
Sermon of the Week

Jesus Gives Us the Comforter



Theme: The Holy Spirit is our comforter.

Object: An oscillating fan and pieces of crepe streamer - one per child

Scripture: John 14:16

Set up the fan to move and blow over the children. Hand each of the children a piece of streamer to hold as you talk. Allow them to hold it up into the wind when it comes their way.

Today we are going to talk about something you can't see, but you know it's there.

Pretend to just begin feeling the wind. Act surprised and unaware of what you're feeling and what the source of the wind is.

Do you feel that? What is it and where is it coming from? (Allow kids to answer, but keep asking them to provide facts and proof of this wind they do not see.)

So you're convinced there is wind here even though you don't see it? We can't see the wind, but we sure see what it's doing, don't we? I see it blowing some of your streamers, some of your hair is moving, and I also feel much cooler than I did before.

Do you know what this reminds me of in the Bible? (Allow kids to guess.) I'll give you a hint: It's an amazing gift left for us when Jesus returned to heaven to be with His Father. Do you know what it is now? (Allow kids to guess.)

Jesus promised us a helper and that helper is the Holy Spirit. We don't see the Holy Spirit because He lives inside of those of us who make Jesus our Lord and Savior. But just like the wind from the fan today, even though we can't see the Holy Spirit, we know that He brings comfort and help to us.

God, even though we can't see You, we know You are real. We also know Your Holy Spirit is real. Thank You for the comfort You bring us through the gift of Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.

Showing Our Love for Jesus



Theme: Obeying the commands of Jesus shows our love for him.

Object: A Bible

Scripture: "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." John 14:21 (NIV)

How many of you have a pet? What kind of pet do you have? (Give the children a chance to answer.) When I was a child, I had a pet parakeet named Pete. I spent hours playing with Pete and even taught him to talk. He would say, "Pete's a pretty bird. Pretty boy, pretty boy." We usually left the door to Pete's cage open during the day. When I walked in the door after school, Pete would fly to me and land on my shoulder. I loved that bird! Do you know how I showed Pete that I loved him? I took care him. I made sure that his cage was kept clean. I made sure that he had plenty of food and water. One of the most important ways I showed my love was by spending time with him.

Now, if I came over to your house and watched you and your pet together, how could I tell that you love your pet? What kind of things do you do to show your love? (Give the children a chance to answer: petting, feeding, grooming, bathing, walking, etc.) It is important to remember that it isn't enough to say you love your pet. Loving isn't something you say, it is something you show by the things you do. It is the a way you act toward someone or something.

Now, let me ask you a question. Do you love Jesus? How does Jesus know that you love him? What can you do to show Jesus that you love him? That is a hard question to answer, isn't it?

In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus gives his disciples the answer to that question. Jesus said, "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them."

It isn't enough just to say we love Jesus. Instead, we have to show God our love by DOING the right things – just like you show your love to your pets and your parents and your friends.

So, what are some things we can do to show our love for Jesus? The Bible is a good place to find the answer. I have listed a few ways that I found, perhaps you can think of some more.

1. Love one another (John 13:34-35)
2. Worship him (Luke 4:8)
3. Tell others about Jesus (Acts 1:8)
4. Talk to him daily in prayer (Matthew 26:41)
5. Read his Word (Psalm 119:11)
6. Forgive others as you forgive us (Matthew 6:15)

Heavenly Father, we are quick to tell you that we love you — but we know that we need to show our love too. Help us to show our love for — just as you show your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

We Are the Sermon



Theme: You are the only sermon some people will ever "hear."

Object: None needed, but you could use a picture of Roy Rogers.

Scripture: "If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:15-17 (NIV)

A long time ago—before any of you were even born—movie theaters often had a Saturday afternoon movie for children. Each week children would go to the theater and watch a great movie. Some of the more popular ones were the cowboy movies starring the great cowboys like Roy Rogers. (Show the picture of Roy Rogers.) Each week, right at the moment when the hero was in a very dangerous situation and it looked like he was a "goner" for sure, the movie would suddenly stop and on the screen flashed the words, "To be continued...." Oh no! Now the children would have to wait until the next Saturday to find out how the hero was going to get out of this mess. The next Saturday, the movie would review what had happened the week before, so that if someone had missed it, they would understand what was going on.

This week's Bible lesson is a bit like one of those Saturday movies. It is actually last week's lesson continued. In case some of you missed last week's lesson, let me explain what happened. Jesus was trying to comfort his disciples. He knew that he would soon return to heaven and his disciples would be left alone. "Don't worry" he told them, "I am going to prepare a place for you, but I will come again, and when I do, you will come and be with me." The disciples didn't fully understand, so in this week's lesson, Jesus continues... "If you love me, you will do what I have taught you and I will ask the Father to send a helper who will never leave you." The helper that Jesus was talking about is the Holy Spirit. Jesus asked the Father and he sent the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us to follow Jesus and obey his teachings.

You know, when we try to explain how the Holy Spirit leads us day by day, most people can't understand it. Jesus said, "The world can't accept it because they don't know him and they can't see him." Do you know what they can see? They can see how you and I treat other people. They see when we are generous, loving, caring, helpful, and kind. I have heard it said, "You are the only sermon some people will ever hear." That is what you and I need to remember, we are the sermon, the only sermon some people will ever hear.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." What did Jesus tell us to do? He said, "Love one another as I have loved you." Then he asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to help us. When others see how knowing Jesus has changed the way we treat other people, then they will want to know him too.

Father, as the Holy Spirit leads us day by day, help us to follow and to obey. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.