

The Helper Has Come!

Bible Lesson: The Helper has Come – Acts 2:1-41

Main Teaching: Rely on the Holy Spirit to Help you Witness. **Word Up:** The Holy Spirit is the Helper!

Supplies:

- Word Up Booklet – Word Up (Resource Pack)
- Recording for “Trinity Song” and “According to the Scriptures” - Worship (Sing About the King 1 CD)
- Optional Song Visual for “Trinity Song” – Worship (cefpress.com)
- Two balloons, water and a lighter – Object Lesson
- Flashcards for Bible Story – Bible Lesson
- ZERO card bag – Review Game (Resource Pack)
- John Cook Missionary Visual – Missionary Story
- Prayer Notebook and optional stickers – Small Group
- Quiet Time Sheet – Dismissal (Resource Pack)

Schedule at a Glance (75 min club):

- 15 min – Small Group
- 10 min – Word Up / Worship
- 10 min – Object Lesson
- 15 min – Bible Lesson
- 10 min – Review Game
- 5 min – Missionary Story
- 10 min – Small Group



Say Memory Verse

Have kids say their memory verse from last week to their small group leader

“Helper Discussion”

Go around the circle and have the kids describe someone or something that is helpful to them. For example: Having the bumpers up is helpful when I go bowling, a nightlight is helpful when I’m walking to the bathroom at night, my husband is helpful when I have to move something heavy etc.

You could also play this as a 20 Questions game. Have one person think of something or someone that is helpful. Other kids can ask yes or no questions to find out what they are thinking of. For example, if I was thinking of a nurse, questions might be:

- Are you a person? Yes
- Do you work outside? No
- Have I met one of you before? Yes
- Etc.

WORSHIP

To learn songs and motions, go to cefonline.com/freedemos

"Trinity Song"

"According to the Scriptures"

**WORD UP!**

"The Holy Spirit is the Helper"

Can you name some people who spend their lives helping others? (*Allow response.*) Perhaps you thought of police officers, teachers or doctors. Those people spend their lives helping others. But they don't help you every moment of your day. When you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, you have someone who is your Helper all the time! This Helper never takes a break, never sleeps, and is available for you all the time! We will learn more about this Helper today. His name is God the Holy Spirit. Another name for the Holy Spirit is "Comforter" or "Helper." Say with me, **"The Holy Spirit is the Helper!"** (*Say with children.*)

RULES

Review club rules with your class

OBJECT LESSON

Object Lesson: Don't Pop!

Materials Needed: Two balloons (one will be filled with water before the experiment) and a lighter
 Demonstration of Object Lesson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0NgSwW8P1w>

What You Do: Before presenting the experiment, fill one balloon with air and tie it shut. Fill another balloon with water (about halfway) and tie it closed.

What You Say: "Today I brought a balloon with me." (Hold up the balloon that is filled with air.) "What do you think will happen if I light this lighter and hold the balloon right above the flame. Do you think it will pop?" (Demonstrate this experiment to the kids. Hold the balloon just above the flame until it eventually pops.) "It popped! Now, I have another balloon with me. This balloon is filled with water. I'm going to try the experiment again. Do you think the balloon will pop?" (Repeat with the water balloon - holding the balloon by the end just barely over the flame. The balloon will stay intact without popping.)

"Wow! This time, the balloon didn't pop! What was different about the balloons? This balloon was filled with water. The other balloon was just filled up with air - it was empty space. In the same way that this balloon was filled with water, we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes a difference in our lives."

"Last week, we learned 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. Does anyone remember what it says? (Say the verse with the kids) 'For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures.' The

moment that you believe in Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit fills you up and becomes your helper. He helps you to do what's right, but He also helps give you peace when you are anxious or courage when you are scared. When you become scared, or anxious, or frustrated, and feel like you might POP, the Holy Spirit can fill you with things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are called the Fruits of the Spirit! They are the things that your life will produce when you have the Holy Spirit as your helper and friend! I don't know about you, but I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit today, tomorrow, and every day.



