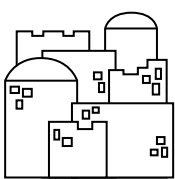


Introduction

to The World of the Holy Spirit



Unit Overview:
God sent the Holy Spirit to help us follow Him.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE UNIT

Jesus had been born into a world of Roman rule. After His death, resurrection, and ascension, the Romans remained in power. Although the empire was in a

relative state of peace, the controversy over the new Gospel message caused a stir and challenged the commitment of Jesus' first followers.

At the Last Supper, Jesus promised His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit. This Counselor would do what Jesus was physically unable to do while He walked the earth: live inside of each believer.

The coming of the Holy Spirit, the paraclete [PAIR-uh-kleet] or "one called alongside," took place in Jerusalem at the Jewish celebration of Pentecost, fifty days after Passover, as Jesus had declared earlier (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit's purpose was to convict the world of sin and to remind believers of everything they learned about Jesus. Although this third member of the Trinity

WEEK	OVERVIEW	BIBLE STORY	METHOD OF PRESENTATION	KEY VERSE
1	Jesus promises that God will send the Holy Spirit to all Christians.	The promise of the Holy Spirit.	Jesus' Monologue	John 14:26
2	The Holy Spirit comes to the disciples at Pentecost.	The Day of Pentecost.	Jerusalem Today Skit	John 16:8
3	The Holy Spirit gives Peter the power to heal people and stand up for God.	Peter heals a crippled man and is arrested by the Sanhedrin.	Temple Skit	2 Timothy 1:7
4	The Holy Spirit leads Philip to an Ethiopian official.	Philip tells an Ethiopian about Jesus.	Puppet Show	Psalms 143:10
5	The Holy Spirit gives the disciples wisdom to make decisions.	Seven people are chosen to serve the Greek-speaking widows.	Food Feud Skit	Proverbs 2:6
6	The Holy Spirit directs Paul and Barnabas to tell others about Jesus.	Paul and Barnabas start their first missionary journey.	Taped Monologue (Barnabas)	Acts 1:8



could not be seen as Jesus had been, His presence could be known.

We caught a passing glimpse of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus' baptism, as the Spirit's presence confirmed Jesus' unique identity as the Messiah. (See Matthew 3:16.) Then the Spirit led Jesus away to be tempted by Satan. (See Matthew 4.) But at the Last Supper, Jesus assured His disciples of more than a passing relationship with the Spirit. Now, this Helper would never leave them.

When He came, the Christian church (from the Greek word *ekklesia* [eck-klay-SEE-uh]) was born and Jerusalem quickly became the center of the Christian church. The apostles, Jesus' once frightened group of disciples, began carrying out the commission they had been given.

The Holy Spirit helped the new Christians to become a close-knit group. Times soon grew perilous for followers of Jesus as persecution led to chastisement by temple leaders. The stoning of Stephen, one of the Christian leaders (see Acts 7), became just the tip of the persecution iceberg.

Many Christians had to meet in secret. Some fled

Jerusalem. Others were thrown out of the temple and synagogues because of their belief in Jesus as the Messiah. They met in homes or buildings with upper rooms such as the one in which the Last Supper took place. Those who fled Jerusalem began house churches in Gentile cities.

First-century believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit, took the Gospel throughout the known world. They were often persecuted, sometimes at the cost of their lives. Yet, nothing could stop the spread of the Gospel. During this time a Pharisee named Saul, whose antipathy to Christians had been well known, became one of the greatest missionaries ever known.

Today the site of the Last Supper is the Hall of the Cenacle in Jerusalem. It is a constant reminder of the coming and continued presence of the Holy Spirit.

