

John 14:15-21

“Holy Spirit: Heavenly Helper”

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Memory Verse: John 14:16 *“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever”*

Lesson Focus: Jesus introduces the Holy Spirit Who He promises to send and be the personal Helper for every believer. We will discuss with the kids how important it is to first admit that you need help and then discuss what it is the Holy Spirit helps us to do.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of the disciples, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Holy Spirit Bracelets

Starter Activity: Asking for Help

To get the kids attention, have some discussion on some activities that the kids needed help with before they could do them on their own. A few examples below (bring your own ideas as well!):

- 1) Riding a bike
 - Q: What happened when you first tried riding your bike by yourself?
- 2) Swimming
 - Q: What would happen if you jumped in the water without any help?
- 3) Tying your shoes
 - Q: Anyone still need help with this? :D

Many of you have learned how to do these things and you don't need help anymore. *

Teachers: Now transition a little by asking them about some activities that they **STILL** need help with. A few examples below (again, consider bringing your own ideas!):

- 1) Learning an instrument
 - If you want to get better, you need a teacher/HELPER!
- 2) Sports
 - Even professional athletes have trainers to HELP them improve!
- 3) School
 - Learning always requires a teacher, someone to HELP you grow

This doesn't change even as adults! HELP is just something that WE ALL NEED throughout life! This is true in our walk as Christians as well! God designed us in such a way that we not only need others, but we need Him! Let's take a look at our text where we learn about the Helper that He provides.

Bible Study:

John 14:15: Jesus is very direct here.

Q: What kind of love do you think Jesus is referring to here? A: *Agape!*

This is that *agape* love that we have been talking about the last several weeks. Not a hollow, sappy love, but one that:

- Costs you something (remember Jesus's death on the cross)
- Considers others more important than yourself (remember the washing of feet)
- Brings the gospel to others (remember Jesus is the ONLY WAY, **John 14:6**)

So Jesus is telling us very clearly that if you really love Him, you better be about keeping His commandments!

Q: What are His commandments? (**Matthew 22:37-39**)

- 1) Love Him 2) Love Others

Read John 13:34-35: A couple of weeks ago we looked at these verses where Jesus commands the church, all believers in Him, to be known by their *agape* love. This is the kind of love that TURNS THE WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN!

If you are at all like me, you might be thinking, "Wow, I can't do that"! * Well, you are exactly right! You CANNOT do it on your own.

Q: If you can't do something on your own, what do you need to ask for? HELP!

John 14:16: What will Jesus give to those who believe in Him? A HELPER!

Jesus knows we cannot keep His commandments alone! Notice He says *another* Helper. This Helper is a different Person from the Father and the Son.

Q: Who is it? The Holy Spirit!

From the beginning, Christians have believed that God is one God, but existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Not three Gods, but one. Not all the same Person, but three. This is known as the Trinity.

As we have read through the gospel of John, we have seen Jesus many times claiming to be God and sent by God the Father. * Here we have God the Holy Spirit also described as coming from God the Father, just like God the Son was sent by God the Father.

John 14:17: Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit in a very particular way here.

Q: In this verse do you see Jesus calling the Holy Spirit an "it" or a "He"?

A: A “He”! The Holy Spirit is a Person. He is NOT a mystical force like the “Force” from Star Wars!

Notice that Jesus says the Holy Spirit will *abide* and *dwell* with them.

Q: What does it mean to *abide* or *dwell* somewhere?

A: It means the place you live, or your home. We all have a home address that we probably have memorized. This is where we abide, dwell, or live.

Jesus is saying that God the Holy Spirit will abide, dwell, and live inside of them. And if we are believers in Jesus, then that means God the Holy Spirit will live inside of us. It is like we become His house and we are His address!

Jesus is God **with** us, Emmanuel! The Holy Spirit is God **in** us! Wow!

John 14:18: Jesus continues to encourage the disciples. Remember this is right before He goes to the cross and His disciples were troubled because He told them He was going to leave them when He dies on the cross. (**John 14:1**).

Q: What is an orphan?

A: A child that has no one to care for him/her and no one to HELP him/her.

The disciples felt like orphans immediately after Jesus died on the cross. He was with them for three years, teaching them and taking care of them, but then suddenly He was gone and they were alone!

John 14:19-20: Jesus gives a little detail into exactly how He is going to not leave them as orphans.

First, He is talking about His resurrection. Those three days when Jesus was buried were three VERY LONG days for them. * But when He came back to life, everything changed! Jesus was dead and all seemed lost, but then He came back!

A little while later Jesus ascended into heaven though...now what? The HELPER, the Spirit of God Himself was then sent to dwell inside of them and HELP them.

Q: When do you think God showed more power? During the lifetime of Jesus, or during the time since the Holy Spirit has come? **Read Acts 1:8**

A: Most people think it was when Jesus walked the earth. But it wasn't until the Spirit of God came that the gospel reached the “ends of the earth” turning the WORLD UPSIDE DOWN! * This is the age we live in now!

John 14:21: Jesus refers to keeping His commandments once again! Do you think this is important if Jesus has now said it more than once (v. 15)? Yes! And, do you think this is important if He even sends the Holy Spirit Himself to HELP us keep His commandments? Yes!

Key Point: I do not want you to leave here thinking, “I just gotta obey and be good.” *

Q: What word do you see in v. 21 repeated four times? Love! Love! Love! Love!

God wants your love and affection! He wants you to see the love He has shown you by creating you, dying and paying for your sins on the cross, and offering you eternal life with Him forever. The more you see and understand that, the more you will love Him! And the more you love Him, the more you will want what He wants!

Do you know what the cry of your heart is when you love Jesus? HELP! *

Remember at the beginning we talked about things that we always need HELP with? You will ALWAYS need HELP to walk as a Christian. *

HELP me, Jesus, keep your commandments.

HELP me, Jesus, show love to others.

HELP me, Jesus, be concerned about those that don't know You.

HELP me, Jesus, love You more than anything else in the whole world!

Go this week, with the Holy Spirit's power and HELP, and keep His commandments!

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “Holy Spirit: Heavenly Helper”

Scripture: John 14:15-21

Memory Verse: John 14:16 *“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever”*

Teachers/Parents: We kicked off our lesson by discussing things we once needed HELP with, but are now able to do independently. Discuss some things like this in your own experience. Now have some discussion on things that you still and will always need HELP with. Why might we want to resist the idea that there will always be things that we need HELP with?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can you think of a time when you needed help for something, but you were unwilling to ask for it? Why didn't you ask for it?
- 2) Read **John 14:15** and compare with **Luke 6:46**. Do these verses startle you at all? If so, why?
- 3) What is easier to do: To “say” you love someone or to “show” your love to someone. In what ways can we show to Jesus and to the world that we actually do love Him?
- 4) We might read **John 14:15** and determine to roll up our sleeves and be perfect commandment-keepers. But let's be honest: loving God and loving others is not easy. But read **John 14:16**! How does this promise from Jesus give you hope and confidence regarding Jesus's “tough” statement in v. 15?
- 5) Read **Genesis 1:1-2**. Who do you see “at the beginning” and involved in the creation of all things?
- 6) Read **John 14:17**. Does this same Spirit of God appear to be a mystical force (like from Star Wars), or a personal Being? (Hint: Is the Holy Spirit described as an “it” or a “He”)
- 7) What are some things that you can ask the Holy Spirit to HELP you do this week as a follower of Jesus Christ?