



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

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

Scripture Focus: Acts 1:1-11 **Key Verse:** Acts 1:8

Christ Connection: Isaiah 43:12

THE WAY

The Big Question: What have you witnessed about God?

UNIT 1 FOCUS VERSE

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Unit 1: The Promise of the Spirit			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
1	The Promise of the Holy Spirit, Acts 1:1-11	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, 16-17, 25, 30, 32-33, 36-41	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 3:1-12, 16; 4:1-4, 7-12, 18-21	God healed the man when Peter called on Jesus' name.	To understand the power of Jesus' name.
4	The Stoning of Stephen, Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60; 8:1-4; Romans 8:28	God strengthened Stephen and spread the gospel.	To see how God is working in all things for the greater good.
5	Philip and the Ethiopian, Acts 8:4-8, 26-40	God led Philip to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus.	To know the Holy Spirit makes us ready to tell others about Jesus.

LEADER'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 students trust You to keep all Your promises. Give them faith to wait on You. Amen."

Lesson Aims are based on reflecting God's character as we participate in His actions to, for, and in the world.

Take Home Elements: The Journal Entry, Action Card, and Family Discussion Card may be sent home to encourage students to reflect on the lesson. The Journal Entry is an in-depth personal study. The Action Card is a visual reminder of the Bible story, God's action, and how we can join into that action. The Family Discussion Card gives parents and guardians a way to engage their students in what they are learning.

Leader's Tip: For larger gatherings, teach THE WELCOME, THE WORSHIP, and THE WORD in a large group setting and divide into small groups for discussion with THE WAY.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

Suggestion: Choose a game that focuses on ideas such as promise, power, eyewitnesses, clouds or the world.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: EYEWITNESSES

Purpose: To introduce the idea of witnessing a series of events and sharing it with others.

Supplies: Bag of random objects (e.g. sunglasses, toy, coin, pencil, chewing gum, cup, shoe)

Preparation: Decide on your story starter.

- Jane and I were feeding the chickens when suddenly ...
- Jake and I had just landed on the moon when suddenly ...
- My friends and I were swimming at the beach when suddenly ...
- My grandmother had just arrived for her usual Christmas visit when suddenly ...

Teacher Tip: This icebreaker can be adapted for groups of any size, although it's not recommended to play with over 25 people. For smaller group, the story can continue around the room until you are satisfied with the icebreaker or the group gets stuck.

Directions:

1. Students sit in a circle.
2. Pass the bag of objects around the room and have each student take one.
3. **You are all eyewitnesses to an unusual event. The local news station has sent their best reporter to interview you and find out what happened. But, they only have enough time for each of you to tell part of the story. When it is your turn, you must tell three sentences of the story and use the object you chose from the bag in your story telling.**
4. Encourage students to be creative in their storytelling and try to stump the next storyteller.
5. Give each student at least one turn to add to the story.

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: YESTERDAY, TODAY & TOMORROW

Purpose: To introduce the events of Jesus' life past, present, and future which His apostles witnessed.

Supplies: Prizes (Candy, small toy, special privilege, silly prize such as a fake \$100 bill)

Directions:

1. Divide students into groups of 6 or less.
2. Each group sits in its own circle.
3. Each person shares three truths about themselves: something they did yesterday, something they did today, and something they will do tomorrow.
4. When each student has shared their three events, choose a volunteer from the circle to try and recall each student's three events.
 - If he or she recalls all the events correctly, that person wins a prize and the game is over for that group.
 - If he or she makes a mistake, allow another student to try.



The Spirit who gives us power

THE WORSHIP

Note to Leader: The instructions below are suggestions only. Adapt this time of worship to suit your environment, resources, and cultural expression. Encourage students to broaden their view of corporate worship by including a variety of expressions such as group prayer, group praise, silent meditation, singing, listening to music, reading scripture, collecting an offering, drama, dance, visual arts, and/or a physical exploration of nature or neighborhoods.

Ideas for Optional Visuals: _____

Today, we worship the Holy Spirit who gives us power. The Holy Spirit is God. God is three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us know what God the Father wants us to do. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us 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.

Read the Unit 1 Focus Verse: Acts 1:8.



Sing worship songs and guide students to focus on the Holy Spirit who gives us power.



Read Psalm 145:13.



Invite students to offer sentences of praise to God by completing the following sentence:
"Lord, we worship You for _____."



Jesus makes a promise

THE WORD Presentation

Note to Leader: Adapt this segment to your setting (Sunday School class, youth group, multi-age gathering, youth camp, retreat, etc.). In some settings, you may choose to have a student read the scripture aloud, and then have the leader, in his or her own words, briefly communicate the Teaching Points, the Christ Connection, and the Big Question. In other settings, a teacher, pastor, or other experienced speaker may present a lecture or extended message that includes those same elements.

