



WEEK 3

FAMILY LESSON GUIDE

LEGACY

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.

THE BIBLE

A New Apostle is Chosen: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26;
(1 John 5:9-13)

INTRO! *These activities introduce the ideas in this week.*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lead the kids in worship, with fun songs like, "[Tell the World](#)," by Hillsong Kids.

POLL | Bracket of Best Things

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out the bracket printable, or draw out a bracket on a piece of paper. There should be eight items to start with, ending in one ultimate best thing ever. Have members of your family pick out what they think the **BEST THING EVER** is (other than God, of course) – for example, toilet paper. Put each of their answers on the outermost boxes of your bracket. Then have friends and family vote between each of the connected pairs, and write the winning answer in the space provided. Then compare the next tier of responses, and keep working towards the middle until only one item is declared the "best thing ever!"
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** For items that are close in votes, ask for the groups to make a case for their choice and get some healthy debate going!
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Do this conversation in small groups to help kids who could be overwhelmed or overstimulated in a larger and louder environment.
- **SAY:** It can be really hard to choose the best thing ever, right? Maybe your suggestion made it in the top eight, but didn't make it to the final two. So, you had to choose between two other things. Today's Bible story is about a time when a team had to make a decision. They all might not have wanted to have to make this decision, but we will see how the Holy Spirit helped them with the tough choice they had to make.



ACTIVITY | Pick Me

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a popsicle stick to each family member and have them write their name on one end of the stick with a marker. Collect the sticks again and put them all into a can with the names facing down. Then make a variety of fun, positive, even silly statements about what they might grow up to be or do in the future, and pick out names from the can (e.g., *This person will grow up and travel the world. It's Grace!*). Don't return the stick to the can. Keep making statements until all of the kids' names have been called. Some other statements you might make are: *start a charity to save the environment, become a famous singer, find the cure for cancer, be the first person to land on Mars, set the world record for largest shoe collection, etc.*
- **SAY:** In today's Bible story, the people use a system called "casting lots" to help them make their decision. They didn't do this to simply rely on luck or chance. They cast lots to be fair to everyone and to make sure nobody was playing favorites. For example, let's say we needed a team captain. If I just called out one of your names, you might say it's not fair. But if I picked your name out of can (*Take out a stick and read the name*), then you'll know that I didn't pick you or leave you out on purpose.

QUESTION | All By Myself

- **What are some things you need help doing? What are some things you can't do by yourself, even if you tried?**
- **SAY:** Teamwork is really important. If you've ever acted in a play, sang in a choir, been on a sports team, or participated in a group project at school, you know how important it is to work together.
- **SAY:** God wants to make us part of a bigger story. But in order to do that, we need to work together with God and with each other.
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask for examples of things that are impossible to do by yourself and ask for volunteers to try anyway! (e.g., *scratching your back, talk on the phone, arm wrestle, etc.*).
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Invite the rest of the group into the conversation and discuss ways everyone can both offer and ask for help.

GO DEEPER. This part helps your kid understand why it's important.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 1:15-17

- **Have you ever been chosen to be part of a team?**
- **SAY:** Maybe you got to play on a basketball team you never thought you would. Maybe you were chosen to be the lead in the school play or were given the solo in the choir concert. It's a great feeling to be a part of a team. Especially if the team is good! It's time to travel to Acts 1, where we will find out how Jesus' friends figured out how they were going to add one more person to their disciple team.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the Bible story in Acts 1:15-17.



- **BACKGROUND INFO:** Jesus had a team that was made up of twelve people, called the disciples. Judas, one of the disciples, chose to leave the team forever. After Jesus returned to heaven, the disciples and other followers were together in a room. Peter stood up and told the rest of the team that they needed to pick a new person to fill in for Judas. They nominated two new people. After praying, they did something to help them decide which one they should invite to the team. They cast lots.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Choose two more volunteers and have them play a quick game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." Tell the winner, "Welcome to the team, Matthias!" and tell the other kid, "Thank you for trying out, Barsabbas!" Tell the two kids to shake hands and congratulate each other. Then, tell the disciples to give Matthias his team uniform.
- **SAY:** Guess what? Even though Matthias was chosen to be on the team with the other disciples, Barsabbas was still on the team, too. God wants us all on the team, too! The difference is, we don't need to cast lots or use any other method. There's no need to choose you over someone else or the other way around. Because of the legacy Jesus left, everyone can be chosen to do God's work. God has given us the Holy Spirit to coach us. The Holy Spirit guides us to make wise choices. The Holy Spirit gives us our own unique talents, gifts, and abilities, to share the good news of Jesus, and invite more people onto the team!

