

Life of Christ

Jesus Will Send Us a Helper

John 14:12-18, 25-31

Younger Verse

I give you peace . . . so don't be worried or afraid. John 14:27 (CEV)

Older Verse

I give you peace, the kind of peace that only I can give. It isn't like the peace that this world can give. So don't be worried or afraid. John 14:27 (CEV)

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Have you ever had someone you cared about leave? How did you feel? Pretty sad, huh? Things felt pretty different afterwards, didn't they? It might have even been difficult to do the things you had always done, the normal things.

Don't you remember that Jesus was going to leave His disciples? He was returning to heaven, He was about to die. Jesus knew that His disciples were probably going to feel a lot of what you felt when that special someone that you loved left. Jesus' disciples were very important to Him and He was very special to them. Everything they had done for the last three years, they had done with Jesus. Jesus wanted to help them. He wanted to encourage them, even before anything happened. So, while they were still in that upstairs room where they had eaten and had their feet washed, Jesus, after telling them that He would prepare a place for them in heaven, continued to reassure them.

Jesus told His disciples they would still be able to communicate with Him, to talk to Him; not like they had always done, but through prayer, the way Jesus talked to God. Jesus even told them that they would be able to do even more amazing things than He had done! But how is that possible? How can imperfect men do greater things than a perfect Jesus? Jesus answered them before they could ask. Jesus' answer was this, "Because I am on my way back to God, my Father." But what does that mean? How does that explain how these eleven men could do bigger things than Jesus? Well, Jesus kept explaining! Jesus told them that He would give them everything they needed to continue working for God. Jesus also said that He would send them a Helper! What do you think that Helper might have looked like? What kind of things would this Helper do?

Lesson Goals

To see that the power of God available to Jesus is also available to us.
To see that believers receive the same Helper that Jesus sent to the disciples.

Again, leave it to Jesus to answer all the questions before the disciples could even think of what to ask! Jesus explained that this Helper wouldn't be someone you could see, but someone who couldn't be seen, but very real none the less - "The Spirit of Truth." Jesus would be sending them the Holy Spirit. They wouldn't be able to see the Holy Spirit, because you cannot see spirits, but they would know. How? Jesus continued explaining. Jesus said, "I'm going to ask my Father, and He will send you another Comforter - one just like me! This Helper will counsel you and strengthen you and stay with you forever. He will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have told you!"

Jesus did not want His friends to worry or fret. He gave them peace. He did not give peace the way the world thinks about peace - freedom from wars and trouble. Jesus gives peace deep inside. Jesus knew that His disciples would need peace deep inside because trouble was coming and Jesus didn't want them to be fearful or agitated or cowardly. And do you know what? Jesus doesn't want you to be fearful or agitated or cowardly, either. Even when there are wars and troubles, we can trust Him and not be afraid. He has sent us the Helper!

Jesus explained, though, that this Helper would not be coming for everyone. The Helper would be coming to live inside of those people who had chosen to follow Jesus. The Helper was coming to help and give peace to and teach the ones who believed Jesus was God's Son, sent to die for their sins. What about you? Do you know that Jesus is God's Son, that He died in your place to make a way for you to be right before God? Have you trusted Him with your life, to follow Him and obey Him? If you have, then at the exact moment you believed, Jesus sent you the Helper! But if you haven't, don't wait. Trust Jesus, today!

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Make a toilet paper roll dove, printing the memory verse on the art paper that will cover the toilet paper roll. Practice the verse while coloring and assembling.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for a Helper just like Jesus.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 35
The Vine and the Branches
John 15:1-8

Preschool Lesson

A Helper

Sing: “I Like to Go to Church” to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell”

“I like to go to church, I like to go to church,
I like the happy songs we sing, I like to go to church.”

Teach: How many of you sometimes need help with something? All of you, right? Guess what? I sometimes need help with something, too! When you usually need help, is it because you aren't tall enough to reach or because your small hands aren't big enough yet to open something? Or maybe, like me, you haven't learned how to do something that needs to be done, like repairing the car or cutting down a tree!

Have you ever noticed, though, that sometimes we need help with other kinds of things. Maybe it is hard for you sometimes to obey your mom when she asks you to pick up your toys. Or maybe it is difficult for you not to fight with your brothers and sisters. Sometimes, I have trouble doing what is right! Does that surprise you?

Help is on the way! God wants to help us choose the right things. And God wants to help us remember all those wonderful things He has told us in the Bible. God also wants to help you not to be worried or scared. If you trust Him, and want to obey Him, He will help you. God will help you in the morning when it is difficult to wake up. And He will help you in the afternoon when you are angry and want to yell, but when you really just need a nap. And God will help you in the evening to remember to say thank you!

Pray: Thank you, God, for helping me all through the day!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Coloring pages of the Bible verses from John 14 are readily available.
- Use various “dove” projects, explaining that doves symbolize “peace” as well as the Holy Spirit. Ideas include: origami doves, doves made with toilet paper rolls, dove mobiles, and Plaster of Paris doves.
- For more active students where the opportunity is available, play the basketball game “H-O-R-S-E” but use the letters “P-E-A-C-E.”
- For older students: Talk about how one can have peace in the midst of trouble. An applicable story tells of an art contest where the artist must create a work of art that depicts peace. Many people created very serene scenes of woodland areas or beaches or churches. But there was a work of art unlike all the others, and the winner of the prize. This work of art depicted a violent storm around a rocky cliff. But peace was depicted in the small nest, on a small ledge of that rocky cliff. Perched in the nest was a mother bird sheltering her young. God wants to do this with us. He has not promised a life free of trouble, but He has promised peace and He has sent us a Helper.
- Also for older students: This would be a good time to discuss what Jesus meant by His disciples being able to do greater things than He did. The disciples has been with Jesus for three years. They had walked beside Him and talked with Him and learned from Him. But, when He returned to the Father, He would send the Helper. This Helper would not just walk with them and talk to them. This Helper would dwell in them, forever! They would have the power of God in them, not just beside them!