



# MY HELPER

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER

IPHC CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

WRITER – TIFFANY CRISP  
EDITOR – KRISTI CAIN  
EDITOR [PRE-K ONLY] – JENNIFER MCGHEE  
DESIGNER – KATE KALVACH

# DISCIPLES' FAITH

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 4:1-3, 13, 18-20 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

## FOCUS VERSE

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Throwing Ball | Brown Paper Lunch Bags | Jersey Shirt Cutout | Googly Eyes | Glue Sticks | Crayons |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite thing to do on a rainy day?
- Have you ever been stung by a bee? Tell us what happened.

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's show God how much we love Him by worshipping together in song!"



IF YOU HAVE NEW CHILDREN IN CLASS, EXPLAIN HOW YOUR CLASS WORSHIPS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN IN AS THEY FEEL COMFORTABLE. BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT CREATING A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR NEWCOMERS.

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children together for prayer. Choose a volunteer to pray for your lesson.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, we love Your presence. We long to have You meet us right where we are. Please help us know You better through the story today. In Jesus' name, Amen."

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

Review last week's lesson: Last Sunday was Pentecost Sunday. Remind the children that Pentecost was the day when God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples. The Holy Spirit filled them with His power. We are now transitioning from Pentecost into a unit on the Holy Spirit from the book of Acts.

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “For the last few months, we have talked about Jesus’ ministry. We read about His miracles, His stories, and His teachings. Then, we learned about His biggest announcement: He died for us because He loves us. Finally, last month, we found out about Jesus’ unbelievable resurrection appearances. Do you remember that Jesus also told His disciples that He would send them a Helper so they would not be alone after He ascended (went up to) to heaven? Well, this month, we’re going to be in a unit called ‘My Helper.’ We’re going to examine how the Helper, the Holy Spirit, helps us by giving us power. Who wants to put our puzzle piece on the wall?”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great, let’s play a game together before reading our story!”

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Throwing Ball (1 per class) |

Say, “The game we will be playing is called *Silent Ball*. Has anyone ever played *Silent Ball*?”

**GAME GOAL:** To win the game, children will silently catch the ball without dropping it. The last person who catches the ball AND stays silent the entire time, wins.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Have everyone stand in a large circle facing each other.
- Game Rules:
  1. You must be silent the entire time.
  2. If you drop the ball OR talk, you are out.
  3. You must throw the ball “underhand” style.
- The teacher will start the game off and will be the officiant. They will tell the kids whether or not they are out.
- The last person standing wins.
- Play again if you have time.

**MODIFICATION:** To make this game more challenging, add rules like “catch and throw the ball using only one hand,” “stand on one leg,” or “only use your left hand.”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job playing *Silent Ball*! The story we are reading today is about some people who wanted to get Jesus’ disciples to be silent—and not for a good reason!”

## LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we will be reading a story called ‘Disciples’ Faith.’ Peter is one of Jesus’ disciples who was baptized by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Remember, the Holy Spirit came to give us power! In this story, we will be looking at how the Holy Spirit gives Peter the power to share His faith boldly. Let’s open our Bibles to Acts 4:1-3, 13, 18-20 (ICB).”



ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO BRING THEIR BIBLES TO CLASS. IF THEY DO NOT HAVE BIBLES, BUY SOME FOR THE CLASSROOM. WE RECOMMEND THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN’S BIBLE (ICB) VERSION.

**While Peter and John were speaking to the people, a group of men came up to them. There were Jewish priests, the captain of the soldiers that guarded the Temple, and some Sadducees. 2 They were upset because the two apostles were teaching the people. Peter and John were preaching that people will rise from death through the power of Jesus. 7 They made Peter and John stand before them. The Jewish leaders asked them: "By what power or authority did you do this?" 13 The Jewish leaders saw that Peter and John were not afraid to speak. They understood that these men had no special training or education. So they were amazed. Then they realized that Peter and John had been with Jesus. 18 They told them [Peter and John] not to speak or to teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, "What do you think is right? What would God want? Should we obey you or God? 20 We cannot keep quiet. We must speak about what we have seen and heard."**

Say, "WOW! What a great story! We were quiet during our *Silent Ball* game, but Peter and John couldn't be silent. They had something too important to share!"

- Ask, "Has anyone ever had some news that was so exciting that you couldn't stay silent about it?" (Examples: getting a pet, having a new brother/sister, going on vacation, buying a new game, receiving a good report card, etc.)

