

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

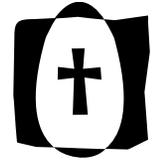
Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
John 14:15-21

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Easter 6

Lesson Focus
The Holy Spirit helps us love Jesus in a big way!

Bible Memory Verse
If you love me, you will keep my commandments. John 14:15



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids create a "love plane" for someone.	Activity Pages 	Pencils, paper
Opening Conversation Kids discuss love and how it's shown.	Leaflets	None
Opening Prayer Kids pray a one-word-at-a-time prayer.	None	None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
The Promise of the Holy Spirit Story Kids "poll" each verse of the story to give a reaction.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None
Commandment or Not? Kids test their Ten Commandments knowledge.	Spark Bibles, Leaflets	Pencils
A Direct Line Kids navigate a maze to learn we have a direct line to God.	Leaflets	Pencils
Remember It Kids memorize the Bible Memory Verse.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
I Know You from Somewhere Kids test geographic knowledge by matching good news to its country of origin.	Leaflets	Pencils
Commandment Keeper Kids create a paper fold to help remember the commandments.	Leaflets	Square pieces of paper, markers or colored pencils
With Us Everywhere! Kids search their church for reminders of God's presence.	Leaflets	Pencils, love planes from Arrival Activity (optional)

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids discuss responsibility and grace.	Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids chant-hum in unison as the text is read in prayer.	Family Pages 	None



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 Activity

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

When kids have arrived, tell them that you'll start this week by sending a message to someone they care about. Hand out sheet of paper for kids to use to write their message. It can be detailed but shouldn't take much longer than a couple minutes to write. Make sure each kid thinks of someone specific and uses details in his or her message.

We need a way to get these messages to people quickly. How about by air? Let's create paper airplanes out of these to launch later!

Unless you're meeting in a large space, you might want to wait a little while before your test flights. The activity called With Us Everywhere is a good time for this.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Pencils
Paper

Opening Conversation

Who was able to try the Faith on the Go! activity this past week? Tell us what you did. Allow time for sharing.

Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) from last week? If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. Guide kids to help them remember parts they don't.

Love is a funny thing, but today we're talking about love, and how we show Jesus that we love him.

- **What's your definition of love? What does it mean?**
- **Who's someone you love? How do you love him or her? What's something that you love? How do you love it?**
- **What's a better way to love someone? With the things you say, or the things you do?**

Take a look at the images, the Lesson Focus, and the Life Question on the front page of the leaflet. Give kids a chance to react and to connect this material with the preceding discussion about love.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Opening Prayer

Circle up with the kids and say,

Part of love is being able to trust someone. We're going to trust God and each other in our Opening Prayer time. I'll start by saying one word, and then the person to my left adds one word. We'll keep going like this for a little while. If you think we've reached the end, then it's up to you to say, "Amen." Remember—we're trusting each other! Let's work at this!

It might take your group a few tries to do this successfully, and that's okay. Part of trust is learning from mistakes!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit Story

Look up John 14:15-21. The story is found on page 1192 in the Spark Bible. **Today's story is short, so we're going through it one verse at a time. We will ask the same question after each verse. The question is this: Is this good news or bad news for you? Why?**

Stop after each verse and ask the question. You could ask for a show of hands, or if you want to get kids up and moving, have them stand at a certain point in the room to show if they think it's good news or bad. Encourage kids to explain why they feel the way they do.

Afterward, ask,

- **Who thinks this was easy to hear? Why do you think that?**
- **How many of us would say we love Jesus? If we mess up and break one of the Ten Commandments, does that mean we're lying?**

Remember that we can't do good things on our own, anyway—that's God's Holy Spirit working in our hearts. This is what the word "advocate" means. The Holy Spirit connects to God on our behalf. We can trust in God's forgiveness, and a chance to try again.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

Commandment or Not?

Ask a volunteer to read Commandment or Not? on the third page of the leaflet. Divide the group into two or more teams. Designate one (or more) team(s) to be the Bible Team. This team can use their Bibles during the game. Designate the other team as the Memory Team. This team has to rely on their memories of the Ten Commandments.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

It's important to know what the Ten Commandments are. I'll read off a commandment and ask, Commandment or Not? As soon as your team knows for sure whether or not it's a real commandment, raise your hands. Then write the real commandments on the stone tablets in your leaflet.

Here's a list of possible suggestions (some sillier than others)—read in any order you'd like. Feel free to make up your own.