Ideas for Optional Visuals:

You may choose to include an object lesson, video clip, drama, dance, song, or work of art to illustrate the teaching points.

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____



TEACHING POINTS

Consider current culture and influences impacting your students, and adjust the teaching accordingly.

Read the suggested scripture and communicate each of the points noted.

Last time, we learned that even as a newborn baby, Jesus was recognized as the Savior and King who God had promised to send. 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, just as He promised He would. The risen Jesus appeared to many people including His apostles, who were the twelve disciples Jesus chose to be His first witnesses.

- A witness is a person who tells others about something he or she has seen. The first apostles witnessed Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and return to heaven. Soon, they would witness the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem.

The leader or a student reads Acts 1:1-5.

- Jesus instructed the apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift God promised. By waiting, they would be together to hear Jesus' final instructions, to see Him ascend to heaven, and to experience the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- It is important for believers to witness and experience God's presence together. Experiencing miracles together strengthens our faith and the faith of those around us.
- Before He was taken up to heaven, Jesus promised His disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. They waited for that gift because they knew the Lord keeps His promises.

The leader or a student reads Acts 1:6-8.

- Even after all that they had seen and learned from Jesus about the spiritual kingdom of God, the apostles were still focused on the physical kingdom of Israel. Jesus answered their question with a truth that is still important for us to remember today. Only God knows the dates and times when He will accomplish His plans.

THE WORD Presentation *continued*

- Focusing on discovering or predicting God's timing can be a distraction from doing the work God has already given us to do and from loving the people He has given us to love.
- Just before He was lifted up to heaven, Jesus gave them more information about the promised gift of the Holy Spirit they were about to receive. The apostles learned they would be Jesus' witnesses not only to Israel, but to neighboring lands and to the ends of the earth!
- This global mission would have been a foreign idea to them. Most Jewish fishermen and tax collectors would not have traveled far from home, so they may have found it hard to imagine being witnesses to the whole world.
- The book of Acts is about the acts of the apostles who used the power of the Holy Spirit to do amazing things in accomplishing this mission of making disciples in every land. The book is sometimes called "Acts of the Apostles" or "Acts of the Holy Spirit."
- The apostles witnessed that Jesus had risen and was alive. For 40 days He had appeared to them and spent time with them.

The leader or a student reads Acts 1:9-11.

- They witnessed Jesus ascend into heaven and they heard the two men's prophesy and description of Jesus' return in the future.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the whole story of God, what's the connection between this New Testament story and the Old Testament?

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

- The leader or a student reads aloud Isaiah 43:12.



THE BIG QUESTION

Introduce and elaborate on this question. Students will answer it in their discussion group.

What have you witnessed about God?



THE WAY Discussion



GETTING STARTED Display and review the Discussion Group Covenant below:

**We will include everyone here, treating one another with respect and kindness.
We will encourage everyone here to express their thoughts and opposing views.**

Every student shares his or her best experience or greatest challenge of the past week.



READ IT AGAIN

Read Acts 1:1-11 silently or aloud.

After He rose from the dead, for how many days did Jesus appear to people?

What did Jesus tell the apostles to do in Jerusalem?

What did the apostles witness on the day Jesus was taken up to heaven?

What event did the two men say believers would see?



THE BIG QUESTION Invite students to share their answers.

What have you witnessed about God?



TAKE ACTION Lead students in a discussion using the questions below.

If you had been there to witness Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and return to heaven, what might you have told others about Jesus?

In Isaiah 43:12, it says the Lord says His witnesses have seen He is God. How has the Lord showed you He is God?

Ask each student to complete this sentence: **God calls us to be His witnesses SO THAT others might _____.**



PRAY Share prayer requests and answered prayers.

Have students pray with partners, or have the whole group pray together.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

Give each student Action Card #1 and Journal Entry #1. **Take home today's Action Card as a reminder of how we can join in what God is doing. Use the Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Complete your Journal Entries at home and keep them together in a notebook or in your Bible.** Optional: Provide parent or guardian with Family Discussion Card #1.