BIBLE LESSON

Have you ever waited for something or someone? What have you waited for? *(Allow response.)* Today we are going to talk about some people who were waiting for Someone really important.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Jesus' close friends had been through a lot! They had been following Jesus for three years, listening to His teachings, watching Him do miracles and learning from Him. None of them would ever be the same because they knew Jesus. Then Jesus had been killed by being nailed to a cross. The disciples had been sad and confused.

Flashcard 2-1

Later they were amazed because Jesus showed up alive! It seemed too good to be true. But it was true. Jesus spent 40 days with them after that. Just before He rose up into Heaven, He gave them a promise and a command.

Listen to this verse and tell me what Jesus promised and what He commanded His followers to do. *(Read Acts 1:8.)* What was the promise? What was the command? *(Allow responses.)* The promise was that His followers would receive power when the Holy Spirit came. The command was to be witnesses—to tell others about Jesus. Do you remember another name for the Holy Spirit? *(Allow response.)* He is the Helper. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were to tell the whole world that Jesus died for them, was buried and came alive again. Jesus wanted them to be witnesses (people who tell others what they have seen and know to be true).

But there were so few disciples and so many people to tell! How could they do it? God had a wonderful plan. About ten days after Jesus went back to Heaven, a special Jewish holiday was held in Jerusalem, the city where Jesus had been crucified. The special day was called *Pentecost (PEN-tuh-cost)*. Can you say that word with me? *(Allow response.)* The Pentecost celebration brought thousands of Jewish people from many faraway places to the city of Jerusalem. These people spoke many different languages.

Flashcard 2-2

The disciples had also gathered together in Jerusalem. They were waiting for the Holy Spirit to come and help them as Jesus had promised.



Did you know God the Holy Spirit can help you too? If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, **rely on the Holy Spirit to help you witness.** You are a witness when you share with someone else what Jesus has done for you. It may be hard for you to talk to someone about Jesus. Some people find it hard to be a witness because they are shy. Others say they don't know who they can

witness to or what they should say. Maybe you're afraid that if you tell others about Jesus they will laugh at you or get angry. Thinking about these things can make it hard to be a witness for God. But remember that when you believed on Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit came to live in you. He is there to be your Helper and He will never leave you. He can give you the words to say and the courage to say them. *(Read Acts 1:8.)* One way God the Holy Spirit works in your life is to help you witness—tell others about what Jesus has done for you. Say with me, **“The Holy Spirit is the Helper!”**

The Holy Spirit would be the disciples' Helper. The disciples knew they would need the help of the Holy Spirit if they were going to be witnesses and tell the people in Jerusalem about Jesus. So they gathered in a room and waited for Him to come as Jesus had told them to do.

Flashcard 2-3

Suddenly, there was a sound from Heaven like a powerful, rushing wind. Let's make that sound together then stop when I clap my hands. *(Do with children.)* The whole house seemed to be filled with the sound. Then, what looked like small flames of fire rested on the head of each disciple. Through this wind and fire, God's Holy Spirit came and filled the believers. The Holy Spirit is invisible, but God used sound and sight to tell the disciples the Holy Spirit was there!

Then suddenly the disciples started speaking about Jesus in other languages that they didn't even know! How did they do that? By the power of the Holy Spirit! The news of this strange event spread throughout the city and a huge crowd gathered. Even though the people in the crowd spoke many different languages, each of them could understand God's message to them in their own language. The people were amazed! The crowd had never seen such a thing before!

Flashcard 2-4

Some people thought the disciples must be drunk because this was so strange. But Peter said the disciples were not drunk. Peter reminded the people of some words a man of God spoke many years before, telling of a time when God's Holy Spirit would come and do miracles among His people. Then Peter began to boldly witness—to tell about the Lord Jesus to all the people gathered there. He told them it had been God's plan for Jesus to die and rise again so sin could be forgiven. How did Peter have the courage to witness to the people? Peter knew the Holy Spirit was in him and he was depending on the Holy Spirit to give him power to witness.



