

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 14:15-21

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Easter 6

Lesson Focus
Jesus told the truth.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Time Kids make hearts out of chenille stems and do an Activity Page.	Activity Pages 	Markers, pencils, chenille stems
Circle Time Kids greet each other with a class cheer, hear about the lectionary season, and find out the theme of the day by using their hearts.	Leaflet	Chenille hearts from Arrival Time, paper, scissors, marker
Prayer Time Kids pass God's love around, heart to heart.	None	Hearts from Arrival Time

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
The Promise of the Holy Spirit Storytelling Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible and kids find true love in the story.	Spark Story Bibles	None
Jesus' Promise Kids retell the story with a rebus.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
The Ones I Love Kids draw pictures of people they love.	Leaflets	Pencils, markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Three Truths Kids match groups of three hearts that are exactly alike.	Leaflets	Pencils
Bible Truths Kids recall amazing truths in the Bible.	Leaflets	None
A True Friend Kids play a pairs game in which the Holy Spirit sticks with them.	None	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week, say the lesson focus statement, and do a good-bye action rhyme.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Kids pray with their chenille hearts.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	Chenille hearts from Arrival Time



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Set out markers, pencils, and copies of the Activity Page for this lesson.

I'm very happy to see you today! Do you think I am telling the truth? Affirm responses. **Yes. I am telling the truth. I'm always happy to see you. Let's try another truth test. My name is [your pastor's name]. Am I telling the truth? (No!) Let's try one more truth test. We all live on a planet named Mars. Am I telling the truth? (No! We live on a planet named Earth.) Now you can give me some truth-test questions.** Give kids time to say truth-test statements of their own. If kids want suggestions, they may test you with statements about what kind of pet they have, what color their eyes are, how many fingers they have, what letter their first name begins with, what the weather is like, and how old they are.

We have two Bible story words today. We've spent some time talking about truth. Truth is one of our Bible story words today. Now we're going to make something that reminds us of our other Bible story word. I'm going to give each of you two chenille stems. Give each kid two stems. **Now I want you to shape each stem like this.** Demonstrate how to shape one chenille stem into a heart shape. **What does this look like? (a heart) Now shape your two stems into two hearts. Give kids time to make their hearts. What do you think our second Bible story word is for today? (love) Truth and love are our two Bible story words. Hmmm. I wonder how they go together.**

Invite kids to do the Activity Page. When all kids have arrived, invite them to join you in a circle or small group.

Circle Time

Cut a strip of paper about 5 in x 11 in (13 cm x 28 cm). Write these four words on the strip of paper, evenly space them out: GOD, OTHERS, GOD, YOU. Cut out a paper cross, approximately the same size as the chenille hearts.

Let's all stand in a circle and put one hand in the middle, so our hands stack on top of each other. Place your hand in first to demonstrate. After everyone has a hand in the circle, shout together, **God loves everyone! God knows our names! Now, we'll each shout our own name out loud and lift up our hand starting with the person whose hand is on top.** Kids take turns saying their names, in the order their hands are stacked from top to bottom. After all names are said, tell everyone, **Raise both of your hands high and shout, "Praise God!"**

If the kids in your class tried the Faith on the Go! activities from last week's leaflet, be sure to invite kids to share what they did. Ask everyone how they showed love to someone or helped another person during the last week.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Markers

Pencils

Chenille stems (2 per kid)

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Chenille hearts from Arrival Time (1 per kid)

Paper

Scissors

Hold up the leaflet, and point to the cross on the white background. **What shape is this?** (a cross) **Why is there a cross on our leaflet today?** (The church season of Easter continues for many Sundays, and we celebrate that Jesus is alive!) Place one of the chenille-stem hearts from Arrival Time in front of you on the floor. Place the paper cross on top of the heart. **I'm thinking of something we say to a friend when we make a promise. The cross and heart I put here are a clue. Does anyone know what we say when we make a promise?** (cross my heart) **Jesus kept many promises to us! Jesus promised to live again at Easter, and he did! Jesus promised that we wouldn't be alone, and we're not!**

Let's leave the cross and heart here, so we remember that Jesus kept his promise at Easter. In our story today, Jesus is going to share a promise with his disciples. Jesus is also going to tell the disciples the most important truth of all. Jesus told his disciples the truth. Jesus said that to follow God it's most important to find love. I just heard our two Bible story words: Truth and love. Lay down the strip of paper with the words GOD, OTHERS, GOD, YOU. **What's missing from this strip of paper?** (the love) **Let's put in the love.** Invite kids to stack their chenille-stem hearts in the blanks on the strip, where the word "love" belongs. **Let's read this aloud together: Love God. Love others. God loves you!**

Prayer Time

We will hold our chenille stem hearts during our prayer to remind us of Jesus' truth—that love is the most important thing. When you hear your name, put the heart you're holding in the middle of the circle. Pray for each kid individually, using this prayer.

