

Year 6

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That God gives the Holy Spirit to his servants as a helper.
- The Holy Spirit gives us power and boldness to witness for Jesus.
- The disciples received the Holy Spirit as a powerful force which changed their lives.
- We can receive the Holy Spirit when we ask God to fill us.
- The Holy Spirit lives within us when we give our life to Christ, and surrounds us.
- Jesus told us to go into the world to take the gospel.
- Serving Jesus is not always easy.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Transport, tools and machines

Link between “God is a Servant” and classroom topics:

God has placed within the creation powerful forces that man can utilize to develop technology. Transport and technology serve us in spreading the Gospel. The first missionaries were able to use ships to reach distant nations. Today we can use all modes of transport as well as computers, and audio-visual media. God has given Christians power to be His servants, as we share the Good News with others relying on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Values

Compassion, flexibility, service; humility; willingness; thoughtfulness; sacrifice

Biography:

William Booth (Heroes of the Faith)

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Week 1

The Holy Spirit gives us power to witness

Bible references

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

John 14:15-17 “If you love me, you will obey my commandments. I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, who will stay with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit, who reveals the truth about God. The world cannot receive Him, because it cannot see Him or know Him. But you know Him, because He remains with you and is in you. (Good News Bible)

John 14: 25-26 “I have told you this while I am still with you. The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you. (Good News Bible)

John 16:13-14 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own but will tell you what He has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever He receives from me. (Good News Bible)

Introduction

Show the students a torch (without a battery inside it.) Of course, when you turn the torch on and off no light appears, because it has no power. The battery on its own cannot give light, nor can a torch without the battery. But put them together and we have light.

Christians are like the torch, designed to give light and to be useful to God. God wants us to be His servants. We need God’s life within us, that is, the Holy Spirit or the breath of God. This is like a battery within us giving us power to be God’s servants – to live as God wants us to and to help people around us. Read Matthew 5:14-16.

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit

Before Jesus was about to die He promised the disciples that the Holy Spirit would come to them. On the night of the Passover Jesus told them about the Holy Spirit who would be their friend once He had gone back to heaven.

Read John 14:15-17, John 14:25-26 and John 16:13-14. Ask the students to answer the following in their activity books:

The Holy Spirit will be our _____ (*helper*)

How long will the Holy Spirit be with us? (*forever*)

The Holy Spirit will _____ us the truths about God. (*teach*)

He will help us _____ the words of Jesus. (*remember*)

The Holy Spirit will be w _____ us and _____ us. (*with us and in us*)

Activity

Ask the students to draw the following:

Draw a picture of yourself. Draw light around yourself. Draw a small battery close to your heart. This is like the Holy Spirit who is with you and in you.

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Week 2

The Holy Spirit gives us courage

Bible references

Matthew 28:18-20 The Great Commission

Acts 1:6-11 Jesus goes back to Heaven

Acts 2:1-18 The day of Pentecost

Bible lesson

Before Jesus died, He gathered the disciples together and said, "I am going away, but the Father will not leave you alone. He will send the Holy Spirit who will live in you." Now the Lord Jesus reminded them of that promise. "In just a few days the Holy Spirit will come," He said.

"When He comes you shall receive power to be witnesses, to teach and preach about me, not just in Jerusalem but in Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Go and tell people everywhere and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded. And I will be with you always, even to the end of the age".

The disciples were to tell about Jesus' life, His death and His resurrection. And, the Lord promised that the Holy Spirit would bring things to their mind which they may have forgotten.

While the Lord was telling the disciples these things, they were looking at Him, listening carefully. As He stopped speaking, His feet left the ground and He began to go up into the air! The disciples stared! Then they saw a cloud come from the sky. As the cloud came down and the Lord Jesus went up, He disappeared into the cloud and was gone. The disciples still stared, but they were looking into space! Immediately two men dressed in white appeared. They must have been angels. They said to the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here staring into the sky? This same Jesus who was taken away from you into Heaven shall come again in the same way you saw Him go into Heaven." As suddenly as they had come, they were gone. But their words remain with us today "This same Jesus who was taken away from you into Heaven shall come again in the same way you saw Him go into Heaven".

The Day of Pentecost

After Jesus died the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors. They were afraid that the leaders who had crucified Jesus would come and capture them as well. But

something was going to happen to them to change them from being fearful men into courageous, powerful men who spoke boldly about Jesus without fear. It was the day of Pentecost, a feast the Jews celebrated 50 days after Passover.

Read Acts 1:1-18

1. What could they hear? (mighty rushing wind)
2. What could they see? (tongues of fire)
3. What happened to them? (they received power)
4. What could they do? (speak in other languages)
5. How did they feel? (bold and courageous)

Now the disciples were ready to go out and preach. They had power! They were no longer afraid. Peter preached so boldly that 3,000 people joined the disciples as followers of Jesus on that day. People call this day the birthday of the Christian church.

Questions about the Holy Spirit

Is the Holy Spirit given to us?

Yes, when we receive Christ.

Is the Holy Spirit new?

In Genesis 1:2 we see that the Holy Spirit was there at the beginning of Creation. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit created the universe. They are three parts of the one true God.

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

The Holy Spirit helped people write God's word for us, (2 Peter 1:21), and gives certain abilities called 'gifts' to help us as servants of God.

Did Jesus have the Holy Spirit?

Yes, we read that the Holy Spirit was with Him at His baptism (Matthew 3:16); when tempted (Matthew 4:1), and when He read from the Scriptures in the temple: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

Do we need the Holy Spirit?

