



The Apostles Are Persecuted



Key Passages

- Acts 4:7, 4:10, 4:12, 4:18

Lesson Focus

- The apostles told others about Jesus even though it got them into trouble!

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Fruit of the Spirit Coloring Sheet and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—The apostles were filled with the Spirit and told everyone the good news of Jesus. Some people did not like to hear the name of Jesus. The apostles were persecuted for preaching in His name.

Song Time—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Holy Spirit Helper

Students will play a Holy Spirit Helper Matching Game by matching picture cards. As they play, discuss and/or review what is pictured on each card.



Activity 2: Lesson Booklet

Students will color a Lesson Booklet as a review to take home. Discuss the booklet as they color it.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or by themselves.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one Fruit of the Spirit Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Fruit of the Spirit Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print one each of four Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM for use during the lesson.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible
- Lesson Flip Chart
- Four Lesson Illustrations



HOLY SPIRIT HELPER MATCHING GAME

- Print and cut out two each of the six Holy Spirit Helper Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. You may need more than one set of 12 cards depending on the size of your class.

- Set of 12 Holy Spirit Helper Cards (more than one set depending on size of your class)



LESSON BOOKLET

- Print, cut, collate, and staple the four pages of the Lesson Booklet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Lesson Booklet for each student
- Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print and cut one set of the 12 Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use—preferably on cardstock. You will use these cards for Lessons 8–12.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- 12 Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to teach all things. But He would not come until Jesus had left the earth (John 16:7). And when He did come, He would guide believers into all truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit would empower the disciples and make them witnesses for Jesus and the gospel from Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

As the church began to grow, so did the opposition to the truth about Jesus. The disciples drew on the power of the Holy Spirit for wisdom, strength, and perseverance as they stood firm to proclaim the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (1 Corinthians 2:13; Ephesians 3:16; Jude 3).

It appeared the apostles were off to a good start by the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter's sermon at Pentecost added about 3,000 souls to the church (Acts 2:41). And the Bible tells us that Peter and John were given the power to heal a lame man at the Temple in the name of Jesus Christ. This lame man got up, and all the people saw him walking and praising God (Acts 3:1–10). The people were amazed at the miracle performed by the apostles, but Peter quickly declared that it was by faith in the name of Jesus Christ—the very Man they had denied and killed—that the lame man had been healed (Acts 3:15–16).

As their fame grew, and they continued to preach the power of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection from the dead, the priests and Jewish leaders became jealous. It wasn't long before Peter and John were arrested—but not before 5,000 more believers were added to the church (Acts 4:1–4).

A familiar scene—reminiscent of Jesus's own recent illegal trial—followed their arrest as the rulers, elders, scribes, Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, and others gathered together to question the apostles. They asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" (Acts 4:5–7).

God's Word tells us that Peter, filled with the wisdom and knowledge of the Holy Spirit, stood and again proclaimed that it was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they had crucified and God had raised from the dead, that the man had been healed. Peter spoke boldly to his accusers in the name of Jesus,

and proclaimed that salvation could be found in NO other name given to men under heaven (Acts 4:8–12).

The Jewish council was perplexed. A notable miracle had been done, and no one could deny it. But they plotted to stop the spread of this gospel of Jesus Christ, and they threatened the apostles, commanding them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus! However, Peter and John would NOT be discouraged. And they would not back down from speaking the things they had seen and heard (Acts 4:20).

The apostles were released and went back to their friends, and together they rejoiced at God's faithfulness. As they were gathered together, they prayed that the Lord would grant them boldness to speak His Word and continue to give them the power to do signs and wonders in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:23–30).

This would not be the end of their troubles, however. They were again imprisoned but miraculously freed by an angel of the Lord who opened the prison doors. The apostles went back to the Temple and began preaching again (Acts 5:17–21). Again they were arrested and told to STOP preaching in the name of Jesus Christ! And yet, the apostles boldly proclaimed that they were to obey God rather than men and would not stop preaching (Acts 5:29).

The persecution of the church and the apostles would only continue to grow worse. But even in spite of beatings and imprisonment, the apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40–41).

Later on, the Apostle Paul also suffered many trials as he was persecuted for his faith in Jesus Christ. It was Paul who penned what has come to be a cry of confidence and victory in the gospel. We read it in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

As Christians we, too, should boldly proclaim that we will not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For it was through its truth that we were saved and through its power that others will be saved to eternal life.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

In our Western world, Christians know very little of persecution. As Americans we enjoy religious freedom, freedom of assembly, and freedom of speech. There are more than 450,000 churches across the United

States where we can worship without government interference. Some of these are mega-churches with coffee bars, fitness centers, bookstores, and more. When we complain of being persecuted, it may be because someone called us a name, or we were denied a promotion at our job due to our evangelistic fervor. But compared to the early church, and much of the church today around the world, we live in very peaceful and accommodating circumstances.

