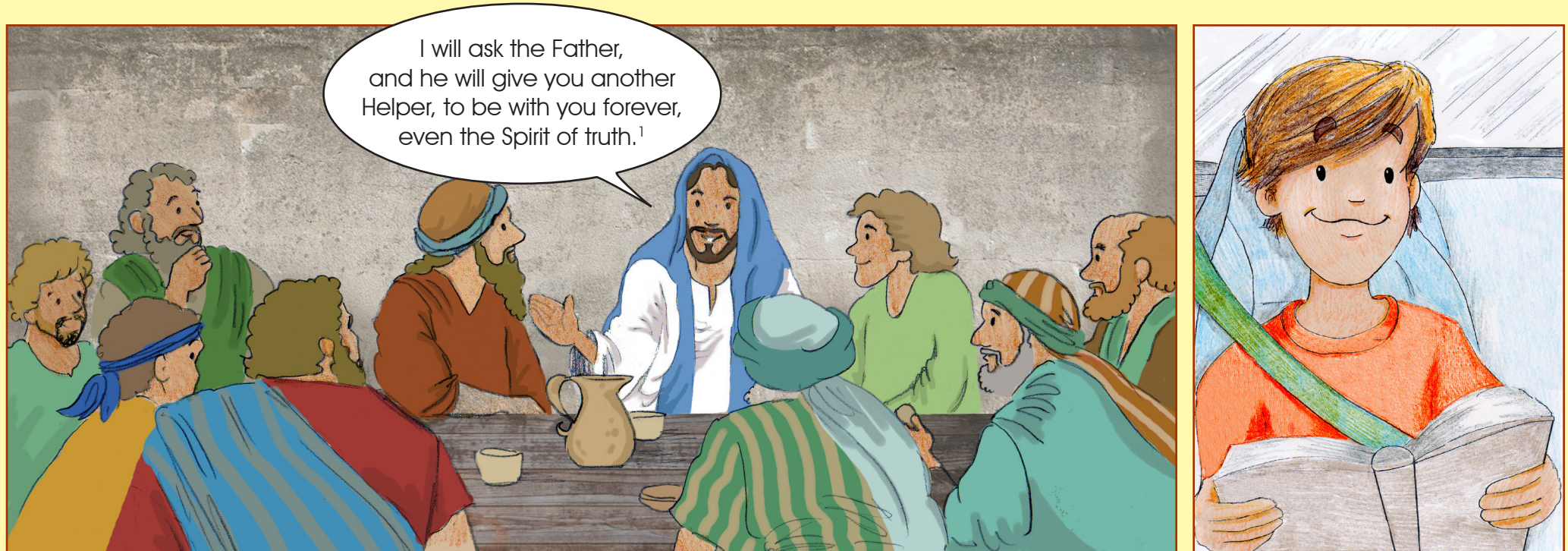


The Gift of the Holy Spirit

BEFORE JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED, HE HAD ONE LAST MEAL WITH HIS DISCIPLES CALLED THE "LAST SUPPER." THE DISCIPLES WERE SAD TO HEAR JESUS TELLING THEM THAT HE WOULD SOON BE GOING AWAY. JESUS ENCOURAGED THEM THAT EVEN THOUGH HE HAD TO GO AWAY, THEY WOULDN'T BE LEFT ALONE.



AT THIS TIME, JESUS REFERS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A HELPER² AND AS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US INTO ALL TRUTH³ AND HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO HELPS US RECOGNIZE AND HEAR GOD'S VOICE SPEAKING TO US AS WE READ GOD'S WORD ON HOW HE WANTS US TO LIVE.

¹ JOHN 14:16-17 ESV

² SOME BIBLE TRANSLATIONS USE THE WORD "COMFORTER" IN PLACE OF "HELPER." THE HOLY SPIRIT BOTH COMFORTS AND HELPS US.

³ JOHN 16:13

THE HOLY SPIRIT ENCOURAGES OUR FAITH THAT GOD LOVINGLY CARES FOR US. FAITH GROWS BY READING AND BELIEVING GOD'S WORD. THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US AS WE STUDY THE BIBLE.

"FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD" (ROMANS 10:17 PARAPHRASED).

FOR MORE ABOUT THIS PROMISE FROM GOD, READ "FAITH THAT GROWS."

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BELIEVE IN GOD'S PROMISES AND ENCOURAGES US TO STAND ON THOSE PROMISES IN PRAYER.



JESUS WENT ON TO TELL HIS DISCIPLES THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD HELP THEM SPREAD THE MESSAGE OF HIS LOVE AND THE GIFT OF SALVATION THAT HE OFFERED THEM.

"BUT WHEN THE HELPER COMES, WHOM I WILL SEND TO YOU FROM THE FATHER, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, WHO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER, HE WILL BEAR WITNESS ABOUT ME" (JOHN 15:26 ESV).

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.⁴

⁴ACTS 1:8 ESV

AFTER JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED AND HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD, HE AGAIN APPEARED TO HIS DISCIPLES TO ENCOURAGE THEM WITH FINAL INSTRUCTIONS. AS HE STOOD TALKING TO THEM, JUST BEFORE HE WAS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN, JESUS REMINDED THEM THAT SOON THEY WOULD RECEIVE A SPECIAL POWER FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT.


THE DISCIPLES RECEIVED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BECAME POWERFUL WITNESSES, ENCOURAGING THOUSANDS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS AND TO RECEIVE HIS GIFT OF SALVATION!

ONE STORY ABOUT THEIR POWERFUL WITNESS IS FOUND IN ACTS CHAPTERS 3 THROUGH 4. PETER AND JOHN WENT TO THE TEMPLE TO PRAY AND SAW A LAME MAN SITTING AT THE GATE ASKING FOR MONEY.

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAD FILLED PETER AND JOHN WITH FAITH IN A PROMISE JESUS HAD GIVEN THEM: "AND THESE SIGNS WILL ACCOMPANY THOSE WHO BELIEVE ... THEY WILL LAY HANDS ON THE SICK, AND THEY WILL RECOVER" (MARK 16:17-18 ESV).



LATER, SOME OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS BECAME UPSET AT PETER AND JOHN FOR TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE ABOUT JESUS AND HIS RESURRECTION. WHILE BEING QUESTIONED BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS, THE HOLY SPIRIT GAVE PETER AND JOHN WISDOM AND AUTHORITY IN THEIR ANSWERS. THIS CONFUSED THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS, WHO WERE UNABLE TO ARGUE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST WHAT THEY TAUGHT.



And there is salvation
in no one else,⁵ for there is
no other name under heaven given
among men by which we
must be saved.⁶

⁵ PETER AND JOHN ARE SPEAKING OF THE NAME "JESUS CHRIST."

⁶ ACTS 4:12 ESV

IF YOU BELIEVE IN JESUS AND HAVE RECEIVED HIS GIFT OF SALVATION, YOU CAN PRAY TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND RECEIVE POWER THAT WILL HELP YOU TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

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