"The Holy Spirit gave Peter and John the power to share their faith, and **the Holy Spirit gives us power** too! When the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, we don't have to be afraid to tell others about Jesus because He will help us be bold and courageous. Who is grateful that **the Holy Spirit gives us power**? I know I am! What a great Helper!"

**JOINING TO JESUS:** *"Jesus was the BEST role model for Peter and John. Peter and John watched Jesus speak boldly to the Jewish leaders who opposed Him, as the Holy Spirit empowered Jesus to preach and perform miracles (Luke 4:14, 18). God offers the same Holy Spirit to us!"*

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Next time you get the opportunity to tell a friend about Jesus, ask Jesus to take your fear away and make you bold like Peter and John! **The Holy Spirit gives us power!** Let's discuss the story."

## **DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES**

Discuss the story: Say, "Our lesson today was so powerful! Let's talk about it together."

### **1. How does the Holy Spirit help us?**

Response: He helps us by giving us power!

### **2. Why were these leaders upset with Peter and John for teaching the people?**

Response: First, Peter and John were not trained teachers, and only men who had official training could teach publically. More importantly, these leaders hated Jesus, so they

didn't want Peter and John to teach about Him.

**3. Why were Peter and John not afraid to speak about Jesus?**

Response: The Holy Spirit gave them the power to speak boldly about Jesus.

**4. How did Peter and John teach the people if they had no special training or education on the Bible?**

Response: Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit taught the disciples.

**5. The disciples asked the Jewish leaders an important question: Should we obey (you) humans or God? Who do you think we should obey?**

Response: We must always obey God. We can know what God says by studying His Word, the Bible. When He tells us to share our faith, we must do it (even if it's scary).

**6. Name one person you would like to tell about Jesus.**

Response: Answers will vary.

**7. What does this story tell us about the Holy Spirit?**

Response: **the Holy Spirit gives us power**, the Holy Spirit teaches us, the Holy Spirit is our Helper, the Holy Spirit gives us the courage/boldness to obey God, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "What a great time of discussion. Who wants to do an activity to help us remember that **the Holy Spirit gives us power** to speak boldly about Jesus?"

## RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Brown Paper Lunch Bags (1 per child) | Jersey Shirt Cutout (1 per child) | Googly Eyes (2 per child) | Glue Sticks | Crayons |

Say, "The craft we are making today is a puppet who will remind us to speak boldly! Don't forget, **the Holy Spirit gives us power** to boldly share Jesus with others! Let's get started."

- Give each child a brown paper lunch bag, a jersey cutout, googly eyes, and a glue stick.
- Turn the paper bag upside down so the flap is on top and facing up.
- Children will make a puppet by gluing the jersey shirt on the puppet's "body" (middle of the bag) and gluing googly eyes on the flap for eyes.
- Color in and decorate the jersey.

**FINISHED PRODUCT:** Each child will put their hand into the brown paper bag and move the flap ("mouth") to share their faith boldly.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Look at everyone's puppet! They look awesome! Now we can remember that **the Holy Spirit gives us the power** to speak about Jesus boldly. Let's have our puppets say, 'Jesus is our King,' and 'He is alive!'"

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Explain that the memory verse this month describes what happens to us when we receive the Holy Spirit. Remind the children that **the Holy Spirit gives us power!** Start by saying the verse by yourself as you demonstrate the actions. Then, have the kids practice it with you.

**“But you** (point to your neighbor) **will receive power** (power stance—hands on hips) **when the Holy Spirit** (wiggle your fingers like a fire flame) **comes on you** (point both hands to your stomach).” **Acts 1:8 (NIV)** (hold your hands out like a book)

**CHALLENGE:** Get your kids moving to help them memorize the verse! For each word in the verse, choose a whole-body action to “act it out.”

## REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, **“The Holy Spirit gives us power** to share Jesus boldly with everyone we know! Jesus was right when He said we needed the Holy Spirit as a Helper (John 14:26).”



THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO PRAY THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD FILL EACH OF YOU WITH BOLDNESS. ENCOURAGE EACH CHILD TO ASK GOD FOR COURAGE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “Jesus, thank You for not leaving us alone when You went to be with God. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help us and give us the power to obey You. Please give us the boldness that comes from your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”

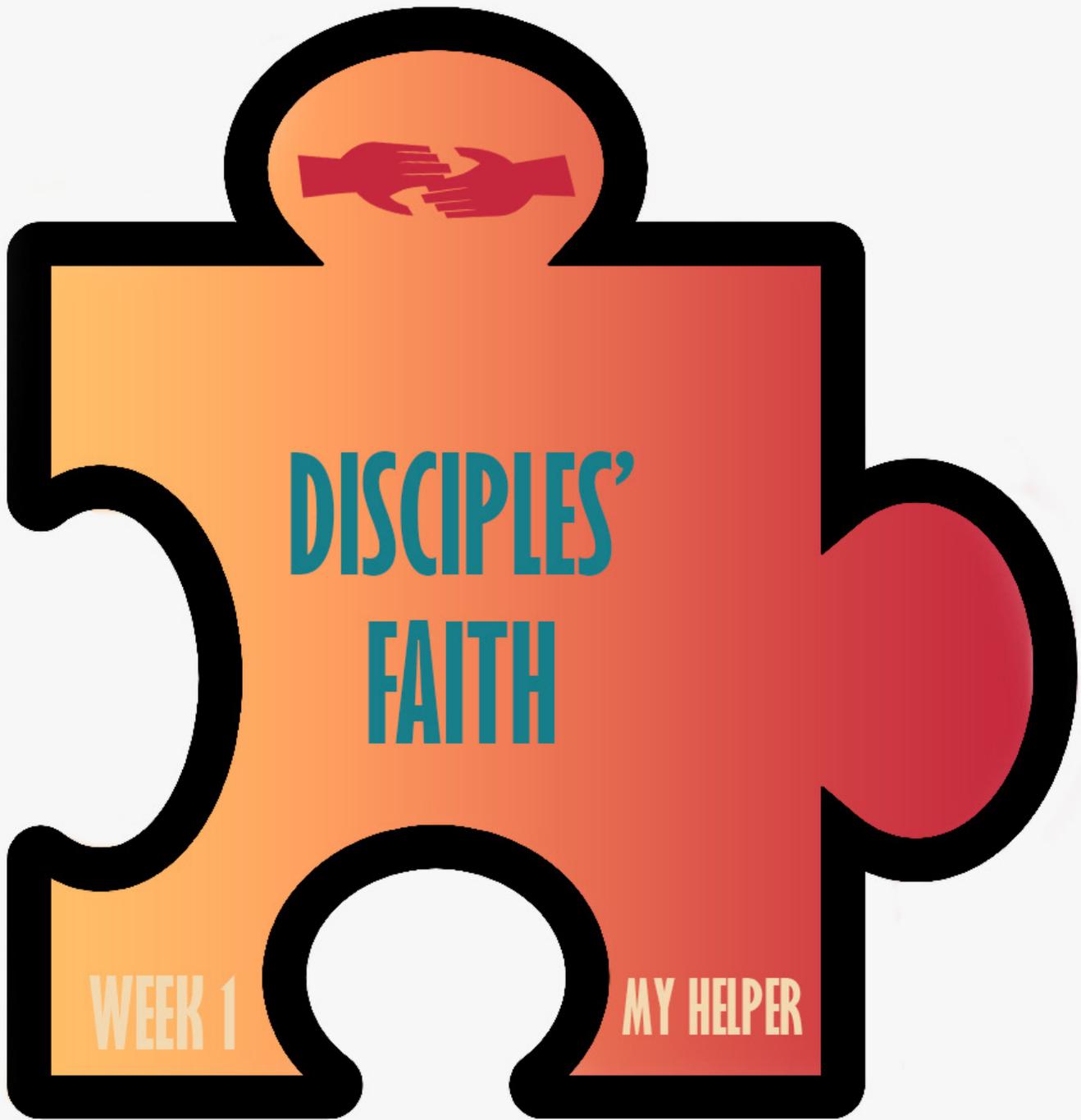
## RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, you can have the children replay *Silent Ball*, review the story, allow the children to ask questions about the lesson, etc. When parents come to pick up their children, give them a copy of the monthly Parent Guide (downloadable).

### GUIDE EXPLANATION:

1. Provides engaging questions and activities for family discipleship.
2. Reviews what the children are learning each week.





**DISCIPLES'  
FAITH**

**WEEK 1**

**MY HELPER**