The history of the church is one of persecution and martyrdom. It has been customary for church historians to count ten major periods of severe persecution in the early church, beginning with the persecution under Emperor Nero in AD 64 and ending with Emperor Diocletian in AD 305. Christians were thrown to the lions, forced into gladiatorial battles, burned alive, and crucified. In fact, all of the original apostles, except John, died unnatural deaths because of their faith. And John died while exiled to the island of Patmos. In the second century, one Christian apologist wrote the following:

Though beheaded, and crucified, and thrown to wild beasts, and chains, and fire, and all other kinds of torture, we do not give up our confession; but, the more such things happen, the more do others in larger numbers become faithful (Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*).

And while we may be tempted to think that severe persecution is a thing of the past, the reality is that more Christians died for their faith in the twentieth century than in all of the previous centuries combined. By some counts, around 100,000 Christians are martyred for their faith each year, and there are currently over 100 million Christians being persecuted worldwide.

Indeed, the history of the church demonstrates triumph in the face of persecution and martyrdom. In many places around the world, as the persecution increased, the church grew. Under Chairman Mao and Chinese Communism, for example, professing Christians in China grew from 1.5 million in 1970 to 65 million in just twenty years, even though foreign missionaries were severely restricted.

When we survey the Bible, we quickly see that persecution is a stark reality of the Christian life. The Apostle Paul warned Timothy that everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2 Timothy 3:12). Jesus told His disciples to expect persecution from the world because, since they hated Him, they will hate His followers also. He said that if they persecuted Him, they would persecute His followers (John 15:18–20). Since the world is driven by the love of sin and self, it is no wonder they hate Christians

who are called to be different and separate from the world. It is this very separation from the world and the world system that provokes hatred toward us.

As Christians, we must learn to recognize the spiritual value persecution offers and even to rejoice in it. Persecution allows us to share in a unique fellowship with our Lord. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, listed a number of things he surrendered for the cause of Christ. Such losses, however, he viewed as “rubbish” (Philippians 3:8) that he might share in the “fellowship of [Christ’s] sufferings” (Philippians 3:10). Peter wrote that the church should not think it strange to come upon trials, but they should rejoice that they can partake in Christ’s sufferings. And, when the time comes for His glory to be revealed, those who suffered for His sake may also be glad with exceeding joy (1 Peter 4:13).

Persecution is good for our spiritual growth, whether we like to think of it that way or not. James instructs us to count it all joy when we fall into trials, knowing that the testing of our faith produces patience, endurance, and maturity (James 1:2–4). Jesus also addressed this topic during His famous Sermon on the Mount when He said that His followers would be blessed when people insult and persecute them. In fact, He said we should rejoice at persecution, for our reward will be great in heaven (Matthew 5:11–12).

It is hard to say just when we will fall into life-threatening trials for the sake of the gospel. But when it happens, we can be confident that if we are truly saved and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, His power in us will enable us to stand firm for our faith.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Praise your name, Lord Jesus! Thank you for the examples you give us in Scripture of apostles who boldly proclaimed your Word. The persecution they suffered because of your name did not deter them. Help all Christians to follow their example. Please keep those who profess the name of Jesus from the fear of man. Give us strength to look to you and your Word for wisdom and courage that we may always be ready to defend the reason for the hope that we have. Holy Spirit, bring boldness. Move in the hearts of my students to believe the gospel. Change them into new creations who long to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Fruit of the Spirit Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, four Lesson Illustrations, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or an appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

**I'll start. Dear God, you are an awesome God. You give me so many things!
I want to thank you for . . .** *(insert personal prayer).*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Does God know all things?** *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? **Can God do all things?** *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? **Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** *In the Bible alone.*
- ? **Is God's Word true?** *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* **God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number** *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* **We'll start right here.** *Hand the Bible to the first student.* **As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.** *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

- ? *Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart.* **Who did Jesus promise would come to help His followers?** *The Holy Spirit.*

Yes! Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to His followers. Jesus went to heaven to be with His Father. But before He left, He promised the disciples that God would send the Holy Spirit. God sent the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

- ? *Refer to the Lesson 8 Flip Chart.* **What did the disciples see when the Holy Spirit came to them?** *Something that looked like fire.*

- ? What loud noise did they hear? What filled the room? *A big, loud wind came into the room.*
- ? The disciples needed help! That is why the Holy Spirit came. What is another name for the Holy Spirit? *The Helper.*
- ? What was the Holy Spirit going to do for the disciples? *Allow discussion. He would help them.*

Show Lesson Illustration #1. The Holy Spirit was going to help the disciples. One of the things the Holy Spirit did for them was to give them special power! Today we will talk about how Peter and John healed a man and what happened when they did!

