



## The Promise

By Deborah Wassenberg

*David Walters coined the phrase, 'Children do not have a junior Holy Spirit!' The Holy Spirit is not just an 'influence', but a person. He is a promise from Father God to every believer no matter how old they are!*

### You Tube Song Suggestions:

- We Came to Meet with You (Hillsong Kids)
- Zeal (chapelhill kids)
- You Make Me Brave (Mannahouse Kids)

### Bible Lesson:

**Suggested Visuals:** for PowerPoint presentation or Flashcards:

- Visual 1: Puppy in a box or a Birthday party
- Visual 2: Children around a swimming pool
- Visual 3: Child with sad face
- Visual 4: Jesus with His disciples
- Visual 5: The Ascension
- Visual 6: Pictures of the Holy Spirit helping (Bible reading, witnessing etc.)
- Visual 7: Upper Room on the day of Pentecost
- Visual 8: Peter preaching to the crowd
- Visual 9: Jesus and the words: Promise Kept!

### Words:

- 1: Do you know what a promise is?  
A promise is a declaration (a formal statement) that you will definitely DO something.  
Sometimes your Mum or Dad will promise you things.  
'I promise to take you to Wet and Wild.' (Water Park)  
'I promise to buy you a puppy.'  
'I promise you can have a birthday party this year.'  
It's so exciting when you hear those words because it's a promise and you know it will happen.
- 2: Sometimes people promise they will NOT DO something.  
'I promise **not** to push you into the swimming pool.'

- 3: What happens if someone doesn't keep their promise to you?  
You'd feel upset.  
You'd say, 'But you promised...'  
Because you know a promise is something that should be kept!  
That's why it's important you don't make a promise you can't keep.  
We need to think about the words we say.  
If we make promises and don't keep them we're lying.  
People will think we're not to be trusted because we don't mean what we say.
- 4: The wonderful thing about Jesus is that He keeps every promise He makes!  
He can be trusted!  
He said, 'Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.'  
*(John 14:1)*  
Did you know Jesus made a **promise** to His disciples?  
He said to them: 'If you love me, obey my commandments.  
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,  
who will never leave you.  
He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth.'  
*(John 4:15-17)*
- 5: Jesus didn't want His disciples to be alone when He returned to Heaven.  
So He **promised** them the Holy Spirit.  
Before returning to Heaven, Jesus gathered His disciples together.  
He told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the **Promise** of the Father,  
He'd told them about. *(Acts 1:4-14)*
- 6: Jesus knew how much the Holy Spirit would help Christians every day.  
Help us obey God.  
Help us by convicting us of sin (knowing when we have done the wrong thing so we can ask to be forgiven).  
Help us live our life for God by being more like Jesus.  
Help us understand the Bible.  
Help us pray.  
Help us witness and tell others about Jesus.
- 7: On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.  
Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm,  
and it filled the house where they were sitting.  
Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.  
And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. *(Acts 1:1-11)*

- 8: The people in Jerusalem were amazed!  
Peter preached to the crowd.  
'Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.'  
When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter,  
'Brothers, what shall we do?'  
Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
**The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off** – for all whom the Lord our God will call.' (*Acts 2:1-; 37-41*)
- 9: Jesus **promised** the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit came!  
The **promise** made to the disciples was kept.  
The **promise** made to the people who repented in Jerusalem was kept.  
The **promise** made to all who are far off (that's us) has been kept.  
That same **promise** is still being kept because you can be filled with the Holy Spirit today!

## Ministry to the Children:

Jesus said our Father in Heaven will give us the Holy Spirit if we ask Him. (*Luke 11:13*)  
**He's** a promise!

### Step 1: Salvation

- Repent and believe: be born again, a new creation. (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- Now you're ready to receive the Holy Spirit! (*Acts 8:14-17; Acts 11:15-17; Acts 19:1-6*)

### Step 2: Speaking in Tongues

- It's God's will for you to receive the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues.  
(*Acts 2:38-39*) God's will for ALL. That's kids, too. (*Acts 2:17*)
- Believe that He gives when you ask. (*Luke 11:9-13; Mark 11:24*)  
Ask the Holy Spirit himself. He's been sent here for you!
- The evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.  
(*Acts 2:1-4; Acts 10:44-46*)
- Speak as the Holy Spirit gives you the words. (*1 Corinthians 14:15*).  
The Holy Spirit will give you the words but it's your job to SAY them out loud.  
If your head says, 'That sounds silly,' don't listen. Keep speaking! Be willing, obedient and use your faith. (*Ephesians 5:18-19*)

*Ask the children to repeat this prayer after you:* Father, in Jesus name, you promised you'd send the Holy Spirit. I ask you to send Him to me right now. Holy Spirit, I receive you. I ask you to come upon me and fill me. I ask you to give me the words and I'll begin to speak now.

## Memory Verse: Joel 2:28

'..I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.'

### Actions:

I will:	point to heaven and nod
pour out:	pouring motion like tipping water from a large jug
my Spirit:	move hands side to side past each other and upwards like flames
on all people:	arms out wide encompassing everyone
Your sons and daughters:	pat the top of the heads of lots of little children
will prophesy:	point to mouth
Your old men:	Stoop over
will dream dreams:	pretend to sleep
and your young men:	stand up tall and strong
will see visions:	shade eyes with one hand and look to the horizon
Joel 2:	hold up two fingers
28:	hold up two fingers followed by two again and then eight

## Game: Bucket Brigade

Teams line up with a bucket of water at the head of the team and an empty bucket at the end of the team. On the signal, the first member fills up his cup with water from the bucket. He then pours this water into the cup of the second player. This player pours the water from his cup into that of the next player, and so on down the line until the last player empties his cup into the empty bucket. Meanwhile, the first member continues sending down cups of water as rapidly as possible. The object is to be the first team to empty the full bucket, cup by cup, down the line to the other bucket.

## Craft: Sign 'Come Holy Spirit'

*Children make a sign to hang up in their room to remind them of the day they were filled with the Holy Spirit. You'll find examples of 'name' signs on the internet for more decorating ideas.*

You will need:

- Thick cardboard (30cm long x 15cm wide) hole punch in top two corners
- Words: 'Come Holy Spirit' printed on white card to glue to the thick cardboard (leave enough room for a date)

- Ribbon, raffia or twine (to hang sign up)
- Glue
- Felt pens
- Collage items to decorate (sequins, foam shapes, feathers, stickers, bows)

What to do:

- Use felt pens to colour in words 'Come Holy Spirit' (and add the date)
- Stick words to the thick cardboard
- Decorate the sign with collage items
- Tie length of ribbon, raffia or twine, from one top corner of the cardboard to the other
- Children hang the sign in your room as a reminder of the day they received the Promise!