Dear God,
Please help [Name] to love you.
Please help [Name] to love others.
Please help [Name] to know that you love [him/her].

After you have prayed for everyone, arrange the hearts in the center into a circle and say, **Amen** with the kids. Set the hearts aside.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Chenille hearts from Arrival
Time

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit Storytelling

Time for a truth test. Stand up if what I say is true and then sit down again. If what I say is not true, then shake your head “no.” Ready?

- **One of today’s Bible story words is love.** (*true*)
- **Our story is from the Bible.** (*true*)
- **Jesus wants us to love God.** (*true*)
- **Jesus liked to teach outside.** (*true*)

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find The Promise of the Holy Spirit on pages 450–451. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read or ask for a volunteer to read aloud.

Jesus knew he was going to heaven soon. Jesus wanted to be sure his disciples weren’t afraid when he went to heaven. During all the time they were together, Jesus told his disciples the truth. He told them the truth that we must love people. He told them the truth that it can be hard to follow God sometimes. So now, when he was leaving, Jesus wanted to tell his disciples the most important truth. Jesus made the truth simple for his disciples. Jesus told them, “Love God. Love others. God loves you.” Love was a big, true word for Jesus. It’s a big, true word for us. Today in Sunday school we’re using a heart sign to mean love. Let’s make a heart with our hands. Kids place thumb tips and fingertips together to create a heart shape. As you read the story a second time, kids place this heart shape over the word LOVE in their Spark Story Bibles every time they hear and see it.

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

1. **Why was Jesus leaving?** (*It was almost time for him to go to heaven; he would soon die on the cross and rise to be with God.*)
2. **What did Jesus promise his disciples?** (*He promised to love them and everyone who came after them; he promised that God would send the Holy Spirit to be with them and the rest of God’s children forever.*)
3. **Jesus told his disciples the truth. When is it hard to tell the truth?** Affirm all responses.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Jesus' Promise

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

Look at the Bible story picture on the first page of your leaflet. Someone from our story is missing from the picture. Can you guess who it is? (*Jesus' disciple*)

Hand out large stickers to kids. Pause to give kids time to place their large sticker.

Why do you think the disciples are smiling? Affirm responses. **The disciples may be smiling because Jesus is telling them the truth about love—God's love for us, our love for God, and our love for others.**

Jesus sat down on the soft grass with his disciples. He waited until they were quiet. Then he told them the truth about his life and their lives. What did Jesus tell the disciples? Let's read the story together. First let's look at the little pictures above the story to find out what they mean. The first picture is of whom? (*Jesus*) **What does the little red heart mean?** (*love*) **And who are those two people?** (*disciples*) **What does the little boy have on his face?** (*a smile*) **And what do we call boys and girls together?** (*children*) Read the story aloud together. Assist the kids with words as needed.

Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible. Today's Bible story, The Promise of the Holy Spirit, is from the Gospel of John. Many people love a special verse from the Gospel of John. The verse is John 8:32—[Jesus said], "You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Give kids the three word stickers. **Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (*promise, Spirit, truth*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible Memory Verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

[Jesus said] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

The Ones I Love

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **Jesus told his disciples to love God and love other people. God sends us lots of friends and family to love. Whom do you love?** Affirm responses. **Why do you love them?** Pause for responses. Tell the kids about a couple of people you love and why you love them. **Look at the three heart-shaped frames. You can draw a picture of three people you love, drawing one inside each frame.**

While kids are drawing, encourage them to talk to one another about the people they love. **Is our heart big enough for all the people we love? What about God's heart? How big do you think God's heart must be, to include all of us?**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils
Markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Three Truths

Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. Jesus shared lots of important truths with his disciples, because Jesus was their teacher. Every day Jesus taught his disciples something new about God's love. In our Bible story today, Jesus shared three important truths with his disciples: Love God, love others, and God loves you.

I'll name buddies to work together on this puzzle. Working with a buddy is one way to love others, and that's the truth! See if you and your buddy can find eight groups of three hearts that match. Let's see—if we have three groups of eight hearts, how many hearts will we be looking at? Let's figure that out together. $8 + 8 + 8 = \text{what? That's a hard one.}$ (24) As the buddies are working, go around to each pair and offer help as needed. Be sure they understand that they are looking for three hearts that match exactly and that they are looking for eight of these trios. Pause to do this.