- ? Who else healed sick people while He was on the earth? *Allow discussion. Jesus!*
Yes! Jesus healed sick people. But now Jesus was gone. He had gone back to His Father, God, in heaven. And God sent the Holy Spirit to help Jesus's followers. The Holy Spirit gave Peter and John special power to heal in Jesus's name.

Refer to Lesson Illustration #2. But guess what? Not everyone liked what the followers of Jesus did. There were some very powerful leaders who hated the apostles. They were jealous of the special powers the Holy Spirit gave to the apostles. They wanted the apostles to stop what they were doing.

In fact, the Bible tells us that these leaders took Peter and John and put them in jail! That's right, they arrested them because they were healing people in the name of Jesus Christ.

Let's listen to what happened next. I'm going to read from the book of Acts. This is Acts chapter 4, verse 7. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

This is what the important leaders asked the apostles after they put them in jail. Listen carefully! *Read Acts 4:7 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Acts 4:7

- ? What did the men who arrested the apostles ask them? What did they want to know? *Allow discussion.*
They wanted to know who gave the apostles the power to do the things they were doing.
- ? How could the apostles heal someone and make them better? Where did they get that special power? *Allow discussion. From Jesus and from the Holy Spirit.*

Refer to Lesson Illustration #1. That's right! The Holy Spirit is the Helper! He gave special power to Peter. He healed a man who had been sick a very long time. The leaders wanted to know who gave Peter, John, and the other apostles the power to heal the sick man. This is what the Bible tells us.

Acts 4:10

This is what Peter said to them. Listen carefully! *Read Acts 4:10 emphasizing "in the name of Jesus Christ."*

? Whose name was Peter healing and teaching in? *The name of Jesus!*

Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart Page. Do you remember? Peter had denied Jesus three times when Jesus was arrested because he was scared. He said he didn't even KNOW Jesus. But now, the Holy Spirit gave Peter courage to speak up for Jesus—even though it would get him into trouble! And he would go to jail!

Refer to Lesson Illustration #3 and Lesson Flip Chart. The religious leaders wanted to stop Peter and John. Jesus's apostles were telling others about Jesus. And the leaders were getting angry at them! They told the apostles they had to STOP doing something. Listen as I read. This is what the Bible tells us. *Read Acts 4:18.*

? The apostles were told to stop doing something. What was it? *Stop speaking or teaching in the name of Jesus.*

These important leaders wanted the good news of Jesus to stop spreading. But even these leaders could not stop God's plans! Jesus told His disciples to spread the good news. And that's just what the disciples and apostles did with the help of the Holy Spirit!

The apostles got into trouble because they told others about Jesus. The leaders tried to stop them from talking about Jesus. But they wouldn't stop—even if it got them into trouble!

Refer to Lesson Illustration #4. No one could stop them because they loved Jesus! And they had the power of the Holy Spirit to help them. The apostles kept talking about Jesus. And no matter how much trouble they got in, they were HAPPY to tell others about Jesus.

? Why would they do that? Why would they tell everyone about Jesus? *Allow discussion. They loved Him. They had the Holy Spirit.*

They knew what they had to say about Jesus was very important. Why was it so important? Listen to this verse! It tells us why! *Read Acts 4:12 emphasizing "no other name."*

This verse says there is "no other name" by which people can be saved.

? What name are they talking about? Who is the only person who can give forgiveness of sins and save sinners forever? *Jesus.*

Yes, Jesus! The apostles knew what they had to say was very important! There is NO OTHER NAME but the name of Jesus that can save people. Jesus came so sinners can be forgiven and saved forever! Those who turn away from their sins and turn to Jesus will have eternal life in heaven. But Jesus is the ONLY way! There is NO OTHER way! The apostles knew the gospel is very important! They wanted to obey Jesus and tell others about Him even though it got them into trouble!

Acts 4:18

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Acts 4:12

SONG TIME

Turn to the *Flip Chart Memory Verse Page*. **Jesus gave His life on the Cross, and all who believe in Him get eternal life. We should tell others the good news and not be ashamed. The gospel gives salvation! Let's sing our Memory Verse Song.** *Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.*

Turn to the *Flip Chart Song Page*. **The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit! They loved Jesus so much that they couldn't stop telling other people about Him! Now let's sing our new song called, "The Holy Spirit Song."** *Sing together with clapping.*

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

➤ Turn to the *Flip Chart Song Page* and *Flip Chart Memory Verse Page* during this part of the lesson.

