



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

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### Lesson 1

## THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

**Scripture to be studied:** Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:49-53; John 14:1-3; John 16:7-33; Acts 1:1-12; Joel 2:28-29

**The aim of the lesson:** To teach that Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to help believers until He returns.

**What your students should know:** Those who have trusted in Jesus Christ are responsible to tell others of Him.

**What your students should feel:** A desire to be witnesses of Jesus.

**What your students should do:** Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for their sins and receive Him as their Saviour.

**Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):**

1. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; 16:7).
2. The disciples are given new work (Matthew 28:19-20).
3. Jesus returns to Heaven (Acts 1:9).
4. Angels promise that Christ will return (Acts 1:10-11).

**The verse to be memorized:**

... *When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth...* (John 16:13a)

### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

This lesson will serve as a bridge between the first four books of the New Testament and the fifth book—Acts. The Gospel writers recorded the things that Jesus began to do and to teach until He was received up into Heaven. The book of Acts reviews the things He began to do after He was received up. He has never ceased doing things. His work is still going on. It continues through His true disciples, including you and me. By His presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ works through you, dear teacher. What an honor and privilege to be called as His spokesman, His servant!

### THE LESSON

Before His crucifixion, the Lord Jesus had explained to His disciples that He would have to leave them. He would die and rise again, He said. And He told them that sometime after His resurrection from the dead, He would return to His Father in

Heaven. (See John 14:28.) The disciples were sad about that for they wanted Jesus to stay with them forever.

Jesus explained two of the reasons for His returning to Heaven. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that you can be with Me where I am." (See John 14:1-3; compare 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.) That was a great promise! Jesus would go away for a while and would get a place ready for the disciples so that they would live with Him forever. That news must have cheered them.

## 1. JESUS PROMISES TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 14:16-17; 16:7

But Jesus had another reason for returning to Heaven. He explained it this way, "If I go away, I will send you another Helper *just like Myself*. He will be forever with you and in you. But I cannot send Him until I return to My Father in Heaven. This is why I must leave you." (See John 14:16-17; 16:7.)

The person who would come, of whom God the Son spoke, was God the Holy Spirit.



### Show Illustration #1

There were doubtless many times after the death and resurrection of Christ that the disciples talked together about the Promised One who was to come. They would have remembered that when God the Son came to earth, He came as a baby. Angels and a star announced His coming. But how would God the Holy Spirit come to earth? A spirit does not have a body. How would they know He had come?

How would His coming be announced?

Perhaps one or two of the disciples explained to the others that once before, God the Father had opened the heavens, and God the Holy Spirit had come down like a dove upon God the Son. (See John 1:32. This had taken place three years earlier at the baptism of the Lord Jesus.) Before that happened, God had told John the Baptist that the One upon whom he would see