

Sixth Sunday of Easter



The Children's Illustrated Bible
pages 292–293

Peter began to speak to Cornelius, a centurion, his family, and friends. “God has no favorites, but in every nation anyone who follows God and does what is right is acceptable to God. Jesus was the message

God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace—God is Lord of all.” While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard him. The believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

—Acts 10:34–36, 44–47
adapted

God Is for Everyone

Tell the story of Peter from Acts 10:1–47 or *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Discuss: What does “withhold” mean? Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be sent to help build his church. When Peter spoke, the Holy Spirit came to all who were listening, even Gentiles (those who weren't Jews). Jesus meant for the Holy Spirit to be for all people, not just the Jew. God sends the Holy Spirit to everyone, including you.

Show kids a sick houseplant, and ask them if they know what is wrong with it. The plant was taken out of the sunlight (show a paper with a drawing of sunlight), and that is why it is sick. Plants cannot live without the sun, and people cannot live without God's son, Jesus. Jesus is our “sonlight” (show a paper with a drawing of Jesus). If Jesus' Holy Spirit was withheld from us, we would be spiritually sick. Show the healthy plant. We need the “sonlight” that the Holy Spirit brings, so we are strong and healthy spiritually. Then we can do what God has asked us to do.

No one can withhold the Holy Spirit from any person, no matter if they are of a different race, disability, language, or religion.



Shadow Kids for Jesus

Shine a spotlight on a plain wall. Arrange kids in pairs so they can see shadows on the wall. Have two kids step into the light and do an action like shaking hands. Direct the other kids to watch the shadows. If we are to show other people what Jesus taught, we have to be good examples. The spotlight is like the light of Jesus. We have to be in Jesus' light to show others how to act. (Have kids step out of the light.) If we are no longer in Jesus' light, we withhold his love from others. Give each pair of kids one of the following activities to act out in the spotlight, or they can create their own. The rest of the kids may guess what they are doing.

1. Sharing lunch with others
2. Helping someone cross the street
3. Calming someone who is crying
4. Helping each other clean house
5. Collecting the offering



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Draw one way to share the Holy Spirit with others.