➤ Lyrics can be found on the *Flip Chart Song Page* and the *Song Sheet* at the end of this *Teacher Guide*.



Holy Spirit Helper Matching Game

MATERIALS

- Print and cut out two each of the six Holy Spirit Helper Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. You may need more than one set of 12 cards depending on the size of your class.

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out two each of the six Holy Spirit Helper Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. You may need more than one set of 12 cards depending on the size of your class. Students will play a matching game by trying to match the pictures on the cards. As they play and turn cards over, remind them that the Holy Spirit gave the apostles special power to heal people in Jesus's name.

We are going to play a card game today. I have six different cards. But there are two of each card here in this stack. I am going to lay the cards face down, and you will take turns trying to find the cards that match. First, let's talk about each of the cards.

Card #1. The Holy Spirit came to Jesus's followers at Pentecost.

Card #2. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles special power to heal the sick.

Card #3. The leaders did not like what the apostles were doing. They put them in jail because they talked about Jesus.

Card #4. The apostles got in a lot of trouble for talking about Jesus.

Card #5. Even though they got into trouble, the apostles were happy to tell others about Jesus.

Card #6. We should want to tell the good news about Jesus to our friends, too!

Lay the cards face down on the tables in front of the children.

OK! Let's play our game! I want you to take turns. Turn two cards over and see if they match!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God wants believers to share the good news of Jesus with everyone. Some people will believe the gospel of Jesus, but some people won't. Some people might get angry and tell us to stop. But God wants us to listen to Him. Jesus is the **ONLY** name by which anyone can be saved!



Lesson Booklet

MATERIALS

- Lesson Booklet for each student
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, cut, collate, and staple the four pages of the Lesson Booklet for each student. Students will color the pictures. Then they can take the booklet home and talk about the lesson today.

Today we're going to make a booklet to remind us that the apostles told others about Jesus even though it got them into trouble. Color each of the pages in the book. You can take the booklet home and show a friend or someone in your family!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

*After students are finished, choose four students to show pages 1–4 and briefly discuss them. **Let's talk about our booklets!***

*Refer to Page 1. **The Holy Spirit gave the apostles power to heal the sick.***

*Refer to Page 2. **Many people did not like what the apostles were doing, and they put them in jail!***

*Refer to Page 3. **The apostles got into trouble for talking about Jesus!***

*Refer to Page 4. **The apostles obeyed Jesus and told others about Him even though it got them into trouble.***



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Romans 1:16a For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one set of the Memory Verse Flashcards. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card from the wall. Recite the verse again with the class. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time, reciting the whole verse after each card is removed.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say it first. *Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

Good job! Now I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll say the verse without that card! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can! OK, let's do it! *Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Help the students to recite the verse after each card is removed. Continue until the cards are gone.*

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

We should never be ashamed of the gospel. We should tell others about Jesus! It is good news. Whoever believes in Jesus—in the gospel—will have eternal life!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

There were a lot of people who did not love Jesus. They hated Jesus. They hated the disciples of Jesus. But Jesus's disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. They loved Jesus. They wanted to tell everyone about Jesus—even if that meant they got into trouble.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

There are a lot of people today who do not love Jesus. They hate Jesus! The Bible tells us since people hate Jesus, they will also hate people who believe in Him and want to follow Him. But people who love Jesus cannot stop talking about Him. They love Him so much! Followers of Jesus should not be ashamed of the gospel. They should keep telling others about Him—even if it means getting into trouble!

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help believers.
- Praise God for Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life.
- Pray that God will give us a desire to tell others about Jesus.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

ROMANS 1:16

(To the tune of "Amazing Grace")

For I'm not a-ashamed

(Amazing grace!)

Of the gospel of Christ,

(How sweet the sound)

For it is the-e power o-of God

(That saved a wretch like me.)

To-o sa-alvation for

(I once was lost,)

Everyone who believes.

(But now am found,)

Romans one ver-erse si-ixteen.

(Was blind, but now I see.)

THE HOLY SPIRIT SONG

(To the tune of "Do You Know the Muffin Man?")

Do you have the Spi-i-rit?

(Do you know the muffin man,)

The Spi-i-rit, the Spi-i-rit.

(The muffin man, the muffin man?)

Do you have the Spi-i-rit,

(Do you know the muffin man,)

Li-ving inside of you?

(Who lives on Drury Lane?)

If you are a follower,

Of Jesus Christ, of Jesus Christ.

If you are a follower,

The Spirit lives in you.

The Spirit is the He-el-per

Sent by God, when you believe.

The Spirit is the He-el-per,

To know just what to do!

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.