

Life of Christ

The Helper

John 20:19-23

Younger Verse

"Now I am sending you." John 20:21 (NirV)

Older Verse

Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you."
John 20:21 (NirV)

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.

What wonderful news did we talk about in our lesson last week? We found out that Jesus was no longer dead and in the tomb; He was alive! Mary saw Him! Peter and John did not see Jesus, even though they were at the tomb that Sunday morning. They saw the empty tomb and then went home.

Later that Sunday evening, many of the disciples got together. They were afraid! They knew that Jesus' tomb was empty and they had heard Mary's news that Jesus was alive, but were scared of what might happen to them if the leaders thought they had moved Jesus' body. Jesus came into the room where they were and stood there with them. Jesus knew that His followers were afraid so He told them to be peaceful instead. Then, Jesus wanted to make sure that they understood that He was really alive. Jesus was not a ghost. He showed the disciples His hands and His side. They were so excited to see Him!

Jesus told them, again, to be peaceful. Then, He told them that He was sending them to tell others about God, just as He had done. He was not going to send them out alone. He was sending the Helper with them. And just as He had promised, He gave them that Helper, the Holy Spirit. He did this by breathing on them! We do not know exactly how it happened; we just know what the Bible tells us. It was like God breathing life into the first man, Adam, after he had been created. God's breath gave Adam life, and Jesus' breath gave the disciples new life.

Do you remember when we first talked about this "new life?" Jesus had a conversation with Nicodemus one night. Nicodemus was one of those who helped prepare Jesus' body after He died. Jesus told Him that to see heaven one day, he had to be born of the Spirit and explained that the Holy Spirit was like the wind. The wind is very powerful and moves around a

Lesson Goals

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit.
Jesus gave (and gives) the Holy Spirit.
Understand that Jesus keeps His promises.

lot, but you cannot see it. You know there is wind because of what it does. For example, if you see a tree bent over during a storm, do you think that tree is just doing its morning stretches? No! You know that the wind must be very strong if it is causing a tree to bend over.

Do you remember what Jesus told His disciples just three nights before this. As they sat and ate their last meal together before He died, and as they walked through the city towards the garden where Jesus was arrested, Jesus tried to prepare His followers. He told them He would not leave them alone. He would send them a Helper. This Helper would help them do even more amazing things than He had done! Jesus explained by saying it would be possible because He was on His way back to God. This Helper wouldn't be someone they could see, but someone who couldn't be seen, just like the wind, and even more powerful! And even though they would not be able to see the Helper, the Holy Spirit, they would know He was with them. How? Jesus said, "God 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!" What do we know about God's promises? Has he ever broken one or not kept one? No! If God said, it will happen! On that Easter Sunday so long ago, Jesus kept His promise. He gave His followers a Helper, the Holy Spirit. These followers had been true to Jesus, unlike Judas, who betrayed Him.

But what about today? Can you and I receive the Holy Spirit? Can we have the Helper? Of course we can! But does Jesus have to come and breathe on us? No. Jesus does not give the Holy Spirit like that any more. When Jesus was still living, and people chose to follow Him, they did just that. They put down whatever it was they were doing and they walked with Him. When He left to go back to God, He gave them the Holy Spirit. Now, when we choose to follow Jesus, it is a little different because Jesus is not here in a body for us to follow the way His disciples did. Today, when we choose to believe in and follow Jesus, we believe what we have learned about Him in the Bible and we follow His teachings. When that happens, and when we give our lives to Him and are obedient to Him, Jesus immediately gives us the Holy Spirit. He doesn't breathe the Holy Spirit into us, but we start a new life with the Helper who will never leave us!

How about you? Do you believe in Jesus? Have you chosen to follow Him in obedience? If you have, you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you, helping you do the right thing and understanding more about God. But if you haven't chosen to follow Him yet, you can do that right now.

Make "Passport" booklets. Make a small booklet for each student. Take their pictures and attach them or allow your students to draw a picture of themselves. Write the memory verse across the inside. Explain that a passport is used when you travel and God is sending us to share about Him.

Memory Verse Activity

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 46
Thomas Doubts
John 20:24-29

Preschool Lesson

Jesus Sends the Helper

Sing: “What a Mighty God We Serve”

Teach: Last week we found out that Jesus was no longer dead; He was alive! Mary saw Him! But, later that Sunday evening, many of the disciples got together. They were afraid! They were scared of what might happen to them if the leaders thought they had moved Jesus’ body. Jesus came into the room where they were. He stood there with them. Jesus knew that they were afraid so He told them not to worry. Jesus showed the disciples His hands where He had been nailed to the cross. He showed them His side where they had put the sword. They were so excited to see Him!

Jesus told them, again, not to worry. Then, He told them that He was sending them to tell others about God. This is what Jesus had come to do. Jesus also told them that He was sending the Helper to go with them and help them. And just as He had promised, He gave them that Helper, the Holy Spirit. Jesus did this when He breathed on them. We do not know exactly how it happened, we just know what the Bible tells us. He breathed on them and they were given the Helper Jesus had promised.

Do you remember what Jesus told His disciples just three nights before this. They sat and ate their last meal together before He died. They walked through the city towards the garden where Jesus was arrested. Jesus tried to prepare His followers. He told them He would not leave them alone. He would send them a Helper. This Helper would help them do amazing things! This Helper wouldn’t be someone they could see, but someone who couldn’t be seen, just like the wind that moves around. This Helper helped them know the right thing to do. This Helper made them strong. This Helper stayed with them forever. This Helper teaches and reminds them of all that Jesus ever said! On that Easter Sunday so long ago, Jesus kept His promise. He gave His followers a Helper, the Holy Spirit.

Pray: Thank you, God, for taking care of me and sending me a Helper.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Look for object lessons that help understand the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Use doves and peace activities to talk about the peace we can have when we trust in God and not worry about what might happen.
- Prompt your students to draw maps of their neighborhoods. Have them mark the house where they live. Ask them to think about and then mark the places where they can go to share Jesus with someone else. (Remind them to check with their parents and not to go alone.) If there is a park where they play near their home, remind them that they can talk to the children they play with there.
- Use the following comparisons to prompt further conversation about the Holy Spirit with your students. 1) We are like balloons, the Holy Spirit is like the air that goes into that balloon. The balloon cannot do anything on its own. With air, though, it can soar above the trees. 2) We are like gloves a hand (Holy Spirit) fills. The glove on its own can do nothing. The power comes from the hand inside. We need the Holy Spirit to accomplish great things for God.