



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

December 3, 2017

What We're Learning This Week

"THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME"

ACTS 2:1-4; 22-42

God kept His promise to send the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help, Jesus' disciples could begin their work to share the gospel with the entire world. God gives the Holy Spirit to those who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit gives us power to do God's work, and He changes us to be more like Jesus.

Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding last week's lesson about Isaiah 12. Last week's guide can be found [here](#)
- Read through Acts 2:1-4, 22-42; pray and ask God to reveal himself to you and for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. The concept of the Trinity
 - The trinity is really confusing for all of us, and can be specifically tricky for kids, but it is so important to talk about together as a family! Talk about the Trinity and how God is both one in essence and three distinct persons. A helpful article for adults that details the Trinity can be found [here](#). You can also listen to our Essentials class on the Spirit [here](#).

- How is the Holy Spirit different from the Father and from Jesus? How are they still unified and the same?
2. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he told his disciples that it would be better for them if he goes because he would be sending the Holy Spirit (John 16:7)
- Talk together about the Holy Spirit. What is His purpose? How does the Holy Spirit work in our world, in our church, and in our lives? Talk about who He is and what the Bible says about him. Here are some helpful reminders for families in talking about the Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity
 - The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians and manifests God's presence in the world
 - The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus after the ascension in order to apply and advance the work of Christ through the church. He bears witness to Jesus and the Gospel
 - Why did Jesus say that it is better for us to have the Holy Spirit than to have Jesus himself? What are the roles of the Holy Spirit?
3. The practical functions/application of the Holy Spirit
- Talk together as a family about how to engage with the Holy Spirit. What does it look like to listen to and rely on the Holy Spirit? How can we respond in obedience to the Holy Spirit's conviction and encouragement?
 - Why is it important to rely on the Holy Spirit rather than other things? What are some of the other things we try to rely on instead of God?
 - Read through the fruit of the spirit in Galatians. Talk together as a family about ways you can all grow in relying on the Holy Spirit to grow.

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal more of God's character to your family. Pray for wisdom in understanding the challenging but valuable truths of the Trinity and the Holy Spirit. And pray for the Holy Spirit to do transform us more and more into disciples of Jesus!
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed
 - How has grasping the concepts of the Trinity and the Holy Spirit going, and what questions still remain? How have you felt convicted or encouraged by the Holy Spirit this week? How has the Holy Spirit stirred you towards loving God and others this week? Continue these good conversations and continue praying!
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED “JESUS THE RISEN KING”) IS ACTS 1:8

- *For our older kids, we are doing the full verse:*
 - “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”
- *For our younger kids, we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:*
 - “You will be my witnesses...to the end of the earth”

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God’s Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What’s Coming Up?

- Kids Christmas Choir! We will be singing at the December 24 gathering. All the details can be found [here](#)
- Help us get to know you more and to know how we can love and serve you in greater ways by taking our short [RLA Kids Family Survey](#). If that link doesn’t work you can access the survey at <https://realityla.wufoo.com/forms/rla-kids-family-survey-fall-2017/>
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word “Kids” to 323.859.1122

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well!