

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 16  
The Holy Spirit

Scripture: Mark 1:9-11; John 1:6-34; 20:26-31; I John 5:5-13

Objects to have:

Your birth certificate, or something to look like a birth certificate  
A dove cut out of poster board. Fasten a string to his back so that he can “fly.”  
A scenic picture of a body of water with trees, etc.  
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Hold up the birth certificate.) I know what this is. This is a birth certificate. This certificate was given to my mother and daddy when I was born. On this certificate was written the name of the place where I was born, my name, and the date when I was born. This piece of paper proves who I am and how old I am.

John the Baptist was a man who lived during the time when Jesus was on earth. We read about John the Baptist in the Bible. John the Baptist was born, grew up from being a baby to being a boy and then grew to be a man. When John the Baptist became a man, God called him to be a preacher. God said to John the Baptist, “You must be a preacher. You must tell people about My Son. Tell the people that they will see My Son very soon. They should get ready to meet Him.”

John the Baptist had not seen Jesus yet. He was supposed to introduce Him to the people. John the Baptist knew that Jesus had come from Heaven and that He looked like a man. There were many men that John the Baptist did not know. There were many people who were strangers to John the Baptist. Since John the Baptist had never seen Jesus, he wondered how he would know which Man was He. God said that He would give John the Baptist a sign that would let him know which Man was Jesus. The sign would be something like a birth certificate.

Telling the story:

John the Baptist was outside preaching. Some people were standing still and some were sitting on the ground, listening to John the Baptist as he preached. He was saying, “Be sorry for your sins. The Son of God is coming soon. If you are sorry for your sins and you have asked for forgiveness, come and be baptized.” Since they were outside, where was the baptistery? There wasn't a baptistery, but there was a river called the Jordan River.

Many men and women came to be baptized. John the Baptist did not know the names of the men. He was probably wondering when he would see Jesus.

The special day finally came, but John the Baptist did not know it right away. He woke up in the morning, got washed, dressed, and ate some breakfast. Then he was ready to go out again to preach to the many, many people who came to hear him.

The people came from their houses to stand and listen to him as he preached in the fields outside. (Hold your scenic picture for the children to see.) Near the place where they were standing was the Jordan River. It must have been a pretty place. The birds were probably singing from the treetops. The small waves from the river were gently breaking on the sand and going back out to the river again. The breeze was no doubt very gentle. John the Baptist had to speak with a loud voice so that the people standing there could hear him. “Be sorry for your sins. The Son of God will be coming soon.”

At the close of John the Baptist's sermon, a Man came from the crowd. He walked toward John the Baptist. He said, "I would like to be baptized by you." The Man stepped down into the water with John. John put his hand behind the head of the Man; he dipped the Man back down into the water until the Man was completely covered with the water. Then John raised the Man back up out of the water.

Immediately a strange thing happened! A beautiful white dove (pick up the dove by the string so that it can "fly") flew down and lit on the shoulder of the Man. (Let your dove light on your shoulder.) Then a Voice was heard! John the Baptist was not speaking. The Man Who was just baptized was not speaking. No person in the crowd of people was speaking. This Voice was from Heaven. It said, "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*" Oh, that Voice was the Voice of God the Father. This was the sign that John the Baptist was waiting for! This was the sign telling him that this Man was truly Jesus, the Son of God. The dove that had landed on the shoulder of Jesus was really the Holy Spirit who had made Himself into the form of a dove. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit were telling everybody that Jesus was God the Son.

John said, "Why did you come to be baptized of me, Jesus? I should have been baptized by You."

Jesus said, "I wanted to be baptized so that I could keep all the commandments in the Bible." There was no doubt after that in the mind of John the Baptist Who Jesus was.

There was another time that people who had loved Jesus had to be sure that He was Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, His friends saw Him die. His friends saw His body placed in the tomb. After three days went by, Jesus rose from the dead. In His new body, however, He did not look exactly like He did before His crucifixion. His friends had to know that it was Jesus Who had risen from the dead.

They said, "How do we know that You are really Jesus?" Jesus showed to them the wounds in His hands where the nails had been. He showed them His feet, and they could see the wounds in His feet where other nails had been driven. He showed them His side where the soldier's sword had gone through. The Bible says that in many other ways Jesus proved to His friends Who He was. These many other ways are not written in the Bible.

The Bible tells us that if we trust in Jesus as our Saviour, we are saved. If we are saved, we become children of God. We will go to Heaven someday. How do we know that we really get saved by trusting in Jesus? A Voice does not talk out loud to let us know. God talks to our hearts and lets us know that we are saved. If we have accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we know deep down inside that we are saved and that we will go to Heaven when we die. God lets us know this.

It is wonderful that God does not make us wonder about these things. He lets us know Who Jesus is. God lets us know that we are saved after we have asked Jesus to be our Saviour. The Holy Spirit lets us know these things in our hearts.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: John 14:26, "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost...shall teach you all things....*"