



# 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 4:1-2, 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 | Stuffed Animal | Clothespins | Disciple's Face Printable | Glue | Crayons | Scissors  
| Yarn (Optional) |

## 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 You. We ask that You would come and meet us in our story today. Please help us know You better. 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.

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “For the last few months, we have talked about Jesus and his ministry. We read about His miracles, His stories, and His teachings. Then, we learned about His biggest announcement and His unbelievable appearances after He died and then rose from the dead. Finally, last week we talked about the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This month, we’re going to start right where we left off last week. We’re going to talk about how the Holy Spirit—our Helper—helps us by giving us power. This unit is called, ‘My Helper.’ Can we say that together? 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:** | Stuffed Animal (1 per class) |

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

**GAME GOAL:** To be the last one with the stuffed animal.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Have everyone sit in a large circle facing each other.
- Game Rules:
  1. You must be silent the entire time, or you’re out.
  2. You can only toss the stuffed animal to quiet players.
  3. If you throw the animal to a spot no one is in or outside the circle, you are out!
- The teacher will start the game off by giving a quiet person the stuffed animal.
- The teacher will tell children whether or not they are out.
- The last silent person with the stuffed animal wins.
- Replay if you have time.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “Great job playing *Silent Stuffed Animal*! The story we are reading today is about some people who wanted to get Jesus’ disciples to be silent—but it wasn’t a game! Let’s discover why they wanted to quiet them!”

## LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we will read a story called ‘Disciples’ Faith.’ Do you remember that the Holy Spirit came like fire to give us power? Well, in this story, we will learn how the Holy Spirit gives Peter and John the power to share their faith boldly.”

- Ask, “Who knows what the word ‘bold’ means?”

“When we are ‘bold,’ we are brave. It doesn’t mean we aren’t afraid. Sometimes we are afraid to do the right thing, but we do it anyway because we love Jesus or we love our parents. That’s what it means to be ‘bold.’ Let’s read together!” Read Acts 4:1-2, 13, 18-20 (ICB).

**While Peter and John were speaking to the people, a group of men came up to them... 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. 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 SUPER quiet during our Silent Stuffed Animal game, but Peter and John couldn't be silent. They had something too important to share!"

- Ask, "Have you 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, getting a new toy, 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. 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! Can you say, 'The Holy Spirit is my helper?'"

**JOINING TO JESUS:** *"Jesus was the BEST role model for Peter and John. They both watched Jesus speak boldly to the people who didn't like Him because the Holy Spirit gave Jesus power to share about God (Luke 4:15). God offers the same Holy Spirit to us who believe in Him!"*

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Next time you get the chance to tell a friend about Jesus, ask Jesus to make you brave just like He did for Peter and John! Remember, **the Holy Spirit gives us power!**"

## **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 Peter and John not afraid to speak about Jesus?**

Response: The Holy Spirit helped them be brave!

### **3. How did Peter and John know what words to say to the people?**

Response: Jesus and the Holy Spirit taught the disciples.

### **4. Name one person you could tell about Jesus.**

Response: Answers will vary.

### **5. 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 helps us tell others about Jesus, 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 the power** to speak boldly about Jesus?”

## RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Clothespins (1 per child) | Disciple’s Face Printable (1 per child) | Glue | Crayons | Scissors | Yarn (Optional) |

Say, “When the Holy Spirit lives in us, we can be bold and share our faith with others just like Peter and John did! Let’s make a craft to help us remember to speak about Jesus boldly! Don’t forget; **the Holy Spirit gives us the power** to do this! Let’s get started.”



BEFORE CLASS, CUT THE DISCIPLE’S FACES OUT SO THEY ARE READY FOR COLORING AND GLUING.

- Give each child a clothespin, a Disciple’s Face cutout, and yarn (optional).
- Ask the children to color the face.
- Help the children cut on the line across the face and glue it onto the side of the clothespin (one half on the top and the other half on the bottom).
- Finally, if you have yarn, glue it on the head for hair.

**FINISHED PRODUCT:** Each child should pinch the clothespin open and closed to make it look like the disciple is opening and closing his mouth to share his faith boldly.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “I love everyone’s little disciple! Now we can remember that **the Holy Spirit gives us the power** to speak about Jesus boldly. Let’s have our little disciples say, ‘Jesus is alive’ and ‘Jesus is King.’”

## MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, “This month’s verse describes what happens when we receive the Holy Spirit. Don’t forget; **the Holy Spirit gives us power!**” Say the verse first 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! Have them stand up, face a friend, and say the verse together as they act out the motions.

## 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). Would anyone like to pray for us before we leave?”



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

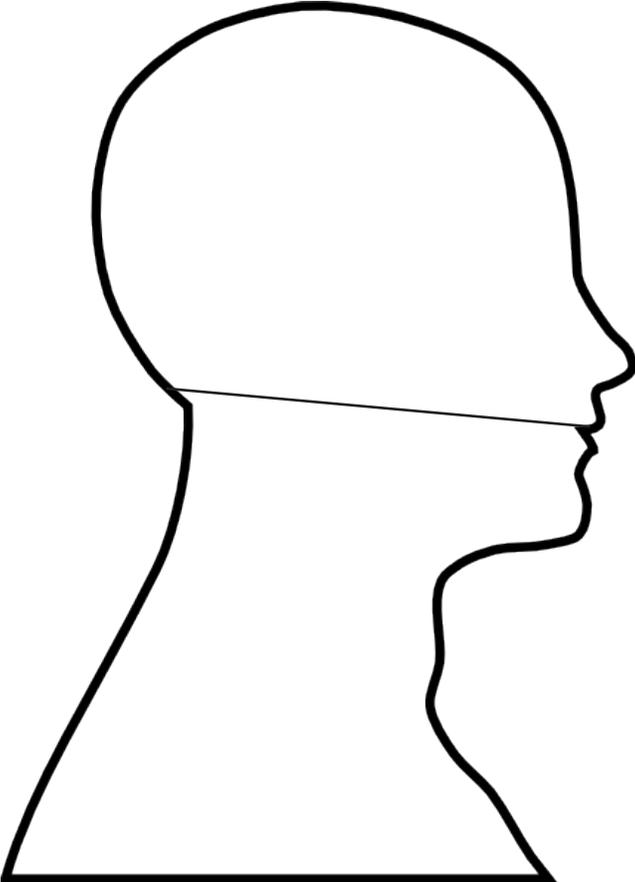
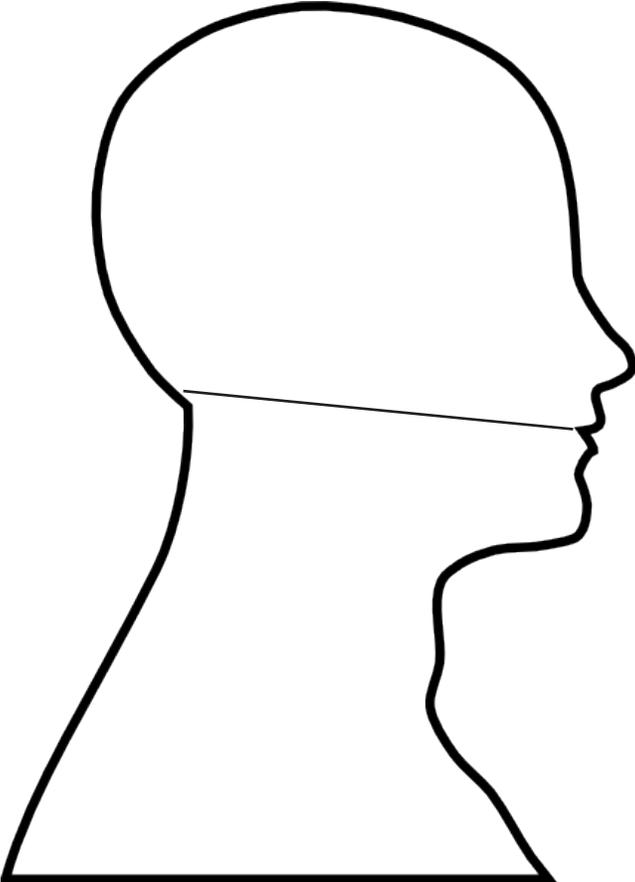
**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “Jesus, thank You for not leaving us alone when You went to be with God. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to help us and give us power. Please give us the boldness and courage that comes from Your Holy Spirit. You are the best Helper! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

