

Lesson 8

The Holy Spirit Preserves the Church

Bible Lesson: John 15:1-11

Memory Verse: "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." *John 15:5*

Enrichment Memory Verse: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Thessalonians 5:23*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in the Holy Spirit;...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith;...

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

† *To be added later*

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

◆ *to be added later*

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God's Holy Spirit will teach you through His Word and keep you in close touch with Him and His will.
2. Pray for each of your students during this week. Pray that each one may be sensitive to the calling and leading of the Holy Spirit through the Word.
3. Remember each student's individual spiritual need as you have seen it. Pray specifically that each student's need may be met.
4. Pray that the Holy Spirit may have control of the class period, and that Satan's work may be frustrated.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

We know that in this world everything has a tendency to fall apart. We might build a nice fence and come back sometime later and see it needs repairs. Even the books that you may have handed out at the beginning of the year have the many marks of use; lots of wear and tear. We notice that we ourselves are not immune. Our physical bodies age and are susceptible to sickness and disease. We can see that huge amounts of time, energy, and money has been poured into trying to change this reality.

Whatever we see around us is marked, stained we might say, by the presence of sin in this world. We also note that we have enemies at work which will seek to destroy what has been made or put together. Have you seen what birds do to strawberries when they find a ripe patch? Or what a deer does to all the tender shoots in your garden? That which was planted, fertilized, kept clear of weeds, can all be lost very quickly.

God is not a gardener who cannot keep track of his garden or has left it unattended. The Holy Spirit is at work not just creating the Church, but in preserving His Church. He will do this merciful work until our Savior returns.

When we preserve things, what we are really trying to do is stop decay or keep something whole. For example, we try to preserve precious old paintings by monitoring things such as a temperature, moisture, and light. Making sure that these elements do not destroy the colors of the paint in some great masterpiece. We might can food attempting to stop it from spoiling so that the flavors will be kept and we can enjoy it months in the future.

What we notice in the Christian Church is that Christ's work of preservation is such that His bride is always pure because it is covered by the righteousness of Christ. The enemies, the elements we might say, are trying to degrade the Christian church; to tear us away from Christ.

We are the kind of people who are so regular in our wandering that we need a faithful and intimate guide to lead us and carry us to where we should go. This is the great work of the Holy Spirit. We wander, and our enemies pull at us but God is continually at work in His Word that He might protect us and preserve us. The Holy Spirit protects us by being with us. Acts 2:38 says, **“Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

The proclamation of Good News coming from Peter that day left no doubt in the mind. “You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” It was not stated as a possibility but as something that will come to pass. As we speak today believers in Jesus have that same confidence. We have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

B. Creed Study

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Enlist the help of early-arriving students in preparing the class space, at the same time visiting with each student to learn what his/her concerns and needs are. If you have cards with memory verses written on them (references on reverse side) invite students to work with others in reviewing memory verses.

Open with Prayer

Pray for the Holy Spirit's work in helping us to understand today's lesson.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Ephesians 2:19-20

And

From the Catechism: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens,

and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth,...

Review

Conduct a quick oral review of last week's lesson.

More questions to be added later.

Introduce Wall Words

pronounced—
nurtured—
vinedresser—
vineyard—
prunes—
abide—
indestructible—

Introduce the Lesson

To be added later.

Teach the Lesson

To be added later.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

CATECHISM—READ

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith;...

Activity Pages

Activity 1 - The Fruit of the Spirit Is...

ANSWERS - (these answers may vary depending on the dictionary. The answers below were taken from Dictionary.com)

1. “a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.”
2. “the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation.”
3. “a state of mutual harmony between people or groups, especially in personal relations”
4. “the quality of being patient, as the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune, or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like.”

5. “friendly feeling; liking”
6. “moral excellence; virtue”
7. “true to one's word, promises, vows, etc”
8. “kindly; amiable”
9. “control or restraint of oneself or one's actions, feelings, etc”

Activity 2 - Word Search

ANSWERS

C	S	J	F	T	M	H	H	E	Y	P	R	B	Y	T	P	H	G	B
M	Q	R	B	H	W	T	J	P	P	E	M	B	J	B	T	S	D	Z
V	Q	D	W	F	I	B	B	U	S	V	C	V	D	K	S	S	D	D
Q	Y	S	P	A	Y	E	O	S	W	I	X	E	O	M	I	Q	J	G
N	T	T	F	L	B	A	E	I	Q	N	E	T	T	U	R	B	R	S
U	K	W	F	R	K	R	J	D	N	E	Y	K	Y	C	I	D	U	W
R	X	C	W	U	D	F	I	F	G	Y	G	P	R	A	N	K	V	B
T	C	C	L	E	Z	R	V	P	H	A	C	Y	A	A	D	M	A	V
U	D	M	N	K	Q	U	T	R	U	R	T	G	Y	D	E	N	B	A
R	F	I	V	X	T	I	L	U	V	D	Z	U	Q	H	S	J	I	W
E	V	P	O	T	R	T	A	N	K	S	Z	N	M	W	T	F	D	I
D	I	Q	P	R	X	N	Z	E	Z	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	D
M	E	X	X	U	N	T	C	S	D	L	Y	Z	M	A	U	J	G	B
R	C	W	I	E	F	Y	R	G	T	Z	R	C	W	R	C	P	Y	E
H	L	M	I	V	F	B	Y	J	T	T	R	J	O	L	T	W	F	C
W	C	N	R	I	C	B	M	W	W	U	T	E	W	K	I	L	L	G
P	P	H	W	N	I	S	M	X	P	T	B	Z	H	W	B	K	K	D
D	Q	B	O	E	X	S	X	W	R	N	W	V	V	A	L	L	Y	W
T	A	W	F	W	M	J	M	H	E	C	E	C	V	Z	E	W	Q	F

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Assignment

1. Challenge your students to complete any unfinished activities and work on the memory passage.
2. Ask the students to bring finished pages to be checked and acknowledged along with the memory work.