

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 21

Counselor - The Spirit of Truth

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To show the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding us and teaching us truth.

Key Verses

John 16:5-15—Main Teaching Passage

Numbers 23:19

Titus 1:2

Memory Verse - Galatians 5:16 (December Memory Verse)

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

Hook

Tell the students three "facts" about your life. Two of them should be real and one of them should be made up. Tell the students they have to guess which is the made up story.

Ask the students, "Is it better to tell the truth, or to tell lies?" "Do you like being lied to?" Let the students know that God never lies to us. He always tells us the truth!

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

As we saw last week, the disciples were very upset when they heard that Jesus would no longer be with them. In John 16, Jesus encouraged them that it was actually better for Him to leave, because He was going to send them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit would come and convict the world of sin and guide believers into all truth. In that way, the Holy Spirit would show truth to all people. To sinners, the Holy Spirit would bring to light the sin in their lives, bringing conviction and hopefully a saving repentance. For the disciples (and the Christians who would come after them), the Holy Spirit would guide them in the truth of God's Word, revealing truths about who Jesus is to them and the importance that He has in their lives.

The Holy Spirit is a guide to believers in the things of the Lord, and He speaks to us those things that the Lord had already told us. The Holy Spirit will never lead us astray, never lie to us, and never cause us to stumble. In both Numbers 23:19 and Titus 1:2, we are told that God is unable to lie. God is unchanging, He is truthful, and that can never change. The Holy Spirit is God, and so He too can never lie to us. He is the Spirit of Truth.

LOOK

People are incredible creations of God. He gave us the ability to think, the ability to talk to each other, and incredible imaginations that we can use to be creative ourselves. Unfortunately, we sometimes use our imaginations to do something that is very wrong. We use our imagination to lie. Maybe we did something that we were told not to do, and when our parents found out, we lied to get out of trouble. When we lie, it is like putting ourselves inside of a cage, or putting our finger in a mouse trap. We cause ourselves to get trapped.

There are two verses in the Bible that tell us that this is one of the biggest differences between us and God. We can lie, but God cannot (Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2). God never, ever, ever lies. He always tells us the truth, because as He tells us in the Bible, the truth sets us free (John 8:32).

When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us, He gave Him a special name. In John 16:13, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, "The Spirit of Truth." Isn't that a great name? The Spirit of Truth, we are told, will come into the world and will do a LOT of things to help us out. The first thing that the Holy Spirit will do is tell you exactly what is really going on in your life. If there is sin

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

in your life, the Holy Spirit will show you that sin, because sin traps us, but truth sets us free. The Holy Spirit wants us to walk in truth, and so Jesus promises us that the Holy Spirit will never lie to us, but show us who we really are.

The next thing that Holy Spirit does is *guide us in truth*. That means that when we read the Bible, or when we learn about Jesus and begin to understand new things about Him, it is the Holy Spirit who is helping us to really understand who Jesus is. Jesus tells us the Spirit will lead us into all truth, will reveal truth about God's Word and His nature, and most importantly of all, will never, ever lie to us. Remember, lies trap us, but truth sets us free.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, review the lesson by asking if God would ever lie to us.

Pray: Thank the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to us. Praise Him for setting us free from sin and darkness. Ask Him to show us truth and help us to learn more about who He is.

Parent Question: Will God ever lie to you?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 16:5-15 by David Guzik

2. (5-7) Jesus explains the benefits of His departure.

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

a. **None of you asks Me, “Where are You going”:** Peter *had* asked this question earlier (John 13:36) and Thomas asked a similar question (John 15:5). Therefore Jesus must mean not only the *words* of the question, but the heart of it. Their previous asking was in the sense, *what will happen to us when You leave*, not in the sense Jesus meant here - *what will happen to You when You leave*.

i. “A difficulty is posed by His statement that nobody asks, ‘Whither goest thou?’ in the light of Simon Peter’s earlier question, ‘Lord, wither goest thou?’ (John 13:36). But that question had not really indicated a serious inquiry as to Jesus’ destination. Peter was diverted immediately and he made no real attempt to find out where Jesus was going. He had been concerned with the thought of parting with Jesus, not with that of the Master’s destination. He had in mind only the consequences for himself and his fellows.” (Morris)

b. **But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart:** Jesus excused their lack of interest in *His* fate, knowing their great **sorrow**. They had sorrow at the moment, but their future was brighter. The disciples could only see the sorrow of Jesus leaving; but Jesus’ departure was an essential step in their growth as disciples.

c. **It is to your advantage that I go away:** This had to be difficult for the disciples to believe. When a loved one is near death we often think it is the best to let death take its course. We say, “It will be better for them to go, and to stop the suffering. It is to their advantage to go away.” But when someone we love is near death, we usually don’t think that it is to *our* advantage that they go. Yet Jesus here said that it wasn’t for *His* advantage, but **to your advantage that I go away**.

i. If the disciples really understood what was about to happen, it would be even more difficult for them to believe.