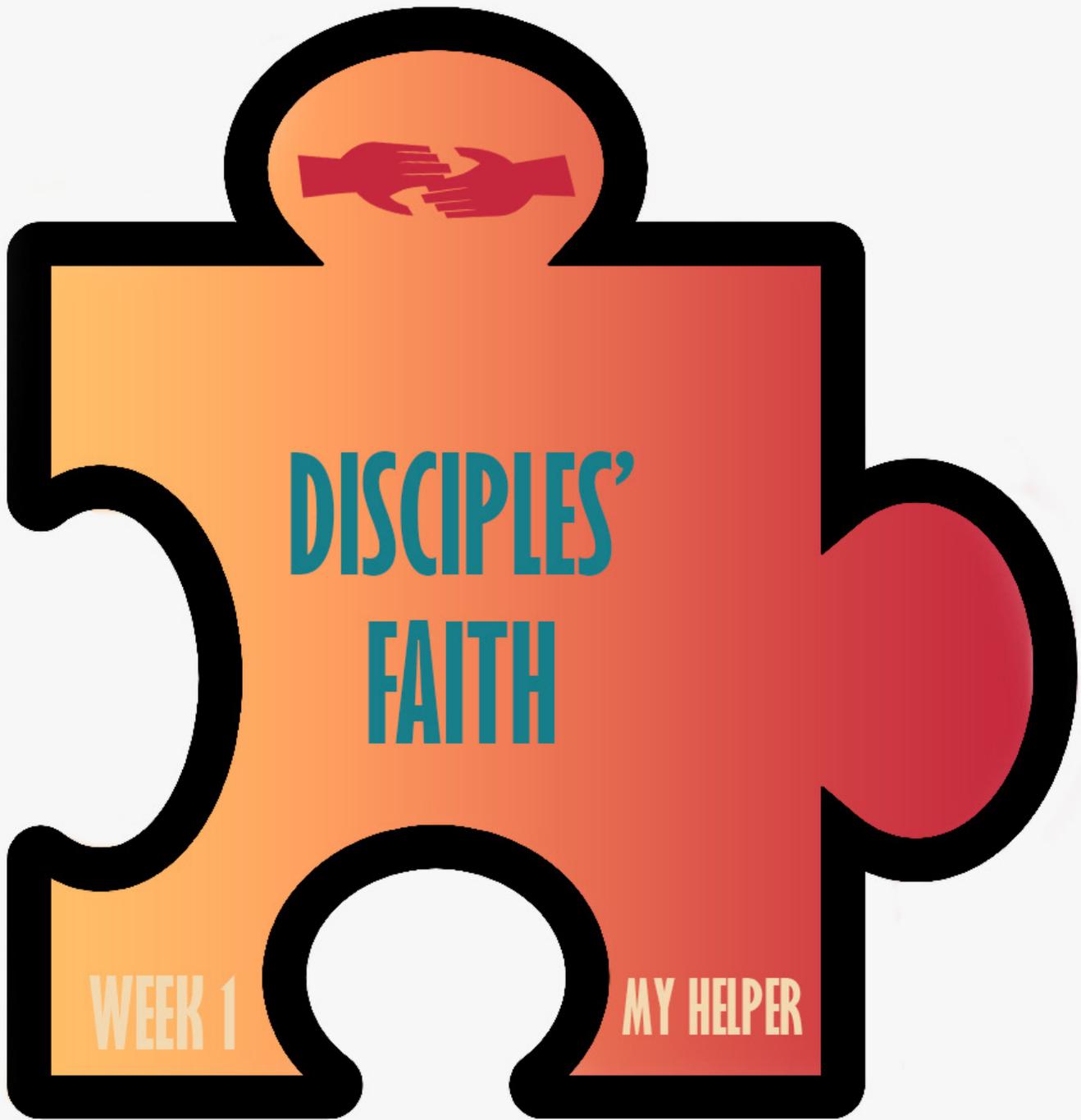
## RELEASE —

If there is extra time before parents arrive, you can have the children replay *Silent Stuffed Animal*, 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**