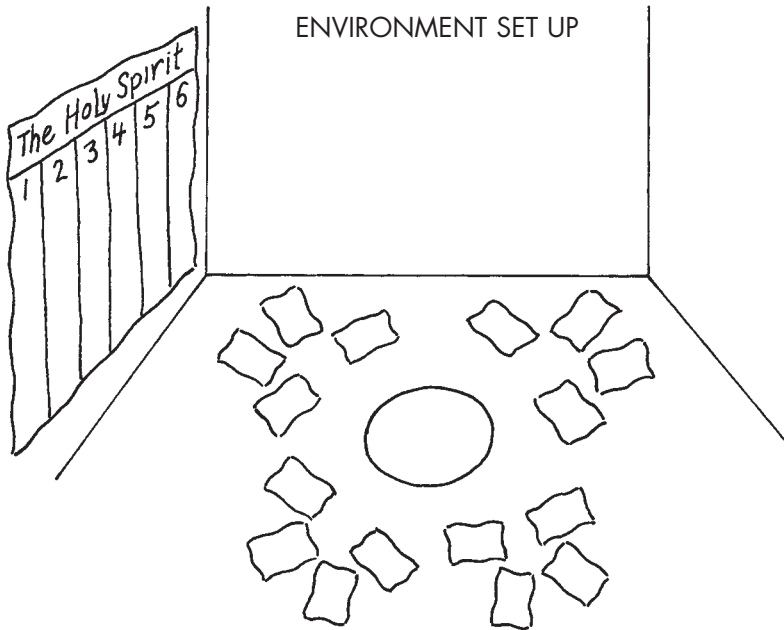
ENVIRONMENT SET UP INSTRUCTIONS

The environment for this unit on the Holy Spirit is built around the theme of "Mission Impossible." The idea is to help the children understand the dangers first-

COORDINATOR'S PLANNING GRID

Use the following grid (or develop one of your own) in your planning sessions to help you keep a record of projects and of personnel needed for Jubilation Station.

WEEK	PROJECTS BEING USED	PROJECT STATION STAFF	LARGE GROUP STATION PRESENTERS
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			



ENVIRONMENT SET UP

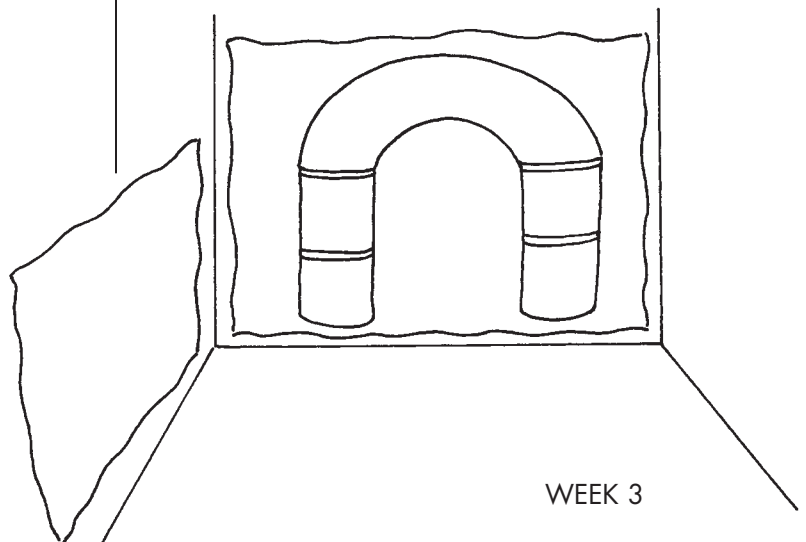
pieces of construction paper labeled Week One, Week Two, and so forth. On separate squares, write the following words or phrases:

- Is the Promised Helper
- Comes as Promised
- Provides the Power to Heal
- Gives Direction
- Gives Wisdom
- Helps Us Tell Others about God

Each week, the Large Group Leader can select a student to pin one of these squares onto the cork board. If a posterboard is used, the phrases will have to be written on the board each week.

Week Two: When the presentation begins, push the mats aside and leave the space open. During the Bible story presentation, the children and skit participants will gather in the open space, just as the disciples did at Pentecost. Hang a sign for the TV show "Jerusalem Today."

Week Three: This week, the children will journey to the court of the temple. Commission an artist in your congregation to paint the bronze Beautiful Gate as a backdrop for one wall. The backdrop need not be elaborate. Recruit members of your congregation to act as extras to simulate the busyness of this court environment.



