

## Family Lesson 72

**Principle:** The Holy Spirit will take Christ's place, marking believers and bringing power.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus Christ and the disciples

**Scripture Reference:** Acts 1:6-11; Acts 2:1-13

**1. Worship** - Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

**2. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Remind your child about the Trinity, and to help them better understand it, use the following illustration. Give them a piece of paper and tell them to choose a person in their life (dad, mom, teacher, friend). Ask them to draw pictures of three different roles that person plays. For example, a dad is a father, a son, and a doctor (teacher, salesman, etc.) He has three different roles and therefore is like three different people, but at the same time, he is one person.

Use this example to explain that the Trinity is made up of three divine persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—who make one God. Each person (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) is fully God. Acknowledge that the Trinity is hard to understand. Our God is so big and awesome, we cannot fully understand him.

Last week, we learned about the specific instructions Jesus left his disciples. Can you remember what those instructions were? (They were told to go out and make disciples by sharing their faith.) Can you remember how we defined a disciple? (A disciple is a follower

of Jesus.) Those instructions were not just for the disciples who lived with Jesus. They are for Jesus' disciples today, too. If you believe and trust in Jesus as your Savior, then you are a disciple! You are instructed to share your faith with others and make disciples.

Today, we are beginning our study in the book of Acts. Acts is the fifth book in the New Testament, right after the book of John. In chapter 1, Jesus is walking among the disciples and talking with them after his resurrection. Let's begin reading the Bible in Acts 1 [NLT].

### Acts 1:6-7

*<sup>6</sup> So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"*

*<sup>7</sup> He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know."*

The apostles do not fully understand what Jesus' death and resurrection mean. They want Jesus to give them an earthly kingdom. Jesus tells them it is up to God the Father and his plan. We do not have to worry about when things will happen. We can trust that God is in control of all things because he is sovereign. Let's continue reading the Bible.

### Acts 1:8

*<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

Last week, we learned that Jesus gave his disciples the command to go and tell others about his death and resurrection. In verse 8, Jesus tells them that they will receive power

when the Holy Spirit comes to help them. Do you remember studying about the Trinity? (Allow responses.) The Trinity is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. God is three persons in one. The Holy Spirit is God, just like Jesus is God. When we believe and trust in God, and in what Jesus has done for us, we also receive the Holy Spirit. He lives with us and gives us power and wisdom to do what God wants us to do. Now, let's continue reading the Bible in Acts.

### Acts 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. <sup>10</sup> As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. <sup>11</sup> "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!"

**Even though Jesus was taken up to heaven, he did not leave us alone. He promised the Holy Spirit would come and be with all who believe in him. Because Jesus was fully God and fully man, he could only be in one place at one time like each of us. He could not be everywhere at once, but the Holy Spirit can.**

Discuss the following questions with your child to review Jesus' ascension and his promise to come back.

1. **How do you think the apostles felt as they watched Jesus ascend?** (Amazed, wondrous, impressed.)
2. **How does knowing Jesus will return affect how we act?** (We try to do what is pleasing to him; we have hope in the future.)
3. **If Jesus' final command was to teach others about him, what should we spend our time here doing?** (Allow responses.)

Jesus ascended, or went up, into heaven, but he did not leave the disciples alone. He promised his disciples that the Holy Spirit would come in his place. We know that one day, Jesus will come back, and until then, we have the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom and direction in our life. The Holy Spirit helps us to live a life that brings glory to God.

Let's continue reading the Bible and see what the second chapter of Acts can tell us about the role that the Holy Spirit plays in the disciples' lives and in our lives.

### Acts 2:1

<sup>1</sup> On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.

**The day of Pentecost is the day God sends the Holy Spirit to be with the believers. This happens several days after Jesus goes up into heaven. The Bible tells us more—let's read now.**

### Acts 2:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup> Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

<sup>4</sup> And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

**The Holy Spirit comes to this place and lets each believer speak in other languages so that they can share Christ with people from other cultures. Jesus keeps his promise. He says, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit provides us with the power to share with others about Jesus and help them know who he is and what he has done for them. Let's continue to read the Bible.**

### Acts 2:5-12

<sup>5</sup> At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running,

and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.

<sup>7</sup> They were completely amazed. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee,<sup>8</sup> and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages!<sup>9</sup> Here we are—Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia,<sup>10</sup> Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome<sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!”<sup>12</sup> They stood there amazed and perplexed. “What can this mean?” they asked each other.

During the time that this took place, you could not learn other languages online or through CDs like we can today. At that time, only the power of the Holy Spirit could give the disciples the ability to speak different languages so that they could tell other nations about Jesus. How would you feel if you heard someone speaking your language who did not know your language five minutes ago? (Allow responses.) This shows the power of the Holy Spirit. God uses the Holy Spirit to help us to do the work he wants us to do. We can rely on the Holy Spirit to work in us so that we can live as God wants us to.

## Prayer

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close your family time. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live with us so we do not have to be alone. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue working in our hearts to show us how we can live more for God and not ourselves.

## Activity

The Holy Spirit—the purpose of this activity is to understand the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to recognize how the Holy Spirit works in our lives.

Supplies:

Worksheets – “The Holy Spirit and Living With the Holy Spirit” (found on [GCK Resource Page](#))

Blanket

Flashlight

On the side, “The Holy Spirit,” check off the roles of the Holy Spirit.

When we believe and trust in Jesus Christ, the **Holy Spirit comes to live in us. The Holy Spirit gives us power, wisdom, direction, comfort, etc. God continues to change us through the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart. It is amazing that we can have God with us all the time. How does this change your life? How does it make you feel to know that God is with you all of the time? (Allow responses.) We can be bold in telling others about Jesus, and we can know that God will help us to do his work because he lives in us.**

On the side, “Living with the Holy Spirit,” read through each situation and discuss examples of how the Holy Spirit could work in your lives in each situation. Use the blanket and flashlight to help illustrate some of the roles of the Holy Spirit (blanket—Holy Spirit comforts us; flashlight—Holy Spirit brings light to God’s Word and plan; helps us know how to be the light of the world).

**If you have put your faith and trust in Jesus as your Savior, then you have the Holy Spirit living in you. We have learned some of the roles of the Holy Spirit are to provide wisdom, direction, power, and comfort. When we choose to follow Jesus, we can recognize how the Holy Spirit is working in us to help us live the way that God wants us to live. The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and love others, and not to be afraid to share our faith (blanket). The Holy Spirit also convicts us when we are living in a way that does not glorify God (flashlight). The Holy Spirit works in so many ways in our lives to help us live to worship and glorify God in everything we do.**