You and I need that same power. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, **rely on the Holy Spirit to help you witness.** The Holy Spirit can give you courage to witness to your family and friends. *(Read Acts 1:8.)* Witnessing is one way to obey God! If you feel shy about witnessing to someone, perhaps you could start by sharing with a close friend or family member who already knows Jesus. Think of one person you can tell about Jesus. *(Pause and let children think for a few seconds.)* When I count to three shout that person's name. Ready? One, two, three! *(Allow response.)* Ask God to help you think of another person who doesn't know about Jesus. Let's think of someone right now. It could be the same person you thought of last week. When I count to three, shout that person's name. One, two, three! *(Do with children.)* If you are afraid you won't know what to say, you can tell them our memory verses. You can explain what each part of the verse means. Let's practice! Turn to the person next to you and tell them 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. *(Allow a brief time for activity.)* Another way you can witness is by telling someone what God has done in your life. Maybe God the Holy Spirit helped you obey your parents when you didn't want to. You can tell your friend about that and then tell him how Jesus can change his life too! Remember that it is the Holy Spirit who works in people's hearts, helping them understand and believe on Jesus. Thank God that the Holy Spirit lives in you, and **rely on the Holy Spirit to help you witness.** The Holy Spirit works in many ways in your life. One of them is in helping you witness. Say with me **“The Holy Spirit is the Helper!”**

Peter knew the Holy Spirit was in him and he was depending on the Holy Spirit to give him power to witness to this crowd. Peter told them the truth about the Lord Jesus.

Flashcard 2-5

Peter explained that even though the people were responsible for killing Jesus, it was all part of God's plan. Peter said, "God brought Jesus back to life again, and we are witnesses of His resurrection." When Peter finished speaking, the people realized they had sinned and asked, "What should we do?" Peter told the people they needed to repent—to realize they had sinned and turn to Jesus, recognizing Him as God's Son who died for them. They needed to believe on the Lord Jesus to be saved. God wants you to believe on the Lord Jesus to save you too.



Everyone in the world, including you and me, is born a sinner and needs to be saved. The Bible says, *(read Romans 3:23)*. Every kind of sin is against God, who is holy—without sin. You may have lied to your teacher at school. Lying is sin. Maybe you have thought or said bad things about someone. All these things are wrong according to God's Word. God is just—He always does what is right and good. Because He always does what is right He must punish sin. The punishment for sin is death—separation from God. That means when your body dies, your soul (who you are on the inside) goes to a place where God's love does not exist, where there is no happiness, love or joy. Because God is holy, He must punish sin. But because God loves you, He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for your sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He was taking your sin upon Himself, as if it were His own sin. Because of what He did, you don't have to be punished; you can be forgiven! After Jesus died, He was buried. But on the third day He came alive by God's power. Now He is in Heaven, where He is alive forever. That's what our memory verse is all about! *(Quote 1Corinthians 15:3-4 with children.)* God wants you to believe this true message and believe on the Lord Jesus to be saved.

This was also the message Peter gave to the people as the Holy Spirit changed their hearts—that they should repent and believe on Jesus to save them.

CLIMAX

Flashcard 2-6

About 3,000 people gladly believed and were saved that day as Peter witnessed by the power of the Holy Spirit!

CONCLUSION

What an exciting day that must have been! From that day on the believers met together every day to encourage each other and to learn more about following God. Every day as the disciples continued to witness by the power of the Holy Spirit, more people were saved. The Holy Spirit helped them obey God and witness to others.



If you have believed on the Lord Jesus to be your Savior, **rely on the Holy Spirit to help you witness**. Remember the name of the person you could witness to this week. Will you depend on the Holy Spirit to give you courage and the right words to say? Remember God's promise to you. *(Read Acts 1:8.)* If you are shy or afraid, remember God the Holy Spirit is your Helper and will help you witness.