PROPHETS & PROMISES

JOURNAL ENTRY #1

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:1-11

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

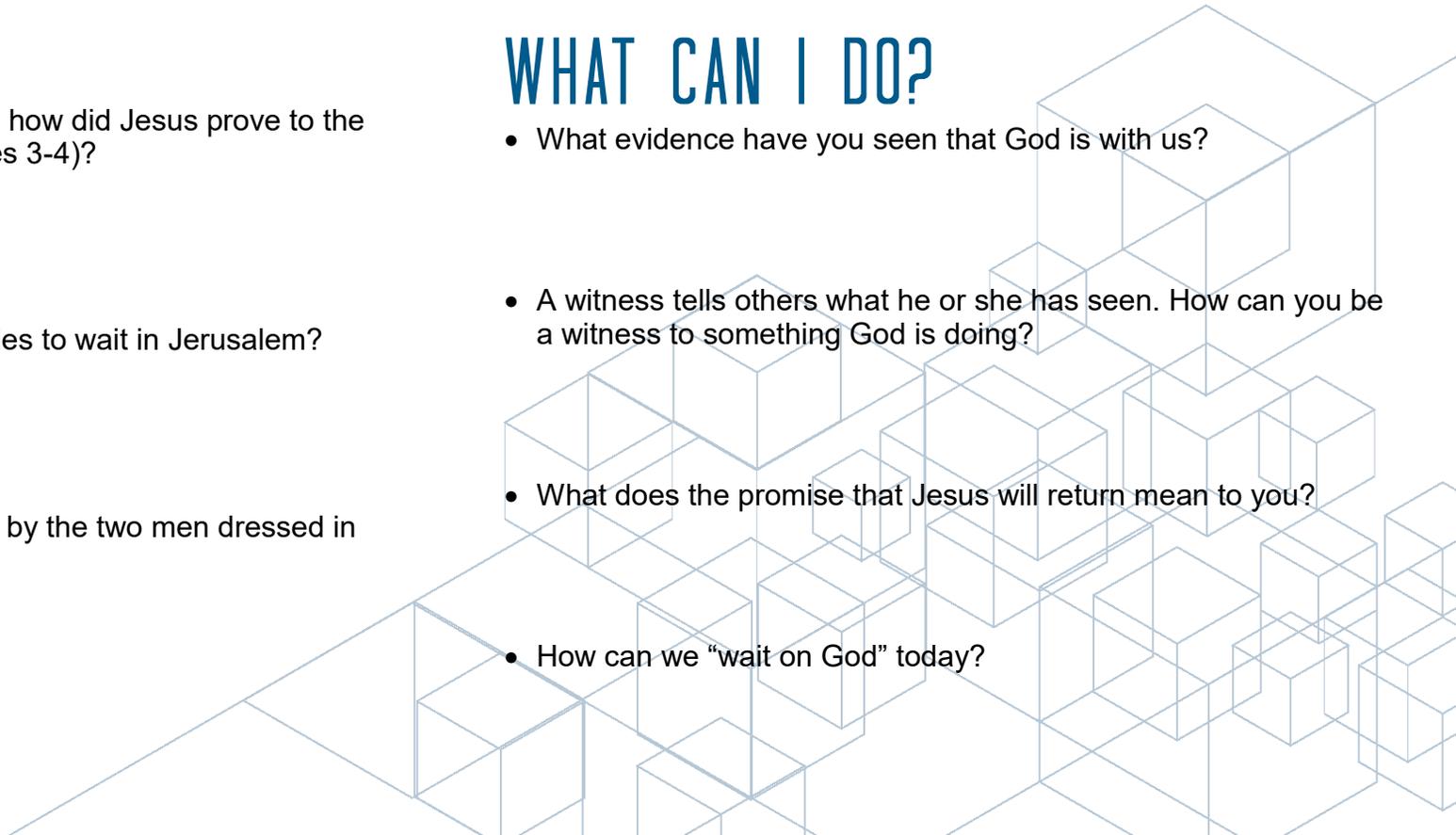
- **Pray!!!** Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to learn from this passage.
- **Read Acts 1:3-11.**
- After He rose from the dead, how did Jesus prove to the apostles He was alive (verses 3-4)?
- Why did Jesus tell the apostles to wait in Jerusalem?
- What was the promise given by the two men dressed in white?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Why is it important that Jesus appeared to the disciples and gave “many convincing proofs” that He was alive?
- What do you think the Spirit gives us power to do?
- How do you think the apostles felt when Jesus ascended to heaven right before their eyes?

WHAT CAN I DO?

- What evidence have you seen that God is with us?
- A witness tells others what he or she has seen. How can you be a witness to something God is doing?
- What does the promise that Jesus will return mean to you?
- How can we “wait on God” today?



Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Action Card #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

ACTS 1:1-11

JESUS TOLD THE APOSTLES THEY WOULD RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THEY WOULD BE HIS *WITNESSES*.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE JESUS' *WITNESSES*.

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?

Family Discussion #1/P&P

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 1:1-11.

WHAT DID JESUS TELL THE APOSTLES ABOUT THE *HOLY SPIRIT*?

WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN A *WITNESS* TO SOMETHING GOD HAS DONE?