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Always There

Key References: John 14:15-17; Matthew 3; Matthew 4:1-10; Acts 2:1-12; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 12, 13, pp. 114-131; *The Acts of the Apostles,* chap. 5, pp. 47-56; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 187-192; vol. 10, pp. 9-16; Our Beliefs, nos. 5, 17, 9















Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 18.

powertext

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4).

powerpoint

God sends the Holy Spirit to help us.

Have you ever felt lonely? Have you ever wished you had someone with you when you had to face difficult circumstances? While on earth Jesus had a Friend and Helper like that, and the same Friend and Helper wants to be part of your life as well. Some events from Jesus' life help us better understand His close connection with the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of His ministry, as He worked in the carpenter shop, Jesus heard the news about the preacher by the Jordan River. Listening to the reports, He knew that the preacher was the person sent to prepare the people for the good news of the gospel. Jesus put away His tools, said goodbye to His family, and headed for the Jordan.

Though the preacher was His cousin John, they had never met. Jesus at first stood quietly listening. John talked about the Messiah to come. He preached words of encouragement for sinners. He reserved harsh, severe words for the hypocrites, who had come to judge his work. Jesus watched as John baptized the repentant.

Then Jesus insisted on being baptized too. Although John protested, he fulfilled Jesus' request. John had been praying for a sign to know the Messiah when He came. As Jesus came out of the water and up onto the bank, the sky opened, and God sent the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove to rest on Jesus. John accepted it as the sign he had been waiting for.

After Jesus' baptism, the Spirit impressed Him to spend time alone talking with His Father and to gain a deeper understanding of His mission on earth. For the next 40 days Jesus fasted and communed with God. At the end Satan came to Him and tempted Him three times. Each time Jesus was able to overcome the temptation with words from Scripture that the Holy Spirit helped Him to recall (see Matthew 4:4, 7, 10).

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Sunday

READ Read Acts 2:4 and this week's story, "Always There."

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write the qualities you think are important in a friend.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Acts 2:4.

PRAY Ask Jesus to send the Holy Spirit to be your friend.

Monday

READ Read John 14:15-17.

THINK What presents would you like to give your friends if you were going away?

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* write a sentence about how we show that we love Jesus (see verse 15). Then write about Jesus' farewell gift to His friends (see verses 16, 17).

PRAY Pray for your friends today.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 3; Matthew 4:1-10.

THINK Think about times the Holy Spirit has helped you remember things or resist temptation.

MAKE Create a song, poem, or collage showing the ways the Holy Spirit can affect our lives.

PRAY Thank God for the Holy Spirit's help.





In Gethsemane

Jesus knew that He had come to the end of His work on earth. In a few hours He would be taken away by force, betrayed by one of His disciples. He would be tried as a common criminal and put to death by the Romans in the most publicly humiliating way of that time. This was what He had come to earth to do, so He wasn't concerned for Himself. He was concerned about the 12 disciples who had been with Him for the past three years. He knew that they wouldn't understand what was going to happen. He had tried so often to tell them, but they weren't able to grasp that He was not going to be an earthly king.

Jesus asked His Father to send the Holy Spirit to earth after His return to heaven. The Holy Spirit would comfort, enlighten, and guide not only Jesus' disciples, but also all believers until His return to the earth at the end of the world.

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Jesus could hardly wait to tell His disciples the good news about the Holy Spirit, every believer's best friend. He thought about how God's Spirit would comfort and guide them. Unlike Jesus, the Holy Spirit would never have to leave them.



In Heaven

Forty days after His ascension into heaven Jesus decided it was time to keep His promise to His disciples.

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Wednesday

READ Read Acts 2:1-12 and John 3:8.

EXPERIENCE Go to an open space outside and stand and see if you can feel a breeze. Explain to someone how feeling the breeze is like the work of the Holy Spirit.

THINK What other things can you feel the effect of but not see?

PRAY Pray that you will feel the Spirit working in your life.

Thursday

READ Read Galatians 5:22, 23.

DRAW Draw and color nine fruits of different kinds. Next to each fruit write the name of a corresponding fruit of the Spirit. Place your drawing on the wall to help you memorize the fruits of the Spirit.

THINK Which fruit of the Spirit do you feel you need most?

ASK Ask an adult among your family or friends to tell you about a time when the Holy Spirit helped them.

PRAY Pray that you will show the fruits of the Spirit in your life.

Friday

READ Read Acts 4:31.

THINK In what ways has the Holy Spirit caused you to speak boldly about Jesus?

MAKE Make fruit salad and share it with your family. Read together and discuss Galatians 5:22, 23.

PRAY Pray that each member of your family will be open to the working of the Holy Spirit.

***NOTE:** Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas when you study the Bible helps you gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.

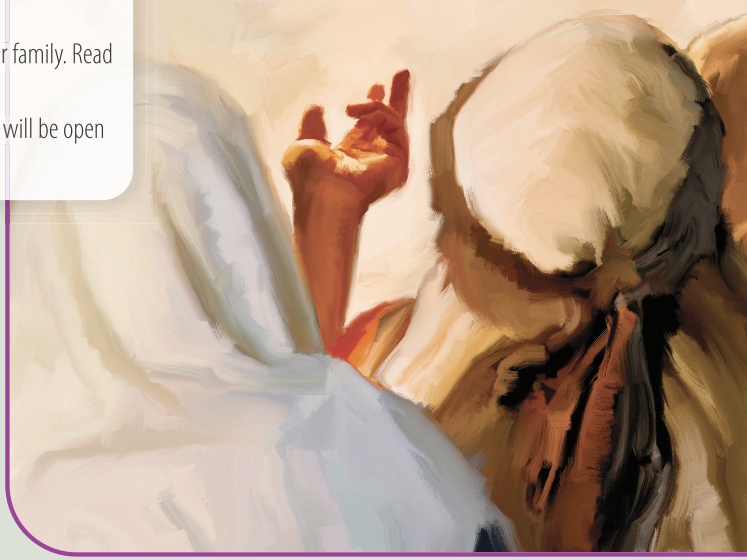
On Earth

The disciples were all gathered in the upper room praying, praising, and confessing their sins. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit in the form of a rushing wind that swept through the room and settled as tongues of fire on each person's head.

The disciples were immediately energized. Their fear left them. Their understanding increased. They poured into the streets praising God and preaching the gospel. Pilgrims gathered from all over the world for the Feast of Harvest. As they stopped to listen to the disciples' speech, each of them heard the good news in their own language. The disciples healed the sick, cast out demons, and performed other miracles in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Epilogue

Jesus promised to send the same Spirit to us today. All we have to do is ask.





PUZZLE 1

BIBLE TRIVIA

Instructions: Fill in the blanks below with the first letter from each of the answers to the 10 questions. These letters spell out the name of the One Jesus promised would come to help us if we only ask.

1. What was Mordecai's cousin's Hebrew name? (Esther 2:7)

2. What was King David's grandfather's name? (Ruth 4:22)

3. Who is the brother of Mary and Martha? (John 11:1)

4. At what age in life should we come to Jesus? (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

5. Who asked God for wisdom? (1 Kings 4:29)

6. Who denied Jesus three times in one night? (Matthew 26:75)

7. What is the name of Abraham and Sarah's son? (Genesis 21:3)

8. Who did Jacob love? (Genesis 29:18)

9. What is the name of Isaac's brother? (Genesis 25:9)

10. Who doubted Jesus had risen from the dead? (John 20:24-29)

11. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____