WEEK 3

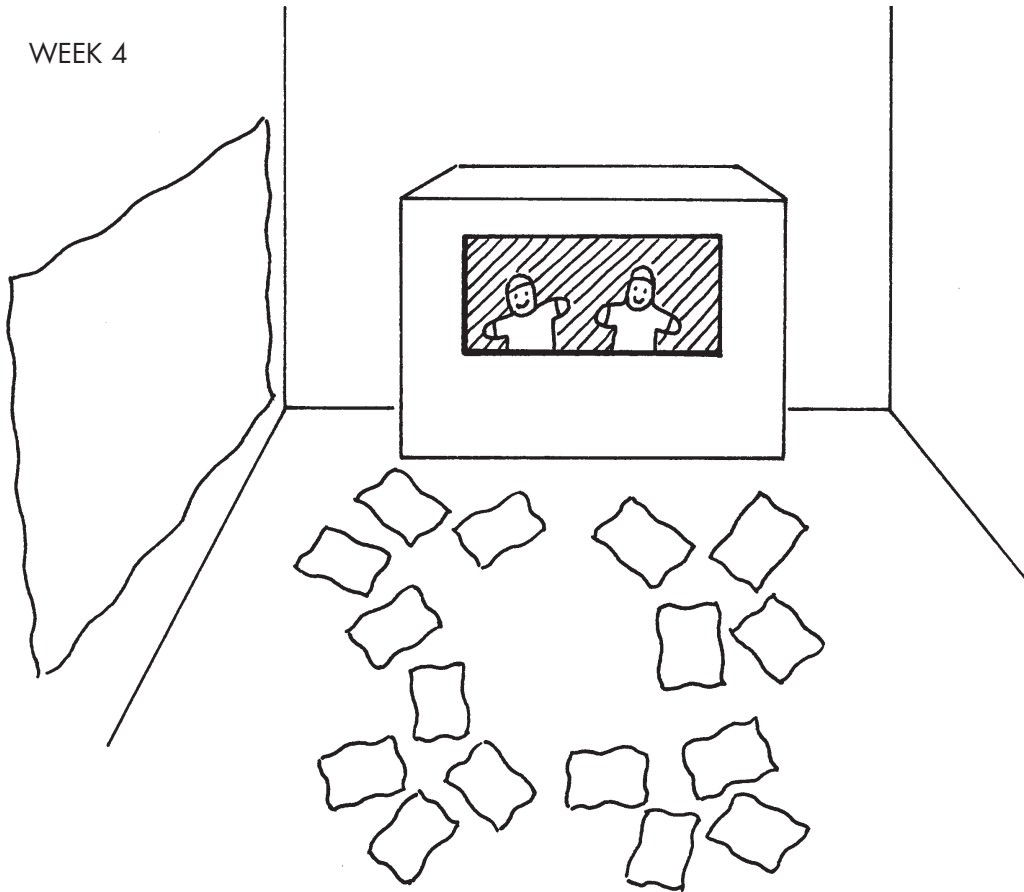
century believers faced when spreading the Gospel in a land under Roman rule. Make a banner with the words: "Mission: Impossible" and hang it in the area where all of the children will assemble. Explain that before Jesus left the earth, He gave His disciples a mission: to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). This mission probably seemed impossible to the disciples. That's why Jesus promised them a Helper, one who would make the impossible possible. As the children gather, explain that they are part of Jesus' weary band of disciples.

Week One: Set up "Mission Control Headquarters." This is the upper room, where much of the action took place. Have groups of four or five mats, cots, or rugs set up in a circle. Explain that when people ate, they usually reclined. They also ate with their right hands, using bread as a scooper. Have available some pita bread or Matzoh crackers and dip in the center of each group of mats. In a central location, place a mat for the person playing Jesus.

On one wall, hang butcher paper for students to use in painting a mural (Project #1). Have available a cork board or large posterboard with the words "The Holy Spirit . . ." in large letters near the top. If using a posterboard, mark off six equal sections. Label each Week One, Week Two, and so forth. If you use a cork board, tack pieces of yarn on the cork board to divide it into six sections. Pin



WEEK 4



Week Four: Remove the temple gate backdrop and place the mats centrally on the floor once more. Set up a puppet theater in one area of your headquarters. A puppet theater can be made out of a large cardboard box.

Week Five: Set up four mats in the center of your headquarters. The Large Group Leader and the “guests” will take those places during the Bible story presentation.

Week Six: Remove the mats. Make the following place signs and post them around headquarters: Seleucia; Cyprus; Salamis; Synagogue. (Make two or three synagogue signs.)

PROJECT SUMMARY LIST

Detailed instructions and supplies needed for creative projects are included in the Project Leader’s Guide.

1. Bible Story Wall Mural (All weeks)
2. Cooking Project (Week 1)
3. Storybook/Journal (All weeks)
4. Last Supper Art Project (Week 1)
5. Flame Bands (Week 2)
6. Dove Ornament (Week 2)
7. Bible Story Mobile (Week 3)
8. Christian Symbol Medallion (Week 3)
9. Key Verse Pouch (Week 3)
10. Plaster Tablet (Week 3)
11. Key Verse Bookmark (Week 4)
12. Gabata, an Ethiopian Mancala Game (Week 4)
13. Service Project (Week 5)
14. Learning Letters (Week 5)
15. Travel Map (Week 6)
16. Origami Boats (Week 6)

