

JESUS' STATEMENTS ABOUT THE HOLY GHOST

Objective

The children learn about the basic nature and effects of the Holy Ghost.

Contents

- Statements about the Holy Ghost
(John 14:16–17, 26;
John 16:12–14).
- How we experience the activity of the Holy Ghost.



Introductory Remarks

1 The Holy Ghost as Part of God's Trinity

The Holy Ghost is part of God's trinity: God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

In his farewell discourses, Jesus promises to send the Holy Ghost, which he describes as

- the Spirit of truth,

John 14:16–17:

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 16:13:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

- the comforter (in the Greek text the word *parakletos*, meaning “helper, one called to the side of”, is used),

John 14:26:

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

- a teacher (cf. John 14:26),

- the testifying Spirit,

John 15:26:

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”

- one who reveals and proclaims (see John 16:13 above), and

- the power from on high.

Luke 24:49:

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”

Acts 1:8:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

2 The Holy Ghost – God’s Gift to Man

In addition, the Holy Ghost is the gift dispensed upon man through the Holy Sealing. Receiving the Holy Ghost is part of the rebirth of water and Spirit, and the indispensable prerequisite for a long-term relationship with Christ (cf. John 3:5). The Holy Spirit is the pledge of eternal glory (cf. Ephesians 1:13–14).

In the Old Covenant, people called by God were at times filled with the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Ghost came down visibly upon the Lord Jesus during his baptism in the river Jordan. Although Christ is the son of God, as a human being he had to receive the Holy Ghost. Regarding this it says in the letter to the Hebrews, *“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren”* (John 2:17).

The Holy Ghost was poured out upon the approximately 120 faithful who were together in one accord at Pentecost, following Christ’s ascension. From that time on, it was dispensed through prayer and laying on of hands of a living Apostle upon those who had come to believe.

This lesson is to be restricted to portraying the characteristics of the Holy Ghost, on the one hand; on the other, to describing its effects on those who possess it. For this, most of the Bible passages referenced above will be taken up.

Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1,
Discussion

The children work on exercise 1. With the help of John 16:7, discuss the fact that Jesus pointed out to his disciples that he would leave them. Give the children time to imagine the disciples’ reactions.

Implementation

To his disciples, the Lord Jesus was more than a good friend. They loved and honoured their lord and master. That is why they were sad about the fact that he would leave them. In the past, he had explained many things to them and had answered their questions. Who would teach them if he would no longer be with them?

Jesus gave his disciples an answer. A child reads the following aloud:

Bible

John 16:13–14:

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

Discussion

Together with the children, consider what is meant here by “truth”. The Lord Jesus is only marginally interested in earthly things and their explanation. His priority was the truth about God’s plan of salvation, which is to be revealed through the Holy Ghost.

Teacher’s Presentation

It is similar with references to the future. The Holy Ghost’s aim is not to foretell our personal future, but rather to proclaim what is provided for in God’s plan of salvation. The most important thing the Holy Ghost emphasizes today, is Christ’s return and our future life with God.

Discussion

Consider with the children, if and how the activity of the Holy Ghost can be experienced today. The children exchange personal experiences:

- The Holy Spirit inspires the word proclaimed in the divine service, thereby giving us insights into the workings of God.
- In the divine services we truly feel personally addressed. We receive answers to questions and realize that even very personal affairs of the heart are addressed.
- We experience the power of the Holy Ghost within us.
- We are reminded about Christ’s return again and again.
- We feel secure and at peace.

Teacher’s Presentation

The Holy Ghost reminds us again and again that we are God’s children. Regarding this a child reads the following aloud:

Bible

Romans 8:16:
“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God...”

If people are bearers of the Holy Ghost, this should have an effect on their lives. Apostle Paul speaks about the fruit of the Spirit. A child reads the following aloud:

Bible

Galatians 5:22–23:
“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Conclusion

Workbook, Exercise 2

The children work on exercise 2 and talk about the referenced qualities.

Notes