Say with me, "**The Holy Spirit is the Helper!**" *(Say with children.)* You can tell someone our memory verses or tell them what God is doing in your life and how God is helping you. The Holy Spirit will do His work in helping them understand what you are saying. Next week when you come back, some of you may want to tell us how the Holy Spirit helped you witness this week.

INVITATION



Maybe today the Holy Spirit has helped you realize that you have never believed on the Lord Jesus to be your Savior. The Bible says, *(read Acts 2:21)*. The Lord is Jesus. To call on Jesus is to recognize how much you need Him and to believe that He is the only one who can save you from your sin. Jesus took your punishment when He died, was buried and rose again. When you believe on Him you will be saved. You will have a relationship with God that starts now and lasts forever. You will have God the Holy Spirit as your Helper for your whole life. Will you call on Jesus to save you from your sin today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you are ready to call on Jesus or you want to talk to me about what that means, would you show me by raising your hand? *(Acknowledge responses.)* You may all open your eyes. If you raised your hand, please meet me *(designate time and location)*. I would like to show you from God's Word more about what it means to be saved.



REVIEW GAME

ZERO

Prepare cards with various point values on them. Put the cards in a container along with several cards that have "ZERO" written on them. When a child correctly answers a question, allow him to reach into the container and pull out as many cards as he wants to win points for his team. If he gets a "ZERO" card, his team loses all points from that round and his turn is over. Put all the cards back into the container and continue playing alternating between the teams.

1. What does Trinity mean? *(Three in one; God is one existing in three Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.)*
2. Who is God the Holy Spirit? *(One of the three Persons of the Trinity.)*
3. What does the Holy Spirit help you do? *(Obey God; be more like Jesus; understand the Bible; give you courage to witness; comfort you.)*
4. How can you understand the Bible? *(Ask God to show you what He wants you to know; trust the Holy Spirit to help you know what you need to know.)*
5. What promise and command did Jesus give His disciples before He went back into Heaven? *(They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came and they were to be witnesses and tell other people about Jesus.)*
6. What was the name of the special Jewish holiday in Jerusalem? *(Pentecost.)*
7. What did the Holy Spirit give the disciples power to do at Pentecost? *(Speak in many different languages so the people could understand God's message to them.)*
8. What is one thing Peter told the crowd of people about Jesus? *(Various answers.)*
9. How many people believed and were saved at Pentecost? *(3,000.)*
10. How can you be saved? *(By believing on the Lord Jesus as your Savior from sin.)*
11. If you are shy or afraid to witness, what can you remember? *(The Holy Spirit is the Helper and He is with you.)*
12. How could you use our memory verses to tell your friend about Jesus? *(Say them to a friend; answers will vary.)*

MISSIONARY STORY

John Cook Part 1: John Becomes an Orphan



The Westbrook family ran as fast as they could from the burning house. The flames grew tall as four-year-old John looked back. They tried as hard as they could to save the family farmhouse but it burned to the ground. The family was safe but everything they owned was destroyed.

After the fire, life was difficult for John's family. His mother and father had to work hard to pay the rent and buy food for the family. Sometimes his mother worked in a restaurant, serving tables. His father helped build the locks for freight ships that passed from Lake Superior to Lake Huron in Michigan. Even though they were very young, John and his older sister, Josephine, were often left home alone all day while their parents had to work. Their parents were not able to give them the attention and care they needed. Eventually the children were both put in an orphanage with 21 other children. John was almost five years old at that time. Being there with so many children was a big change for John and his sister. All the kids from the orphanage rode to school in a small bus that had the name of the orphanage painted on the side. He felt strange being in school with children who had parents they could live with and homes of their own. Something very sad happened while John and Josephine were living at the orphanage—their

father died. Then later their mother became very sick and also died.*

In the orphanage, John and Josephine went with the other children to a church in town. They liked hearing stories about God, Jesus, and the people in the Bible. They must have heard about believing in Jesus but they didn't understand that Jesus died on the cross to save them from their sin.

