



The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2017-2018)

Lesson #4-35

Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

Last Week

Last week we continued the series on Philippians. Paul reminded the Philippians of the example that Christ set for them.

This Week

Paul closes his letter to the Philippians with a call for them to rejoice because God has been gracious to them.

Story Summary

This week includes two readings. In the first, the Holy Spirit falls on the disciples and allows them to preach the good news to people of all nations and languages. The Spirit is unseen, yet is supporting and encouraging the mission of the disciples. It is breaking down barriers and allowing the message to be shared with people from other nations. In the second reading, Paul calls upon the Philippians to rejoice that God has redeemed them. Paul has repeatedly stated his joy in their devotion, and now calls on them to be joyful and rejoice as well.

The Point

Proclaiming the good news about Jesus Christ is cause for thanksgiving and rejoicing!

Bible Nuts & Bolts

The Holy Spirit

In the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the main characters in the spread of the gospel change from Jesus to the disciples and the believers in the early church. But what is the Holy Spirit? It is compared to fire, wind, and a still small voice. It is the unseen but powerful person in the Trinity that guides and empowers the believers. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit speaks into and is an agent in creation, is an inspiring force for leaders and prophets, and is present in the restoration of Israel. In the New Testament, the Spirit endows Jesus with power as the Messiah, empowers the church for its mission, and imparts the gifts that are needed for ministry to the disciples.

Practice: Prayer

Today we conclude a unit on prayer by focusing on prayers of supplication. These are prayers in which we ask for something. While the intercessory prayers of last week were spoken on behalf of the needs of others, prayers of supplication seek the things we need for ourselves. Share your needs with each other, and pray for your own needs.

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text speak to our theme of Living in Hope?
- ✚ What does this scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7

Blessed to share our hope.

Think back over the year. What has been the Bible story of lesson that has stuck with you the most?

With today's reading, the main Narrative Lectionary comes to an end. But do not stop reading your Bible now, there is so much more to see! Over the next few months, make your own Bible reading plan. Is there a Bible book that caught your attention and you want to read more? Does your congregation have a suggested reading plan for the summer? If nothing else, do an Internet search for daily Bible reading plans and select the one that best fits you.