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A Special Gift

Key References: Acts 1:3-8; *The Desire of Ages,* chaps. 81-86, pp. 779-828; *The Acts of the Apostles,* chaps. 2, 3, pp. 17-34; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 161-164; vol. 10, pp. 9-13; Our Beliefs nos. 5, 11, 17















Sabbath DO Do the activity on page 32.

powertext

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

powerpoint

The Holy Spirit helps us to understand and share God's Word.

Imagine what it would be like to have a friend who was always there, no matter where you were, what happened, or how you felt. This friend would encourage you, help you, and show you the right thing to do. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Jesus promised everyone who believes in Him just such a friend—the Holy Spirit.

Never have the disciples felt such despair. Jesus has died. All their hopes have died with Him. They huddle behind locked doors in the upper room. Could it really have been only three days since they ate the Passover supper with Jesus in this very room? It seems impossible. They are too discouraged to remember the words that Jesus spoke to them then: "After I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee" (Matthew 26:32).

Suddenly another person is visible among them. It is Jesus. He raises His hands, as they have seen Him do hundreds of times, and says, "Peace be with you." They are terrified. Then Jesus speaks again. "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!"

They can't believe their senses. Jesus says, "Touch me and see; a



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Sunday

READ Read Acts 1:3-5 and this week's story, "A Special Gift."

WRITE Write the power text on a large piece of paper that you can post on the wall of your room.

LEARN Begin to memorize the power text, Acts 1:8.

PRAY Ask God to send His Holy Spirit and empower you to be a witness for Jesus.

Monday

READ Read Acts 1:6-8.

OBSERVE Boil water. What happens to the water? When you cannot see the steam, does it mean that the water has disappeared? How is the water in the atmosphere like the Holy Spirit?

TALK Ask your family members or friends to share how they experienced the Holy Spirit's help and guidance.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask the Holy Spirit to help you be Jesus' witness.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

LOOK Go outside and try to feel the wind. If there is no wind, create a breeze by turning on a hair dryer or creating a fan. What do you see?

LEARN You can't see the wind, only its effect. You can't see the Holy Spirit, only His working in your life. What can you/others see that shows that the Holy Spirit is working in your life?

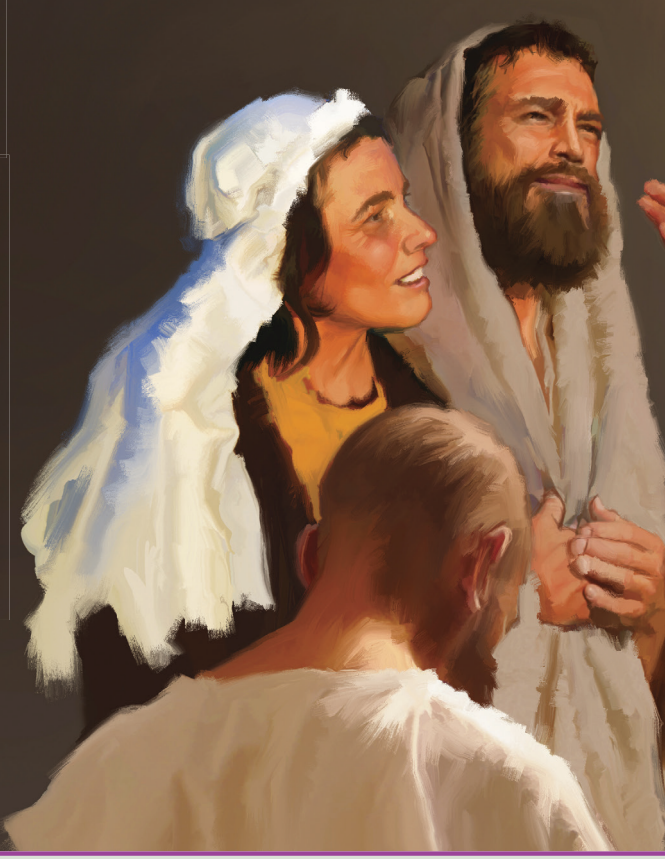
REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask the Holy Spirit to bless your life with the gifts you need to witness in your community.

ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." The disciples still have a hard time believing their eyes and their ears.

Finally Jesus asks them "Do you have anything here to eat?" They give Him a piece of roasted fish, and Jesus eats it in front of them. By this they receive the assurance that He is alive, that He is a real flesh-and-blood person. The shock finally wears off, and Jesus talks to His disciples. "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."

Then Jesus helps them to understand



what has been written about Him in the Bible. He explains again how the Messiah had to suffer and die and rise again. He explains God's plan to forgive sins through His death on the cross.

Now the disciples begin to understand that Jesus' mission was not to restore the kingdom to the Jewish nation. He did not come to take David's throne as king of the Jews. His was a spiritual kingdom. Jesus called His followers and friends to an important work for His kingdom, telling them: "You are witnesses of these things." He called them to preach in His name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem (see Luke 24:36-48).

Jesus tells the disciples that before they begin their mission to the world they must wait to receive a special gift: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised" (Acts 1:4). The disciples needed to be united in prayer as they waited for this special gift. "In a



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Wednesday

READ Read Galatians 5:22.

THINK What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?

LIST In your Bible study journal, list the gifts of the Spirit and identify which gift the Holy Spirit has given you.

SHARE Talk with someone about God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that your life will be a witness to others.

Thursday

READ Read John 16:5-16.

PLAN Plan to share with your family on Friday evening the idea that the Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Godhead whom Jesus sent to be always with us.

