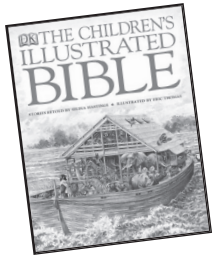


Seventh Sunday of Easter



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 281

Jesus said to his disciples, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes; and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

—Acts 1:6–14 adapted

Get Strong!

Jesus said he would send the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Another time that we receive the Holy Spirit is after baptism. After baptism, elders of the congregation place their hands on the head of the person and offer a special prayer. This is called confirmation. Through confirmation, the person receives the guidance and blessing of God's Spirit for strength. Ask:

1. Have you seen a confirmation? What did you think or feel?
2. Have you been baptized and confirmed? What did you think or feel about that?

Jesus Promises the Spirit

Share the story of Jesus' Ascension into heaven from Acts 1:6-14 and page 281 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. (Today's story is in the last two paragraphs on the page.) Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to come to the disciples when he went to heaven.

1. What is it like to be left alone?
2. When are times you are alone—in bed at night when your parents have left your room? at school? with a babysitter?
3. Do you know you will be okay while they are gone?
4. Do you feel like you are not as strong or brave when you are alone?

Jesus knew his disciples would feel unsure or even afraid when he left them. So he promised them that the Holy Spirit would be with them. The word Jesus used for the Holy Spirit was "paraclete," which is someone who stands up with a person on trial. This person tells the truth to the person on trial, helping them. Jesus promised he would send the Holy Spirit to stand beside us, guiding us with the truth.

Have kids role-play standing up for themselves. Try it with and without a "paraclete." Discuss the differences between standing up alone and with a helper. Ideas for brave acts:

1. Tell a teacher about a classmate who is bullying kids.
2. Stand up to a bully.
3. Tell someone when they are hurting their pet.



Holy Spirit Power

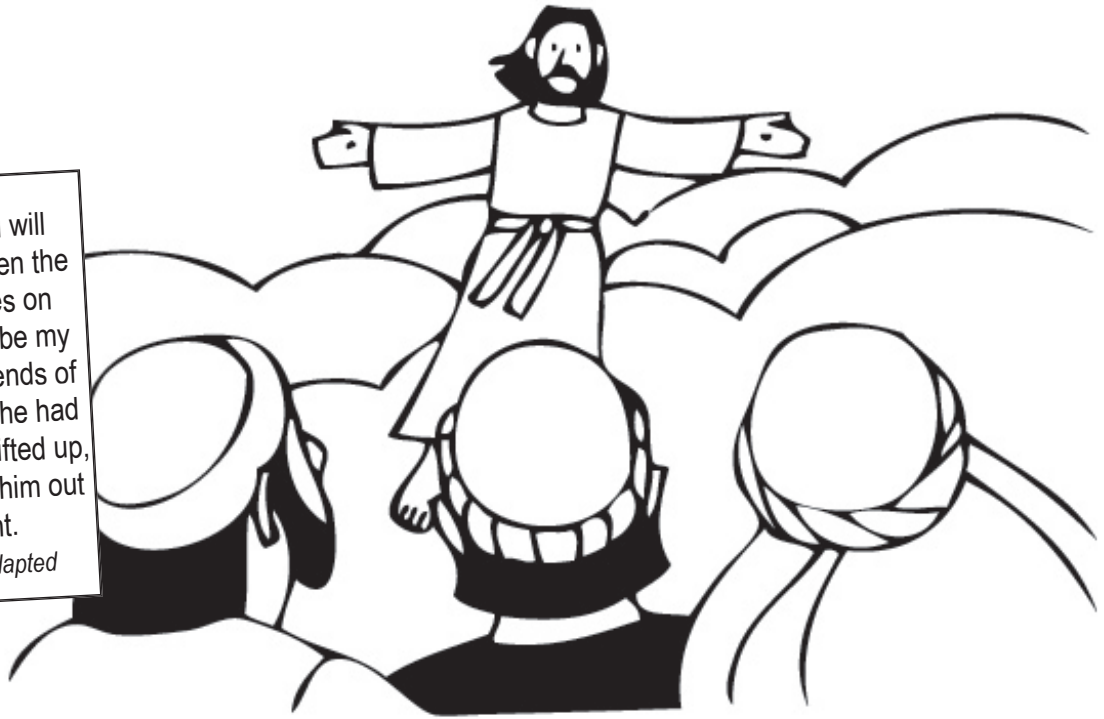
When the Holy Spirit comes like a breath or wind, it can be very strong! Experiment how strong breath can be.

1. Use a medium-sized plastic bag (check for leaks before class by filling with water). Label the bag "Holy Spirit" with a permanent marker.
2. Put a bendable straw in the bag with an inch or two sticking out.
3. Duct tape the straw into the corner of the bag opening. Tape the plastic bag shut.
4. Set a large book on top of the bag. Blow into the straw. Your breath will expand the bag to lift the book. How strong air can be! The Holy Spirit is like that.
5. Have kids inhale deeply to expand their stomachs. Kids hold their breath and imagine that it is the Holy Spirit within them. They feel and look bigger, stronger, and more confident. Let them exhale. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us when we're taking a risk or trying something new.
6. Invite kids to talk about situations and experiences where they'd like to feel the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray together that they will feel the strength of the Holy Spirit the next time they are in this situation.

Adapted from *Our Love for God, Simple Science Object Talks* by Heno Head, pages 28-29. (See Resource page 111.)

Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

—Acts 1:6–14 adapted



Holy Spirit Power

Write about a situation where you would like to feel the Holy Spirit's power.

<p>What is the situation?</p>
<p>What will you do?</p>

Pray

Connect the dots. Then fill in the blanks.

	•7	•9	•11
•6	•8	•10	
•4		My God, I bring you glory by doing _____ (what?)	•12
•3	•5	I finished the work you gave me to do: _____ (what?)	
		I told _____ about you. (who?)	•13
		I pray for _____ (who?)	
•2		Please love them because they are yours.	•14
		Amen,	

	•1	(your name)	•15