Yes, in order to:

Become God's child (John 3:5)

Be led by God (Romans 8:14)

Pray (Romans 8:26)

Produce the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23)

To be courageous witness for Christ as the disciples were.

How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

Seek God and ask for the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:5-13)

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Week 3

Jesus sent out the disciples

Bible references

Mark 1:16-18 Fishing for men

Luke 9:1-6 The disciples were sent out.

Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 16:14-20 Go into all the world.

John 14:12 You will do greater things.

Acts 8:26-40 Philip shares the Good News with an Ethiopian.

Acts 16:6-15 A call from Macedonia

The Disciples Spread the Good News

The disciples followed Jesus for three years. They spent as much time as possible with Him, listening, watching and learning. Jesus had a plan for the disciples, right from the moment He called them. "I will make you fishermen for men", He said. Jesus spent the three years training the disciples to spread the Good News. Only Jesus knew how short their learning time would be. Three short years, and then it would be up to the disciples to carry the light of the Gospel to others. Jesus told them that they would do the works that He did. They would not only tell people the Good News, but also do miracles through the power of God. (John 14:12)

Jesus called His followers together and sent them out. Jesus now called them apostles, because they were His messengers.

Read about this in Luke 9:1-6.

When the time came for Jesus to go back to His Father in Heaven, He called the disciples together and gave them another special command. They would not just be His messengers to the people of Israel but they were to go to other parts of the world too. Read about this in Matthew 28:16-20.

The apostles could not take the gospel to the whole world by themselves. Many countries were unknown to them at that time. Who do you think this command was meant for? (*All Christians*)

Once Jesus returned to His Father, the apostles began traveling by land and sea to far away places. More apostles, such as Paul, Philip and Timothy were added to their number.

They found themselves preaching the Gospel not only to Jews, but also to people from different countries and different races. Philip was sent by an angel on a special errand to meet a man from Ethiopia. The man was an officer in the army for the Queen of Ethiopia. He was returning from Jerusalem, sitting in a chariot, reading from the Old Testament. Find out what happened (Acts 8:29-40).

Another time Paul had a vision of a man far away in a place called Macedonia. God was calling Paul to go there and tell the Good News (Acts 16:6-15).

Amazing things were happening. God was now giving the apostles His power to spread the Gospel.

Since those days, many people have experienced that same power as they have carried the Good News to different parts of the world.

Questions:

1. How long did Jesus spend with the disciples?
2. What is the meaning of a disciple? (follower or student)
3. What is the meaning of an apostle? (messenger)
4. Jesus told the apostles to go to peoples everywhere, in every part of the world. The apostles could not take the gospel to the whole world by themselves. Many countries were unknown to them at that time. Who do you think this command was meant for?
5. Where is Ethiopia?
6. What was he riding in? (a chariot is like a cart or carriage pulled by a horse)
7. What happened when the man from Ethiopia met Philip?

Project

Decide on some way in which your group can spread the Good News. Maybe you could visit a hospital. Maybe you could put on a play or a concert.

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Week 4

Brave Servants

Spreading the Good News is not always easy.

Bible references

Acts 19:23-41 Trouble at Ephesus

Acts 7:51-60 Stephen gives his life for Jesus.

Revelation 2:10 Faithfulness to the end

Acts 4:20 We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Introduction

Make a list of the names of any missionaries you can think of, past or present. Can you remember the countries in which these missionaries worked?

There are many accounts of brave missionaries who encountered difficulties when serving the Lord. Satan does not want people to be won for Jesus. He will try to make things difficult for those who are telling others about Jesus.

How can we be missionaries without going overseas? What difficulties might we face as missionaries?

Trouble in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41)

Find Ephesus on a map. How would the apostles get to Ephesus from Jerusalem?

In Ephesus lived a man named Demetrius. He earned his living by making little statues or idols. People would buy them, put them in their homes and worship them. As Paul and the other apostles preached the Good News, more and more people were throwing away their idols and worshipping the true God instead. This meant that Demetrius was losing money. Demetrius held a meeting with his workers. All were extremely angry.

Why were they angry? (Read Acts 19:27-28)

What happened to the city? (Verse 29)

Finally the city clerk was able to stop the riot and the people went home.

This story shows us that not all people want to accept the Good News when they first hear about it...especially if it means giving up certain things. The people of Ephesus did not want to give up their idols. Many people are like this. They may not want to give up things in their life in order to follow Jesus.

Stephen Gives His Life for Jesus (Acts 7:51-60)

Stephen was one of the apostles. The Pharisees who were the religious leaders of the temple, made a lot of trouble for the new Christians. Stephen was angry with the Pharisees for opposing Jesus. What did he say to them? (Read Acts 7:51)

The Pharisees then became angry with Stephen. They were so angry that they took him out of the city and threw stones at him until he died. Stephen was the first Christian to give his life for Jesus. He was the first martyr.

The Pharisees opposed Christianity because they needed to give up something before they could follow Jesus. They needed to give up their old religion of obeying laws and offering sacrifices. Jesus said that there was now a new way. That was to accept His forgiveness and become one of His followers. The Pharisees did not want to change. They were proud of their important position in the temple and did not want to give it up to follow Jesus. They did not want to hear that their old religion of 'being good', could not get them to heaven.

Puzzle

Key: a=* e=x i=■ o=+ u=◆

Decode the following sentence:

W*x c*nnt st+p sp*x*■ng *b+◆t wh*t w*x h*v*x s*x*xn *nd h*x*rd. *cts
f+◆r v*xrs*x tw*xnty.