

# The Promise of the Holy Spirit – preschool/younger elementary

**John 14:15-21**

**May 14, 2023**

## Opening Activity

**Say:** I'm happy to see you today! Do you think I am telling the truth? Yes, I am telling the truth. Let's try another truth test. My name is [*your pastor's name*]. Am I telling the truth? (*No!*). let's try one more truth test. We all live on a planet named Mars. Am I telling the truth? (*No, we live on a planet named Earth*). Now you can give me some truth-test questions. *Give kids time to say truth-test statements about what kind of pet they have, what color their eyes are, how many fingers they have, etc.*)

We have two Bible story words today. We've spent some time talking about truth. Truth is one of our Bible story words today. The other has to do with a heart. What do you think of when you see a heart? (Love). Truth and Love are our words for today and we're going to find out how they go together.

Let's say a prayer, and then we'll learn the story.

### Prayer:

Dear God.  
Please help me to love you.  
Please help me to love others.  
Please help others know that you love them.  
Amen.

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## Open the Bible

**Say:** Jesus knew he was going to heaven soon. Jesus wanted to be sure his disciples weren't afraid when he went to heaven. During all the time they were together, Jesus told his disciples the truth. He told them the truth that we must love people. He told them the truth that it can be hard to follow God sometimes. So now, when he was leaving, Jesus wanted to tell his disciples the most important truth. Jesus made the truth simple for his disciples. Jesus told them, "Love God. Love others. God loves you" Love was a big, true word for Jesus. It's a big true word for us today.

Read "The Way to the Father" (available on the children's ministry page)

Or Read John 14:15-21

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## Activate Faith

### "The Signs of Love" Art

Kids create a handprint they can use to show love to others.

**Supplies:** Construction paper, pencils, Scissors, Glue, tape

**Set Up:** Cut a small heart out of construction paper for each child.

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## **Instructions:**

In today's story, Jesus told us he loves us and will always be with us. We can tell others about Jesus' love by showing love to others. Today, we are going to learn another way to show "love" by learning how to sign the word "love"

Have kids hold up their non dominant hand. Bend middle and ring fingers down so they almost touch the palm. Pinky, thumb and index (pointer) fingers should still be pointing 'up'. Tell kids this is the way some people who are deaf use sign language to tell others they love them.

- Direct each kid to lay one hand, palm down (all fingers up), on a sheet of construction paper and trace around all five fingers.
- Ask kids cut out their traced hands.
- Invite kids to fold down the middle and ring finger section of the handprint so that the handprint is signing the word, "love," then glue the fingers in place in the bent position.
- Encourage kids to decorate their handprints by writing the word "love" on precut hearts and gluing them onto the handprint.

## **A True Friend – Game**

**Say:** One of the truths that Jesus told his disciples was, "I won't be here much longer. But don't worry! God's Holy Spirit will be with you always."

*Have kids pair up. One person will begin by being the leader and the other will be the follower. Choose a leader and a follower. The follower will copy the leader's actions, staying as close as possible without touching the leader. **Say:** We have one important rule: You have to be silent! Then we will switch parts. Let's start.*

*Play for a few moments, encouraging kids to move about the space – sitting, standing, lying down. Then have kids switch parts.*

**Say:** This game reminds us of our Bible story. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit stays with us like the follower in our game. It doesn't make a sound and you can't see the Holy Spirit but you can feel the Spirit. God's Spirit is always with you no matter where you go!