

Lesson 7.2 - Holy Spirit: Peacemaking Begins with Me

Topic: Model for Peacemaking

Subtopic: The Holy Spirit helps make peace

1C. God - The Holy Spirit

3D. God Guides

Class: Standard VI I (Grade 7), Lesson 4

Objectives:

Knowledge: Students will know that Jesus' ministry is associated with the Holy Spirit and Peace. **Attitude:** Students will desire the work of the Holy Spirit in their own lives.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

Optional. Picture of a dove and Origami paper squares

References: Matthew 3:13-17

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:22a - "But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control."

Teacher Activities

Introduction: *Optional: Open with a worship song and prayer time.*

Hold up a picture of a dove. Does anyone know what the dove is a symbol for?

Bible Lesson:

Have one student read Matthew 3:13-17 This is the story of the baptism of Jesus.

Have another student read Isaiah 9:6-7. Peace starts in with our relationship with God through Jesus and then spreads to family, community, nation and world.

Application: This will be a study of the attributes of the Holy Spirit. As each question and answer is given, students will begin to see the value, the depth, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Evaluation:

Were students able to connect with the work of the Holy Spirit in their own lives? Do students desire the work of the Holy Spirit?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students share praises and requests for prayer. Pray and sing along with leaders.

The dove is a symbol of peace. It is also a symbol for the Holy Spirit.

Bible Lesson: Student Readers read the scripture. Students discuss the scriptures. (See Teacher's Notes)

Application: Look up seven scripture passages and discuss verses that tell about the Holy Spirit

Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit.

Answer two questions in their journals.

- Why is the appearance of the dove significant in Jesus's ministry?
- How do you find peace in your life?

Evaluation: Are students able to answer the questions in their journals?

Extension Activities: *Worship.* If you have time, extend the worship time with more songs and invite the students to share prayer requests. Have silent prayer before praying aloud.

Art Activity - Make Doves and hang them around the room to remind students of God's sign of peace and His clear identification of Jesus as His Son. Students can draw doves on paper

and cut them out or you can find directions for Origami Peace Doves at this website, <http://www.dinopals.com/project2.htm>

Memory Verse. Students practice the verse by saying it to a partner and then writing it in their journal. Have students write the verse in their journal each week

Baptism. This lesson may bring up questions about baptism. Invite students to share what their own church traditions of baptism are. For example, some churches baptize children as babies if the parents are believers. They believe the children will come to know Jesus through their parents. Other churches wait until a person decides for themselves if they want to be followers of Jesus. When a person makes that decision they are baptized in water. Friends believe that baptism with the Holy Spirit is the most important kind of baptism and do not use water baptism. Explain that whatever outward ceremonies we use, baptism is a picture of how God washes us clean of sin and gives us new life through Jesus Christ. When Jesus was baptized in water it was a picture of dying to self and being raised up for the purposes of God. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit we daily choose to die to our selfishness and choose to arise each day to live for Christ Jesus. We learn what it means to walk in the Holy Spirit.

Teacher Notes

The baptism of Jesus Christ is recorded in each Gospel of the New Testament. It is a significant event where the voice of the Father is heard and the Holy Spirit appears as a Dove to descend upon Jesus. Traditionally the church has viewed the dove as a symbol of peace and of the Holy Spirit. It is important to notice the beginning of Jesus' ministry is marked with this symbol of peace.

Key Concept: The Holy Spirit empowers us and guides us as peacemakers.

Introduction: Ask students if they know what the dove symbolizes. You may want to hold up a picture of a dove or have an artistic student draw one on the board. The dove traditionally symbolizes both peace and the Holy Spirit. Our story today will explain why those two things go together.

Bible Story: (Bold type is what the teacher reads.) At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus was baptized by his cousin, John, in the Jordan River. After his baptism, the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus in the form of the dove. The voice of God was heard, 'This is my own Dear Son, with whom I am pleased.'

Have a student read the story from Matthew 3:13-17. **The Holy Spirit came down in the form of a Dove to show that God was with Jesus. This was the start of Jesus' ministry. Jesus gives us peace in our hearts through the Holy Spirit when we are reconciled to God. Therefore the Dove also represents Peace. John told the religious leaders that although he baptized with water for repentance, Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Have another student read Isaiah 9:6-7. **Jesus' kingdom begins in the heart and spreads to families, communities, nations and eventually Jesus will establish peace in the whole world. The Holy Spirit helps us to be peacemakers.**

Application: **Let's look at what the Bible tells us about the Holy Spirit.** Have a student read one passage and then discuss it before going on to the next passage.

1. What promise did Jesus give to his followers?

- Acts 1:5 - *They would be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*
- 2. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - John 14:16-18 – *Our Helper to live and be with us forever---the Spirit of Truth*
 - John 16:13-14 – *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth & brings glory to Christ*
- 3. Where does the Holy Spirit live?
 - 1 Corinthians 3:16 – *The Holy Spirit lives in us*
- 4. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
 - Romans 6:1-11 – *Helps us to die to our old life of sin and to live in fellowship with Jesus, living for God*
 - Romans 8:26-27 – *Helps us to pray*
- 5. What is the Fruit of the Spirit?
 - Galatians 5:22-23 – *Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control-* This is today's memory verse.
- 6. What Gifts does the Holy Spirit give?
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 13:1-13 – *message full of wisdom, message of knowledge, faith, power to heal, power to work miracles, speaking God's message, ability to tell the difference between gifts that come from the Spirit and those that do not, ability to speak in tongues, ability to explain what is said; but without love, none of these matter.*
- 7. What does the Baptism of the Spirit bring the church?
 - Ephesians 4:4-5 – *unity; we are brought together in oneness.*

Small Group Discussion (choose one or more question(s) to answer & discuss

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us be peacemakers?
- Why is the presence of peace important in our lives?
- How do you find peace in your life?

Journal Writing. After discussion have students answer these two questions in their journal.

- Why is the appearance of the dove significant in Jesus's ministry?
- How do you find peace in your life?