that. Sing: “Not by Might.”



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.



Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with believers forever. His followers waited for the gift of the Holy Spirit because they knew God always keeps His promises. Let's celebrate that. Sing: “I Am with You” and “The Lord Is Faithful.”



Jesus is taken up

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God showed baby Jesus to the wise men. Today, we will hear what happened after Jesus grew up. Jesus promised to send a gift to His friends. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Acts 1:9.

WATCH THE WORD: ACTS 1:4-11

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display cotton balls (as clouds). Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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 Holy Spirit to come.) **Our Whisper Verse** tells us the answer. Let's say it together: **"Wait for the gift."** Include sign language or hand motions.



How did Jesus go back to heaven? (He was taken up into heaven; a cloud hid Him from sight.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Acts 1:9 from the teacher's Bible.



Waiting and trusting God

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, markers or crayons, glue or glue sticks, tape

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, cut out an outline of Jesus and a 1-inch x 2-inch rectangle tab to tape to the back of Jesus. Crease the tab in half on its width. From sturdy flesh-colored paper, cut three 1-inch circles. On a standard-size sheet of sturdy light blue paper, cut a slit lengthwise in the upper half of the middle of the paper. On the bottom of the paper, print: **"Wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

Acts 1:4-11

Directions:

1. Color Jesus.
2. Tape half of the tab to the back of Jesus, leaving the other half loose for a small handle.
3. Draw faces on the three 1-inch circles. Attach them at the bottom of the light blue paper.
4. Attach cotton balls, four clouds, to both sides of the lengthwise slit.
5. Help children slide the handle part of the tab through the slit in the paper.
6. Show children how to grasp the tab from the back to show how Jesus was taken up into heaven.

Craft Discussion:

- **Where is Jesus now?** (In heaven.) **His friends saw Him 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.**
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our hand motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **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: WAIT FOR THE GIFT

Purpose: Children will think about how Jesus' friends had to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Supplies: Wrapped gift filled with enough individual pieces of candy for each child to have one

Optional: Replace the candy with balloons which will be used for the game UP AND DOWN below.

Jesus was taken up into heaven. He promised to send a special gift to His friends. What did Jesus tell His friends to do? (Wait for the gift.) Sometimes, we must wait for gifts from God. Let's play a waiting game.

Directions:

1. Seat children on the floor in a circle. Have them close their eyes.
2. **Keep your eyes closed. Who will get to hold the gift? Wait for your turn.**
3. Place the gift in front of one of the children.
4. **Everyone open your eyes. Thank you for waiting!**
5. The child who has the gift in front of them picks it up.
6. **What do you think is inside the gift?** Child gets one guess.
7. Repeat steps 2-6 until each child has a turn.
8. Open and share the contents with the children.

GAME: UP AND DOWN

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

Supplies: 1 Non-helium balloon per child

Prepare: Inflate one balloon for each child.

Optional: If you have a large class, you may prefer to have children take turns with 1-3 balloons.

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 an inflated balloon to each child.
2. **Jesus went up into the clouds. Raise your balloons like Jesus went up.**
3. **Jesus said He would send down a gift. Lower your balloons like the gift coming down.**
4. Repeat steps two and three.
5. Let children tap the balloons to send them high up into the air. Challenge them to send the balloons as high as they can, and then encourage them to wait patiently for the balloon to come back down.
6. **Jesus went up higher than our balloons. He went up through the clouds to heaven. He promised to send down a gift. What was that gift? (The Holy Spirit.)**

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.**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Wait for the gift." **Jesus told His followers to wait for the gift He was going to send them.**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Wait for the Gift" craft. Tell someone that Jesus told His friends to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Talk about waiting for good gifts from God.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how Jesus was taken up to heaven.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus Promised to Send the Holy Spirit." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 1 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Not by Might," as children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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.”** (Whisper Verse sign language.)

- **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

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

GAME: CLOUD HOP

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

Supplies: Sturdy white paper or paper plates

Prepare: Cut 23 cloud shapes from white paper or white paper plates.

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

Directions:

1. Lay the clouds on the floor in a line or in a circle around the play area.
2. As you say each word from the Bible Memory Verse, children repeat after you and hop from one cloud to the next.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: GOD'S BLANKET FOR US

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

Supplies: Large blanket

Directions:

1. In the center of the room, lay the blanket on the floor.
2. Children stand around the edges of the blanket.
3. **God says, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people." The Holy Spirit is God. To pour out His Spirit is a way of saying God is with us in a powerful way. Let's imagine what that might be like by imagining this blanket is the Holy Spirit.**
4. Children pick up the blanket and raise it over their heads as they imagine God pouring His Spirit out on all of them.
5. **Let's wrap God's Spirit around us.**
6. Children duck under the blanket and pull it tight around them.
7. **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!**



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! Read Acts 1:4-11 with your family. Talk about how Jesus went up to heaven. What did Jesus promise to send to His friends? Jesus wanted them to wait for the gift. Sometimes, God wants us to wait for His gifts. Are you good at waiting?

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! Play the "Wait for the Gift" game. Ask your family to close their eyes. Put a wrapped gift in front of one person. Ask everyone to open their eyes. Take turns giving the gift. Then, talk about your favorite gifts. What was it like to wait for them? What is the hardest thing you have ever had to wait for?

Unit 1 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