- **Don't kill other people. (T)**
- **Don't windsurf. (F)**
- **Don't worship things made by human hands. (T)**
- **Don't create altars out of wood. (F)**
- **Don't marry someone who isn't a Christian. (F)**
- **Don't eat chicken with bare hands. (F)**
- **Don't be jealous of your neighbor's donkey. (T)**
- **Don't spit in public. (F)**
- **Honor your parents' . . . donkey. (F)**
- **Honor your parents. (T)**
- **Don't lie . . . about your donkey. (T . . . sorta.)**
- **Don't commit adultery. (T)**

Ask,

- **Which of these *real* commandments are hard to keep? Which are easy?**
- **Think of an example of a person who would have trouble keeping the ones that you find easy. Who might have trouble not murdering someone else? (*a person with a mental illness, someone trapped in a bad environment*)**
- **How can we reach out to people who have trouble keeping the commandments that we consider easy?**

A Direct Line

Allow a few minutes for kids to complete the maze in A Direct Line on the second page of the leaflet. Then say,

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Again, this is what an advocate is. Someone who speaks on your behalf. Because of the Holy Spirit, we have a direct line to God.

Supplies

Pencils

The Holy Spirit gives us gifts. These are called spiritual gifts. To find out more, answer the questions in Look It Up! on the third page of the leaflet.

Remember It

Ask kids to look up John 14:15 on page 1192 in the Spark Bible, put a finger in the Bible to keep the place, and then close the Bible. They can also look at the back of their leaflet, and flip it over.

The challenge today is to learn the Bible Memory Verse in 15 seconds. It's a short verse, and I think you can do it. When I say, go, open your Bible and quickly memorize verse 14. When I say, stop, close your Bible. Ready? Go!

After 15 seconds say, **Stop! Okay, who can recite the Bible Memory Verse (BMV)?** Give kids a chance to recite the verse. When the group has memorized the verse, encourage kids to put I Memorized It stickers in their Bibles.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

I Know You from Somewhere

Now we'll try something that tests our geography knowledge. Have a volunteer read the instructions from I Know You from Somewhere on the second page of the leaflet. **In each of these countries, something good has happened. But which country is which? Let's work together to find out.**

Cooperate with kids to identify the right country for each story. Once you think you have it, ask,

- **Were any of these countries hard to identify? Why?**
- **How can we use a knowledge of the world to love other people?** (*Maybe knowing about other places and cultures will help us communicate with them!*)
- **Do you think God works in places that aren't Christian cultures? How?**
- **Is our biggest concern how other countries behave, or how we behave? Do you think you set a good example of loving Jesus and others?**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Commandment Keeper

Direct kids to Commandment Keeper on the third page of the leaflet. Use the instructions below (and corresponding illustration on page 104) to help them create a Commandment Keeper (formerly known as a Cootie Catcher). This activity is fun but may take a little while. If kids get frustrated at any point, remind them—**The Holy Spirit helps us in the toughest of times, and you can get this!**

Instructions:

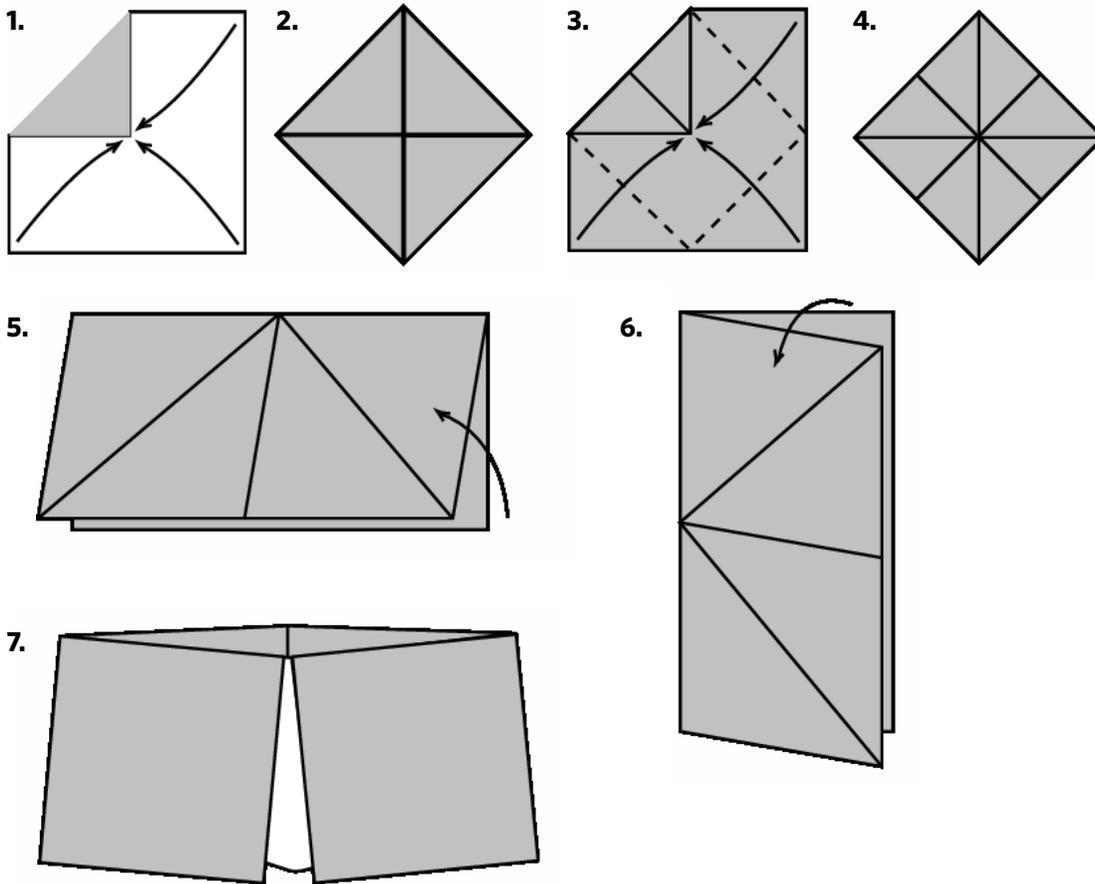
1. Fold the square paper so the opposite corners touch. Crease the paper and repeat with the other two corners.
2. Your square is now folded into a smaller square.
3. Flip the square over and fold the four corners into the center again.
4. On each of the smaller triangles, write the numbers 1-8.
- 5 and 6. Lift the flaps, and record each of the following commandments under each small numbered triangle (some of them are combined for space):
 - Only God is God.
 - Don't misuse God's name.
 - Worship God on the Sabbath.
 - Honor your parents.
 - Don't murder.
 - Don't steal.
 - Don't lie.
 - Don't covet other people's stuff.
7. Stick your thumbs and forefingers into the first flaps, so all four corners meet in the middle.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Square pieces of paper
Markers or colored pencils