The children also went to a Bible class once a week which was taught by a woman named Mrs. Robinson. She taught the children songs and Bible verses and told Bible lessons using pictures that stuck to a board. John was given a small New Testament which he was very proud of because the children at the orphanage didn't have many things they could call their own. When John was nine years old, a couple named Mr. and Mrs. Cook visited the orphanage. They took him to live on their farm with them and their son, Lynn. Later they adopted him. When they adopted him, John got to decide what his name should be—whether he would take the name of his new family or not. He chose to be called John Westbrook Cook. John's sister Josephine was later taken to live with a different foster family.**

**Was John happy in his new home?
We'll find out next week!**

*As you learn about the children in your club, be aware of those who may have lost a parent, guardian or other close family member. Be prepared to talk with children who come to you concerning loss. You may wish to utilize the *Do You Wonder Why?* booklet available through CEF Press® to talk about these things.

**Should the question arise, Josephine was well taken care of and went on to become a nurse. It would be best to put off this answer until after Lesson 2, since they don't know yet if John was happy.



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Prayer Notebook

One way you can help your friends in our small group is by praying for them. I hope you will pray for me too! And I will pray for you. I have a notebook where we can write our prayer requests each week. Let's decorate the notebook together. *(Let the children help decorate the notebook. Depending on time, you may want to simply give each child a sticker to put on the notebook and let them write their names with a marker.)*

Is there anything you would like our small group to pray about this week? Let's write it in the notebook then we can pray together. *(Allow response. Tell the children how they can pray for you. Write requests in a notebook that you bring to small group each week. As time allows, add requests, record answers and pray with the children each week. Encourage the children to pray and to keep their own prayer notebooks.)*

DISMISSAL

Hand out a Quiet Time Sheet (Week 2 in the Resource Pack) to each child. Encourage them to fill it out and bring it back next week. As children are getting picked up, try and connect with the parents and let them know the kids are working on relying on the Holy Spirit as their helper this week.

The Helper Has Come!

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in your Bible as a ready reference.

Lesson Outline

I. INTRODUCTION
Have you ever waited for something or someone?

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. Jesus' close friends had been through a lot.

B. Flashcard 2-1

1. The disciples were amazed when Jesus showed up alive. He spent 40 days with them.
2. The promise was that His followers would receive power when the Holy Spirit came.
3. About ten days after Jesus went back to Heaven a special holiday called Pentecost was held in Jerusalem.

C. Flashcard 2-2

1. The disciples had also gathered in Jerusalem and were waiting for the Holy Spirit.
2. If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, rely on the Holy Spirit to help you witness. [Acts 1:8]
3. The Holy Spirit would be the disciples' Helper.

D. Flashcard 2-3 (Acts 2:1-12)

1. Suddenly, there was a sound from Heaven like a powerful, rushing wind.
2. The disciples started speaking about Jesus in other languages they didn't even know!

E. Flashcard 2-4 (Acts 2:13-22)

1. Some people thought the disciples must be drunk because this was so strange.
2. The Holy Spirit can give you courage to witness to your family and friends. [Acts 1:8]

F. Flashcard 2-5 (Acts 2:23-40)

1. Peter explained that even though the people were responsible for crucifying Jesus, it was all part of God's plan.
2. The people realized they had sinned.
3. God wants you to believe on the Lord Jesus to save you too. [Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4]

III. CLIMAX

Flashcard 2-6 (Acts 2:41)
About 3,000 people believed and were saved that day as Peter witnessed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. From that day on, the believers met together every day to encourage each other and to learn more about following God.
- B. Will you depend on the Holy Spirit to give you courage and the right words to say? [Acts 1:8]
- C. Will you call on Jesus to save you from your sin today? [Acts 2:21]

Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.