

## **The Spirit of Truth – Advocate - John 14:15-21**

### **Welcome:**

What is an Advocate? It is someone that comforts you in hard times. Someone that cares about you. It is a helper and a supporter. Someone that supports and defends you in time of need. Like when you may feel lonely or sad, hurt by a friend, do not understand something and afraid to ask, or anxious about something. These are all times when we all need an Advocate. Whether it is the Holy Spirit or an adult full of spirit meeting our needs. The lesson today talks about when Jesus gives us another Advocate, The Holy Spirit - to take care of us.

### **Story Time:**

We have heard the God's love is forever, eternal. Today we learn that Jesus had to go away. He had to say goodbye to his friends, the disciples. The disciples became sad and scared when Jesus said he had to leave. It is hard to say goodbye to someone we love when they have to leave us. And God knew that, so He did not want the disciples to be left alone. God would send another Advocate to be with them. God would send the Holy Spirit to help and comfort them. We can not see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel it. The Holy Spirit helps us to love and care for one another just like Jesus did. Jesus reminds us that when we are loving one another – that is one of His commandments – we will be living in his very presence, even when he had to leave us on the cross – and leave from the tomb – and when he had to go be with his Father.

This has to be a confusing time for the disciples. Jesus died and then was alive again and he had to leave them again. Then Jesus tells them -- that God would send them another Advocate. The disciples learned that God would now be with them through the Holy Spirit, forever. What we learn from this is that we can trust God is with us through many ways and even many people that advocate for us and that he will never leave us. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

### **Reading:**

Find your favorite Bible and turn to **John 14: 15-21** and begin reading.

As someone reads to you (or you read to yourself) try to listen to words you do not recognize. Write down important words and places you heard. You can write what you hear or draw a picture when you are finished.

### **Scripture Reading:**

John 14:15-21 New Life Version (NLV)

#### **Jesus Promises to Give the Holy Spirit**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love Me, you will do what I say. <sup>16</sup> Then I will ask My Father and He will give you another Helper. He will be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> He is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot receive Him. It does not see Him or know Him. You know Him because He lives with you and will be in you.

#### **Jesus Tells of His Death**

<sup>18</sup> "I will not leave you without help as children without parents. I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will see Me no more. You will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> When that day comes, you will know that I am in My Father. You will know that you are in Me. You will know that I am in you. <sup>21</sup> The one who loves

Me is the one who has My teaching and obeys it. My Father will love whoever loves Me. I will love him and will show Myself to him.”

**Questions to ponder:**

Why were Jesus’ disciples upset?

Who was coming to help the disciples?

How will the disciples know that the Holy Spirit is with them?

What does the Holy Spirit help us do?

**Review:**

Throughout the Easter season we have been hearing stories about Jesus after his resurrection. This week we heard about when Jesus was with his disciples for years. He was walking with them, helping them, and teaching them every day. Jesus announced to them that he would soon not be there with them. He would not physically be with them anymore. He wants his disciples to know that God will still be with them. That God was not going to leave them alone. God knew that they needed someone to love them and help them when they were in need. God will be with them through the Holy Spirit, their Advocate. God did this for you too. God is with us as God, with us as Jesus, and with us as the Holy Spirit – the Holy Trinity. God sent the Holy Spirit to walk with us everywhere we go. The Holy Spirit is with us and helping us each and every day. The Holy Spirit is part of who we are – we may not be able to see it, hear it or touch it but we can feel it in our hearts. God gives the Holy Spirit to us. When Jesus went away, God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

**Ponder about the story:**

In John 14:17, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will live with you and in you forever. When is a time you felt the closest to God? What does it feel like to know that God lives in you and is with you wherever you go? When do you see the people around you filled with God’s spirit and love the most?

**See the story:**

The Holy Spirit leads us to advocate for others. As children of God you too can advocate for others. Find a time you can help a sibling or even your parents when they feel sad or lonely. Do something to make them feel better. A simple hug will do the trick. Young children can be an advocate too.

**Witness the Story:**

To be an advocate for someone, we look out for their best interest and watch to see that they get what they need. Naming the Holy Spirit as an advocate gives us the opportunity to be an advocate for others. Talk to your family about a time they had to be an advocate for you. It could be something at school, at the doctor’s office when you were sick, or a time when you were sad and confused.

**Activity:**

-Draw a picture of someone you love. Jesus loved his disciples and the disciples loved Jesus. Jesus showed them God’s love. So, what do you love about the person in your drawing, what do they do for you to show God’s love? Add some words to the bottom of your picture telling these things.

-Ball Toss: 3-4 people (or more) and need a soft ball or object that can be tossed – like a pair of rolled socks. Pick one person to be the ball roller. Everyone else sits in a semi-circle facing the ball roller. The ball roller will roll the “ball” to one of the other players. When the person receives the “ball” they will then roll it back to the ball roller. Repeat until everyone has received the ball. Then pick a new ball roller until everyone has had the

chance to be the ball roller. What happens to the ball? The ball always comes back no matter where it goes! When you tossed the ball away it reminds us that Jesus had to leave. But God sent the Holy Spirit to help everyone. When the ball comes back it reminds us of the Holy Spirit always coming to us.

**Extra Readings for today:**

Acts 17: 22-31

Psalm 66: 8-20

1 Peter 3: 13-22

**Prayer:**

God of Love,

Thank you for sending us the Holy Spirit

As an advocate for us.

Help us feel your presence

Within us all the time.

Thank you for all the people

Who love and support us.

Amen