CREATE Compose a song or rhyme to describe how the Holy Sprit helps you be a witness for Jesus to others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the Holy Spirit's role in your life.

Friday

READ Read John 14:26.

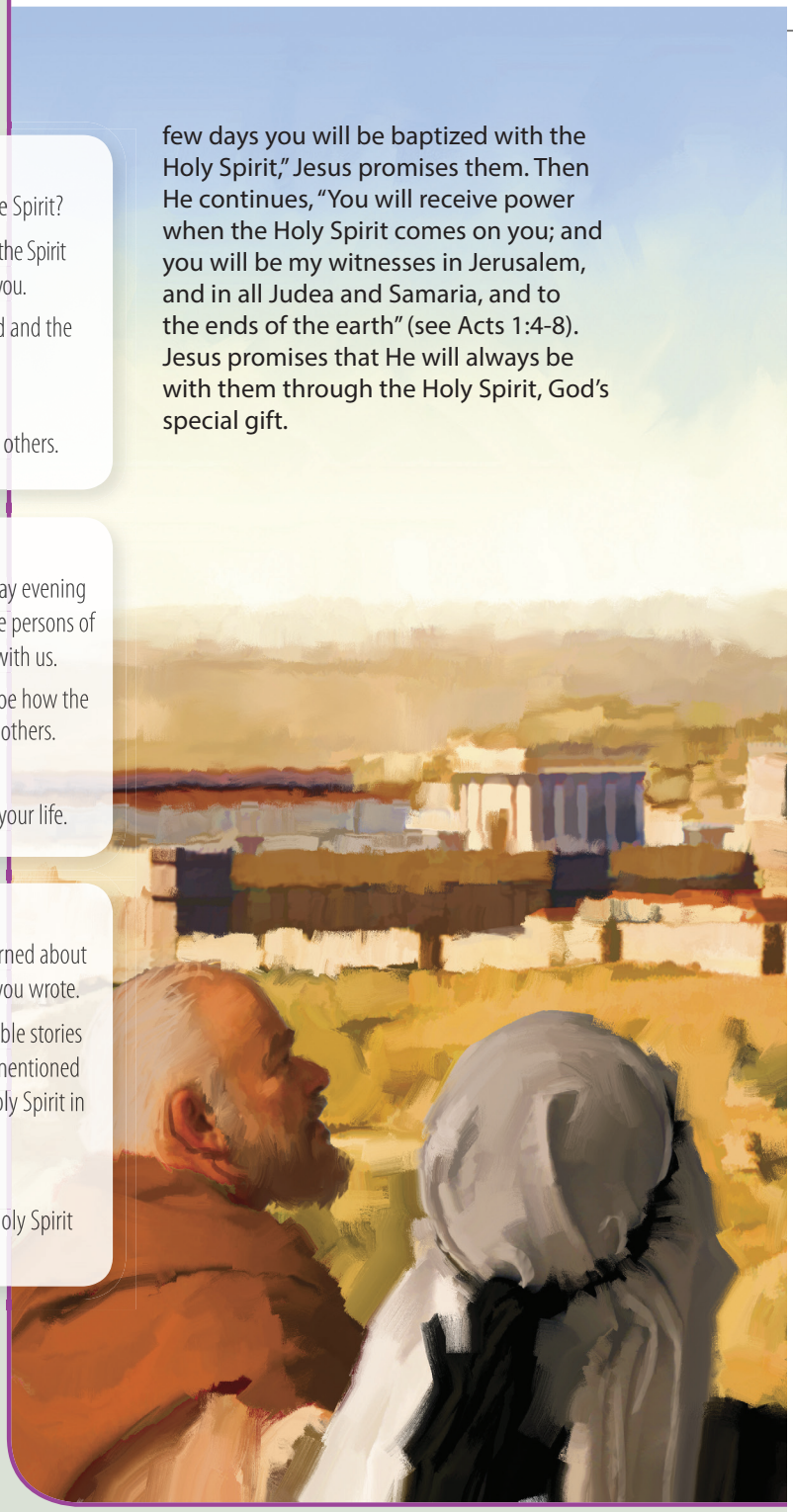
SHARE Share with your family what you learned about the Holy Spirit, as well as the song or rhyme you wrote.

DISCUSS As a family, brainstorm as many Bible stories as you remember in which the Holy Spirit is mentioned as being active. What were the roles of the Holy Spirit in these events recorded in the Bible?

REPEAT Repeat the power text by memory.

PRAY Pray that as a family you will let the Holy Spirit use you as a witness in your community.

few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit," Jesus promises them. Then He continues, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (see Acts 1:4-8). Jesus promises that He will always be with them through the Holy Spirit, God's special gift.



The disciples wait. They all join together in prayer. They meet together in the upper room. They meet together at the Temple. Now they are eager to pray, knowing that Jesus has gone to the Father and hears their prayers. They review all the things that Jesus has taught them. One by one they remember the things that Jesus had said. How could they not have understood Jesus' words about His kingdom? His teaching seems so clear now. Jesus has been so patient with them.

Now no one is concerned about who will be the greatest. They are concerned about telling the world about Jesus, His life, His death, and His resurrection. The Holy Spirit empowers them to take the story of Jesus to every country, to every nation, to all the people in the world.



PUZZLE

3

POWER FROM ON HIGH

Instructions: The Bible verse has been divided into groups of three characters and these groups placed in alphabetical order. Find the Bible verse by placing the groups in the correct order. Each line represents a letter, and a "|" has been placed after every third character. To start you off, we've done a couple and crossed them off the list.

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