

# The Promise of the Holy Spirit

## Grades 3–4

May 17th

Scripture Reference: John 14:15–21 Lesson Focus: Faith leads to love!

Today we want to work on making an acrostic poem using your name. So write your name vertically—one letter each line—then think of a word that begins with each letter in your name that describes you.

An example—using the name Melanie—is below.

Mother  
Eager  
Laughing  
Adoring  
Nice  
Intellectual  
Eco-interested

**Can you figure out what an acrostic poem is by looking at the example? Next please take some paper and art supplies to create an acrostic poem using your name. Write your name down the length of the paper and then think of a word that begins with each of the letters in your name and describes you in some way.**

In today's Bible story, Jesus tells his disciples that their love for him will lead to works of love. That's how it works—faith leads to love. "If you love me," Jesus says, "you will keep my commandments."

Jesus' commandments were these: Love God and love your neighbor.

What do you think Jesus means when he says "keep my commandments"?

Sometimes we think that "keeping commandments" means obeying them perfectly. But none of us can do that! And Jesus knew that. Some days we do better than others, but we never manage to love God and each other perfectly. And when we royally mess up, Jesus calls us to try again.

What do you think that word *keep* means? What does it mean to keep a secret?

What does it mean to keep someone in your prayers?

What do you think it might mean to keep commandments?

*Keep* means to "hold dear," to think important, etc. It is more nuanced than "obey."

Let's play a game:

**Let's give ourselves thirty seconds to come up with a list of what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. You can shout out things like "tell others about Jesus" or "love one another." Ready, set, go!** Make a list on chart paper. When you're done, write "Help us, God, to . . ." at the top of the list. **Good job. Now we're going to use those**

ideas for our prayer.

I'll start and say, "Help us, God, to . . . love one another." And then I'll bounce this ball to someone else in our prayer circle and they'll continue the prayer in the same way, but with something different from our list, or with something they think up on their own. Let's try it!

After the ball has been to everyone, the last person gets to bounce it in the middle and say Amen.

We are coming to the end of the Easter season and today's story gives us a hint at the next season. Today's Bible story is part of a speech that Jesus gives. Jesus knows that soon he will be killed and won't be with his disciples anymore. So he makes a long speech in the Gospel of John and tries to tell them everything they need to know before he dies. Then he prays for them. Our text today comes from that speech. Jesus is promising his disciples that although he will soon be gone, God's Holy Spirit will be with them. The church's next season is Pentecost, the season in which we celebrate God's Spirit with us.

You paint something that represents what you hear. It may be a certain thing or things that you paint, or your painting may be more abstract. Take your time. Keep quiet as you work on your art. Then you can show each other our paintings at the end. Read John 14:15–21 several times, very slowly.

Find a place to display this artwork when it is dry. Title the gallery "The Promise of the Holy Spirit."

### **Random Acts of Love:**

**So our Bible Memory Verse is** *If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

**Jesus' commandments were these: Love God and love your neighbor. Those two things are what Jesus wants us to do. When we believe in Jesus, we're called to love others—he loved us so much that we have love to share!**

**When Jesus talks about love, he isn't talking about love as a feeling. He talks about love as an action—love is something you *do* .**

**Think about your traditions of doing "random acts of love."**

**What do you think random acts of love are?** (*nice things, kind actions, helping hands, fun surprises, etc.*)

**When God's spirit comes, it moves us to faith. Faith always leads us to love. We *Spirit* . We have packed a lot into today. God help us do all of the things we are called to do as followers of Jesus—all of those loving things our faith leads us to do. We thank you God for all of the wonderful loving things that people do for us. Amen**