THE BIG IDEA | The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everybody say the big idea with you out loud!
- **The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.**
- **SAY:** Not only that, the Holy Spirit helps us know what God's work is. We can work together with other members of God's family to do the things God wants us to do!

VIDEO | Legacy, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

OBJECT LESSON | Who is the Holy Spirit? - Part Three

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, gather a clear cup, a pitcher of water, a large clear bin, and some food coloring. Line up the clear cups inside the bin.
- **SAY:** Sometimes when people do God's work, you'll hear them referred to as being "filled with the Holy Spirit." **What do you think that means?**
- **EXPLAIN:** Before we become a follower of Jesus, we are like this cup. We are empty.
 - But when we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes and fills us up inside. **(Pour water from a pitcher into each of the cups. Fill it almost all the way to the top.)**
 - The cup looks the same from the outside, doesn't it? When we're filled with the Holy Spirit we might not look very different on the outside. But that doesn't mean that the Holy Spirit isn't there!
- But there are times when we get filled with other things that are not the Holy Spirit.
 - Sometimes, we might feel bitter when we don't get our way **(Add a few drops of food coloring into the cup).**



- Other times, we might start to feel jealous when our friends start playing more with other people more than us or when our siblings get more attention from our parents *(Add a few drops of food coloring into the cup).*
- Have you ever gotten angry? We all get mad but sometimes we get so angry that we say and do mean things. *(Add a few drops of food coloring to the cup.)*
- The amazing thing about the Holy Spirit is that even though we have yucky stuff inside of us, like these cups . . . *(Slowly pour water from the pitchers into the cup so that all the colored water spills out into the bin and the cup is filled with clean water again)* . . . it can be replaced with good things when we let ourselves be filled with the Holy Spirit again. The Holy Spirit helps us make wise choices, love others, and do God's work.

SCRIPTURE | I John 5:9-13

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read I John 5:9-13 (NIV).
- **SAY:** One day, we get to live in Heaven forever because God gave us Jesus. These verses remind us we will live forever with Jesus and we should share this great news with everyone! The word that keeps coming up in this Bible passage is the word "testimony." A testimony is a true story about God, especially about what God has done for you. When you share your testimony with others, you are doing God's work!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

STORY | My Testimony

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Share your testimony of how you came to know Jesus and started serving God. Or share a story about how you led someone else to Christ. Help your family members craft their own one-sentence testimony after you share your story.
- **SAY:** Let's all practice sharing our own stories about God. **Complete the following sentence: Because I know God, I _____.**

MEMORY VERSE

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** go through the memory verse with your family. Get them to repeat it after you, small sections at a time, and see if they can do it without you saying it first. Practice every week – there will be one memory verse a month!
- **ROMANS 8:14(NIV) - For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, help us to be brave so we can share the most important message in the world with others. Help us remember that because we have the Holy Spirit, we can do your work! Amen.



WRAP IT UP. *These help your kids do something with what they learned.*

DISCUSSION

- Why did the disciples need to pick a new member for their team?
- How did the disciples decide who to choose and what was his name?
- Who helps us do God's work?
- According to I John 5:12-13, who can have eternal life?
- How can you help a friend find Jesus?
- What stops you from being coached by the Holy Spirit?
- How can you allow Jesus to coach you?

RESPONSE | Geared Up for God

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the Geared Up printable (Or have your family sketch a large gear on a few pieces of paper), pencils, scissors, and crayons or markers. Inside the first gear, have them write one thing they could do for God when they're older. Inside the second gear, have them write one thing they could do for God this week. Let them color then cut out their gears. Put up the gears on a wall, making sure you interlock them with neighboring gears ([like this](#)).*
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** *Give each preteen about 6-8 half-size gears. Let them think of 3-4 ideas for each category and write each of them down. Give each of them a piece of poster paper, and have them create their own arrangement of gears.*
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Cut the gears in advance for the kids or use a [perforator](#) to trace the gears and have them tear the paper along those lines.*
- **THE BIG IDEA!** The Holy Spirit helps us do God's work.
- **EXPLAIN:** Think about yourself in the future – if you knew you could do one thing for God when you grow up, what would you want to do? Maybe you would . . .
 - Care for people who are sick.
 - Be a part of a group that helps orphans find families.
 - Become a teacher.
 - Take care of parks and other outdoor spaces.
 - Be a first responder.
 - Become a mom or a dad.
 - Help people who don't have permanent homes.
 - Listen to people who are hurting.
 - Invent a solution for a big problem.
- **SAY:** But wait – we don't have to wait until the future to do God's work. **What is one thing you can do for God right now?**
- **SAY:** The Holy Spirit gives us all our own unique gifts and abilities. To do something big for God, we don't have to be a pastor or have the entire Bible memorized. We can all do God's work in whatever we do, especially since the Holy Spirit helps us every step of the way!