- **To your advantage** that Jesus is arrested?
- **To your advantage** that Jesus’ ministry of teaching and miracles is stopped?
- **To your advantage** that Jesus is beaten?
- **To your advantage** that Jesus is mocked?
- **To your advantage** that Jesus is sentenced for execution?
- **To your advantage** that Jesus is nailed to a cross?
- **To your advantage** that Jesus dies in the company of notorious criminals?
- **To your advantage** that His lifeless body is laid in a cold grave?

d. **Nevertheless:** This word meant a challenge to their sorrow and even their unbelief. **Nevertheless** is one of the great words of the Bible, meaning *despite all of that*. Jesus knew they were filled with sorrow because of what He told them. But, *despite all of that* He wanted them to know that it was **to their advantage**.

i. **“It is expedient for you,** implies that the dispensation of the Spirit is a more blessed manifestation of God than was even the bodily presence of the risen Saviour.” (Alford)

e. **I tell you the truth:** Jesus didn’t say this because He lied most of the time. He said this because He wanted them to make a concerted effort to trust Him at this point. Jesus knew this was difficult to believe.

f. **For if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you:** Jesus had a plan, but they couldn't understand it. With 2,000 years of hindsight we see that when Jesus went away He then sent the Spirit of God, which had and has a broader and more effective ministry in the entire world.

i. "The withdrawal of the bodily presence of Christ was the essential condition of His universal spiritual presence." (Dods)

g. **I will send Him to you:** Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples when He departed. This is what would make it to their **advantage** that He departed from them. Jesus meant that the presence and work of the Holy Spirit would actually be better for believers than the physical, bodily presence of Jesus.

i. It was better because Jesus could be with every believer all the time. Jesus promised, *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them* (Matthew 18:20). That was not a promise He could keep after flesh, but only after the Spirit. He had to go away for that promise to be made true. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, there would be some Christians who would be overjoyed – those in His immediate presence. But for most Christians, they would have the overwhelming sense that Jesus was *not with them*. Truly, it was all **to your advantage**.

ii. It was better because now we can understand Jesus better. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, there would be no end to His words for us. We wouldn't have a Bible; we would have the library of congress. Secretaries would follow Him constantly to record His every word. It would all be written down and preserved. We would have all of it, and the mass of it would be just plain unmanageable. Truly, it was all **to your advantage**.

iii. It was better because now we can have a more trusting relationship with God. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, there would be a great challenge to our walk of faith. Paul said, *Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer*. (2 Corinthians 5:16) God wants us to walk by faith, and not by sight, and if Jesus were here bodily, there would be great temptation to walk by sight, and not by faith. Truly, it was all **to your advantage**.

iv. It was better because Jesus' work is better understood as He is enthroned in the heavens. If Jesus were present bodily on this earth, it would be confusing to us. Jesus does not continue to suffer; He finished His work on the cross. Yet it might be difficult for us to see a Savior who never suffered when we are in distress; it might make us think that Jesus was unsympathetic. God didn't want us to struggle with this dilemma, so Jesus is no longer bodily on this earth. He is enthroned in the heavens. Truly, it was all **to your advantage**.

v. Before Jesus left the disciples were confused, thick headed, afraid, selfish and self-centered. After Jesus left and after the Helper had come they were wise, surrendered, bold, and giving. Truly, it was **to your advantage** that Jesus left.

3. (8-11) The work of the Holy Spirit in the world.

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

a. **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** **Sin** is the truth about man, **righteousness** is the truth about God, **judgment** is the inevitable combination of these two truths.

i. "Each man's conscience has some glimmering of light on each of these; *some* consciousness of guilt, *some* sense of right, *some* power of judgment of what is transitory and worthless; but all these are unreal and unpractical, till the convicting work of the Spirit has wrought in him." (Alford)

b. **He will convict:** The ancient Greek work translated **convict** has a broader range of meaning than simply our word **convict**, especially as it is understood in a legal sense. It also carries the ideas to *expose*, to *refute*, and to *convince* (Bruce). This is the work of the Holy Spirit in the world and in individual hearts; to convince and convict of these truths.

i. **He will convict:** "Or undeceive the world, by refuting those odd conceits and erroneous opinions, that men had before drunk in, and were possessed of." (Trapp)

ii. It is a serious thing to resist and reject this work of the Holy Spirit, which is especially prominent and powerful in seasons of great spiritual advance (sometimes called revival or spiritual awakening).

iii. Before the convicting work of the Holy Spirit one may say, *I make a lot of mistakes. Nobody's perfect.* After the convicting work of the Holy Spirit one may say, *I'm a lost rebel, fighting against God and His law - I must rely on Jesus to get right with God.*

iv. "The Spirit does not merely accuse men of sin, he brings to them an inescapable sense of guilt so that they realize their shame and helplessness before God." (Tenney)

v. "The Spirit is the 'advocate' or helper of those who believe in Jesus, their counsel for the defence. But in relation to unbelievers, to the godless world, he acts as counsel for the prosecution." (Bruce) It's important to have the Spirit of God to defend rather than to convict.