How to use the Commandment Keeper:

1. Pick a color, any color! Spell the *name* of the color, and for each letter, open the Keeper vertically, then horizontally.
2. Pick a number! Repeat, counting up to that number.
3. Pick a number again, and open that flap to read one of the commandments.

Encourage kids to take their Commandment Keepers home. Tell them to pick a commandment in this way every day this week, and consider whether or not they've been keeping it. Whether they have or not, what could they do to love Jesus that day?

Ask,

- **Are commandments something we physically keep, like a souvenir? How do we keep them?**
- **Do you have to keep mental notes about every little thing to follow the commandments? What about the “easier” ones—do you have to work at remembering them?** *(No, they’re pretty common sense.)*
- **Why do you think Jesus says that keeping commandments is how we show our love for Him?**

With Us Everywhere!

Ask a volunteer to read With Us Everywhere! on the fourth page of the leaflet.

It’s time to stretch those legs! We’re going on a walking tour inside and outside our church building. Whenever you see something that reminds you of God’s presence (the way that God is here, now), raise your hand so you can share it with the group.

Walk around your building—if possible, go places that kids wouldn’t expect, like the furnace room. Keep looking for signs of God, and don’t be afraid to add your own ideas. At some point, pause and let kids sketch a picture in their leaflets of something they’ve seen.

Ask,

- **Do you notice these things every time you see them, or did you have to look for them? Why do you think that is?**
- **Why do we have to remind ourselves of these things? What’s distracting us from God’s presence in our lives?**
- **If you could add something to our church, what would it be?**

If you still have your “love planes” from the Opening Activity, now would be a good time to bring them along. If you carry them, that will prevent kids from getting distracted on your walk. Find a good launching place (a balcony or stairwell works well).

For this second section, ask,

- **Did your plane go where you expected? Why was it hard to control?**
- **Even if you love someone, does that always go the way you expect?**
- **What do you do when you make a mistake in loving someone?**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Love planes from Arrival Activity (optional)

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

To wrap up today's lesson, ask,

- **Have you ever been left in charge of someone or something? Why do you think you got that responsibility?**
- **Why do you think Jesus promised that the Advocate would be with us?**
- **Jesus says we're adopted by God—what does that mean for you?**
- **If we make mistakes in loving Jesus, will Jesus still love us?** (yes!)

Ask a volunteer to read Faith on the Go! on the last page of the leaflet. Encourage kids to try out the suggestion during the week and be prepared to report back next week.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Closing Prayer

The Holy Spirit is at work in us, even when we have trouble noticing him. That's why we can do good things without even thinking about them sometimes! To remind us of God's constant presence in our lives, we'll hum a note in unison throughout our Closing Prayer. Try to stay on the same note, and don't hum too loudly!

Start kids humming, and then read John 14:15-21 as the Closing Prayer.

Be sure to send a leaflet and a Family Page home with each kid, as well as their Commandment Keepers.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None