Now that we've made all eight matches, how many hearts without matches do we have left? (4) What word does a heart shape remind us of? (love) Let's write one letter from the word love on each unmatched heart shape. Let's begin by writing an L. Give kids time to write. What letter comes next? (O) Let's write the O next. What is the third letter in the word love? (V) Write V now. And what's the last letter? (E) Give kids time to write. Finally, we're done with all of these hearts. Show your love for your church school friends by giving each other a high five.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. Jesus told the truth. Jesus said, "Remember, God is most important. God will always love you." The Bible is filled with all kinds of amazing truths. Let's read about five of these truths. All of these stories are in your Spark Story Bible.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Let's look at the first picture of the bush. A bush burned, but did not burn up. God spoke to Moses in a burning bush. God made this miracle to help Moses see that God was powerful. The bush in the picture is from a place in Egypt called St. Catherine. People think that this bush is the same kind of bush that was burning when God spoke to Moses.

Now find the picture of a lion. How many of you have seen a lion in a zoo or on TV? Pause for responses. **How would you feel if you stood close to a real lion?** (*scared*) **A man spent the night with lots of hungry lions without being hurt. Daniel was thrown into a lions' den because he worshiped God, instead of the king. Wow! Does anyone know why the lions didn't hurt Daniel?** (*Daniel prayed to God, asking for God's help, and God kept the lions from hurting Daniel.*)

Now find the picture of a locust. It looks like a big grasshopper. Someone ate bugs for dinner. John the Baptist lived in the wilderness . The two foods he could find to eat were locusts and honey. What else do you know about John the Baptist? (*He baptized Jesus. He was Jesus' cousin. He told people to get ready for Jesus. He baptized people in the Jordan River.*)

Look for a picture with big jars. In Bible times, people stored their water in great big jars like these. A wedding guest changed water into wine. Jesus went to a wedding. The wine ran out. Jesus changed water in big jars into wine, so everyone would have wine to drink. Jesus loved his friends. Changing water into wine was one way he could help all of them celebrate this happy day.

What do the crowns that kings and queens wear look like? Affirm responses. **Crowns were often made of gold. They were decorated with all kinds of beautiful jewels like diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. But in the Bible, we hear that the most powerful king wore a crown of thorns. The day Jesus died on the cross, soldiers who had arrested Jesus teased him by putting a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. On the day that Jesus died on the cross, what other things happened?** (*Soldiers made Jesus carry his cross, but Jesus fell so someone else carried it for him. Soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. Thieves were crucified on either side of him. Jesus' friends cried. The world grew very dark. God was with Jesus the whole time.*) **This is such a sad story, but what is its happy ending?** (*Easter! Jesus' new life!*)

A True Friend

One of the truths that Jesus told his disciples was, “I won’t be here much longer. But don’t worry! God’s Holy Spirit will be with you always.”

Spark Resources
None

Find your buddy from earlier today. One of each pair will begin by being the leader and the other will be the follower. Choose a leader and follower. The follower will copy the leader’s actions, staying as close as possible without touching the leader. We have one important rule: You have to be silent! Then we will switch parts. Let’s begin! Play this game for a few moments, encouraging the kids to move all around your space—sitting, standing, lying down. If possible move out into the hallway. Then have the buddies switch parts.

Supplies
None

This game reminds us of our Bible story today. Jesus promised to send God’s Holy Spirit to the disciples. And God has kept this promise. God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples, and God sent the Holy Spirit to us, too. The Holy Spirit stays with us like the follower in our game. The Holy Spirit is always with you, but it doesn’t make a sound. You can’t see the Spirit or hear the Spirit, but you can feel the Spirit. The Holy Spirit fills you up with God’s love and goes with you wherever you go. God’s Spirit is always with you!

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class today! We learned that Jesus told the truth. We learned that Jesus told us to love God and love others. We learned that God loves us. We learned that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would come to be with us.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page of the leaflet. Kids can fill in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today’s date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Have kids cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

Supplies
Pencils
Scissors

After class, give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It’s like a coupon for time with you. Next week, we can tell each other what we did to share God’s love and remember our Bible story!

It’s time for our Go Out! circle. Give kids time to stand with you in a circle. **Today we heard: Jesus told the truth. Let’s say it together: Jesus told the truth. Let’s go out with God’s love!** Say this rhyme together while doing the motions:

**Put both hands in,
Put both hands out,
Put hands up high,
And shake them all about.
Spin around once,
Spin again and shout:
Go, God! Go, us! Let's go out!**

Prayer Time

Give each kid the two hearts they made during Arrival Time. **Listen silently to the prayer. Each time you hear the word *love*, hold up your hearts.**

**Dear Jesus,
You told the truth.
We can tell the truth, too.
You said to love God.
You said to love others.
You said God loves us.
And God would send the Holy Spirit.
May it be so.
Amen.**

Keep one of your hearts for yourself and give the other to someone you love. The hearts will remind you that God's Spirit is always with you!

Be sure to send the leaflets, chenille stem hearts, and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies

Chenille hearts from Arrival
Time