

BIG TRUTH: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE HELPER

John 14:16-17; 16:7-12; Romans 8:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Galatians 5:22-25

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things.”

BIG IDEAS

- The Holy Spirit helps us love and follow God.
- The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible (God’s Word).
- The Holy Spirit helps us love people who do not believe in Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit helps us boldly share the good news about Jesus with others.

BIBLE STORY: ACTS 8:1-8, 26-40

In this passage, Philip’s ministry expands. The church is being persecuted by Saul and this persecution has caused the believers of the early church to scatter. Philip is led by the Spirit to Samaria, where he shares the good news about Jesus and then he is led down a desert road that leads to Gaza. It’s on this road that Philip meets the Ethiopian. Philip’s encounter with the Ethiopian reveals the Holy Spirit’s work in the lives of the believers as it leads them to share the gospel and to obey God.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY SPIRIT—GOD GIVES A HELPER

God not only exists as Father and Son, but also as Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is probably the most difficult person of the Trinity for us to grasp because it is the concept most unfamiliar to us. The Bible tells us that God is Spirit. The Holy Spirit is fully God, active, alive, and at work today in the lives of those who place their faith in God. Jesus told the disciples that it was far better for Him to leave the world than to stay, because God would send the Holy Spirit to indwell them, lead them, and work in them. God does not leave us on our own as Christians, but has sent us a helper, the Holy Spirit.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Holy Spirit lives within God’s people



Every child should feel:

- Thankful for the helper that God has given us



Every child should be able to:

- Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live in His people



Every child should want:

- To follow God with the help of the Holy Spirit

The Family Devotion on the next page is a weekly tool for the home. It is designed for you as family to gather for a few minutes on a set night of the week to unpack the Big Truth together. Use the model below and customize it to fit your family. As you continue to learn, love, and live out the Big Truth, some additional Hooks (next page) are provided that correspond to the Big Aims (see above). Use them to keep the conversation going throughout the week with your family.

THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES US BOLD

Play a game of make-believe with your child. Pretend to be different animals, such as a cat or a dog or a horse. Each time you pretend to be the animal pretend that a lion is after you. React the way the animal you are pretending to be would react. The last animal you should pretend being is a lion. Remind your child that the Holy Spirit is not fearful, like the other animals, but it is bold, like the lion. We can be bold like a lion when we have the Holy Spirit inside of us.

DISCOVER IT:

Read Acts 8:1-8.

THINK ABOUT IT:

The early church was persecuted greatly. Because of their persecution, God's people were scattered. They weren't able to stay together because it wasn't safe. Philip was a follower of Jesus and He witnessed one of his friends, a fellow follower of Jesus, die at the hands of the persecutors. Philip could have stopped following Jesus. He could have just hidden, but Philip was led by the Holy Spirit and he did not fear or hide. He was bold and fearless. He went instead to Samaria to continue following God and sharing the good news about Jesus with others.

TALK ABOUT IT:

- What could have made Philip run away and hide? (He saw one of his friends killed for following Jesus.)
- What did Philip do instead of hiding? (He went to Samaria and continued to share the good news about Jesus.)
- What made Philip bold and fearless? (The Holy Spirit made Philip bold and fearless.)



Read Acts 5:40-42. Lead your child in a discussion of how the disciples were bold and not afraid because they had the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can make us fearless and bold, too. Talk about the many ways the Holy Spirit can make us bold and help us not be afraid.



Memorize the Bible Verse by singing it to "Frère Jacques" or marching around your house repeating it and clapping your hands to keep the beat.



Make a list of activities or things that you need help with. On a poster board or large piece of paper make a chart with the activities listed. As a family talk about how you can help each other this week with these activities, such as taking out the trash or cooking dinner. The preschooler may need help tying shoes or putting on clothes or coloring a picture, etc. Have a discussion as a family about how the Holy Spirit is our helper. He lives inside of God's people to help them and guide them. Talk about the different ways the Holy Spirit helps us, like helping us obey God or learn His Word.