vi. In the great awakening of 1860-61 in Great Britain, a high-ranking army officer described the conviction of sin in his Scottish town: "Those of you who are ease have little conception of how terrifying a sight it is when the Holy Spirit is pleased to open a man's eyes to see the real state of heart. Men who were thought to be, and who thought themselves to be good, religious people . . . have been led to search into the foundation upon which they were resting, and have found all rotten, that they were self-satisfied, resting on their own goodness, and not upon Christ. Many turned from open sin to lives of holiness, some weeping for joy for sins forgiven." (J. Edwin Orr, *The Second Evangelical Awakening in Britain*)

c. **Of sin, because they do not believe in Me:** It is unbelief, the rejection of Jesus, which ultimately proves one to be guilty. The Holy Spirit will tell the world of the importance of trusting in, relying on, and clinging to Jesus to avoid this sin.

i. "The essence of sin is unbelief, which is not simply a casual incredulity nor a difference of opinion; rather, it is a total rejection of God's messenger and message." (Tenney)

ii. "The basic sin is the sin which puts self at the centre of things and consequently refused to believe in Him." (Morris)

iii. "A sinner is a sacred thing: the Holy Ghost hath made him so. Your sham sinner is a horrid creature; but a man truly convinced of sin by the Spirit of God is a being to be sought after as a jewel that will adorn the crown of the Redeemer." (Spurgeon)

d. **Of righteousness, because I go to My Father:** The ascension of Jesus to heaven demonstrated that He had perfectly fulfilled the Father's will and had proven Himself righteous - and exposed the lack of **righteousness** in the world that rejected Him. The Holy Spirit shows the world the **righteousness** of Jesus and its own unrighteousness.

i. Many people today - even secular people - take the **righteousness** of Jesus as a given. Yet during His life Jesus was reviled as an imposter, as demon-possessed, as a wicked destroyer of the law, as a glutton, a drunk, and as illegitimate. The Holy Spirit persuades the work of the **righteousness** of Jesus.

ii. "Whereas righteousness had previously been defined by precepts, it now has been revealed in the incarnate Son, who exemplified it perfectly in all his relationships." (Tenney)

e. **Of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged:** The judgment of Satan himself means that there will be a final reckoning between God and His rebellious creature. The Holy Spirit warns the world of this coming judgment.

i. Normally conviction is followed by judgment. When the Holy Spirit works, there is an in-between step: the revelation of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which can satisfy the judgment for the convicted person.

ii. "The world, the prince of it, is 'judged'. To adhere to it rather than to Christ is to cling to a doomed cause, a sinking ship." (Dods)

4. (12-15) The work of the Holy Spirit among the disciples.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.”

a. **I still have many things to say to you:** Jesus frankly admitted that His own teaching was incomplete, and anticipated the further instruction of the church by the Holy Spirit. This statement of Jesus leads us to anticipate the formation of the New Testament.

i. Here Jesus answered those who say, “I’ll take what Jesus taught, but not what Paul or the others taught.” Paul and the other New Testament writers taught us the **many things** that Jesus spoke of.

- For example, they didn’t know that some of the customs and commands among the Jews would be fulfilled by the person and work of Jesus, and no longer be binding under the New Covenant
- For example, they didn’t know that God would bring Gentiles into the New Covenant community as equal partners, without have to first become Jews

b. **He will guide you into all truth:** In one sense, this was fulfilled when the New Testament writings, divinely inspired by God, were completed. In another sense the Holy Spirit continues today to personally lead us into truth, but *never* in opposition to the Scripture, because God’s supremely authoritative revelation is closed with the New Testament.

i. **Into all truth:** “The Greek means ‘all *the* truth’, i.e. the specific truth about the Person of Jesus and the significance of what He said and did. The New Testament is permanent evidence that the apostles were guided into truth about this.” (Tasker)

ii. **He will tell you things to come:** “The promise must therefore refer to the main features of the new Christian dispensation. They Spirit would guide them in that new economy in which they would no longer have the visible example and help and counsel of their Master.” (Dods)

c. **He will not speak on His own authority... He will glorify Me... He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you:** The Holy Spirit’s ministry is revealing Jesus to us, to bear testimony of Jesus (John 15:26). He uses many different ways and many different gifts to accomplish this, but the purpose is always the same: to reveal Jesus.

i. One may speak of dream, visions, experiences, revelations and say they came from the Holy Spirit, but many of those supposed revelations of the Spirit say nothing or almost nothing about Jesus Himself.

ii. “This verse is decisive against all additions and pretended revelations subsequent to and besides Christ; it is being the work of the Spirit to testify and to declare the THINGS OF CHRIST; not any thing new and beyond Him.” (Alford)

iii. **All things that the Father has are Mine:** “If Christ had not been equal to God, could he have said this without blasphemy?” (Clarke)