

PARENTS' PAGE LESSON 28: New Beginnings

Timeless Truth: The Holy Spirit helps God's people to spread Jesus' love.

Bible Basis: Acts 1:2-11, 2:1-6, 23-24, 32-33, 42-47, 8:4-8, 9:1-9, 17-19

Key Verse: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in languages they had not known. The Spirit gave them the ability to do this" (Acts 2:4).

Resource: *The Story: Teen Edition, The Story for Kids/Children/Little Ones: Chapter 28*

Parent Tips:

Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity encourages your family to plan a garage sale to benefit people who are struggling in your church. The Extra Mile introduces your family to Team Hoyt who epitomize sacrifice and love.

Get the Point:

Preschool: God gives his people the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can live inside me.

Elementary: God gives his people the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can live inside me.

Middle/High School: Through his gift of the Holy Spirit, God gives the apostles the power and ability to spread the message of Jesus.

Table Talk

Preschool/Elementary

- When the disciples preached about Jesus and people saw the truth, the believers started eating and praying together. The Bible says they "shared everything." Do you think this was hard for Jesus' followers?
- What would be the hardest thing for you to share?
- Why did the early Christians help each other out so much?
- Do you think Christians still look for ways to share with each other?
- This chapter of *The Story* says Jesus' followers had hearts that were "glad and honest and true." How do you think they showed that?
- Talk a little about being glad, honest and true. If you could always live that way, how do you think people would look at you?

Note: Young readers will enjoy "God Sends Help" and "A New Way to See" on pages 326-341 in *the Jesus Storybook Bible*.

Middle/High School

- This chapter contains a powerful verse that says, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved." What does that mean?
- People try to earn salvation in many other ways. What are some areas where people try to save themselves?

- As faith grew in the early church, so did persecution. Peter and John were beaten and arrested. Stephen was stoned to death. Why didn't Christ's followers just give up and hide?
- Why do you think faith thrives when there is persecution?
- Saul led the persecution against the Christians until he met (and was blinded) by Jesus Christ. Would you have trusted Saul after he said he was a believer?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to save Saul instead of having him walk off a cliff?
- Do you think being a Christian is too easy where you live? What's the hardest part?

Living Faith

The early church cared and provided for each other. That's an example we can follow today. All churches have families that need a hand. To help your church body, have family members go through their rooms to find items to sell. If you want to take this idea to the next level, coordinate with your church. Encourage your congregation to bring donated items to the church or your home (if you have a place to store them). Help host a garage sale in your church parking lot or your neighborhood. You can put details of where to bring donations in the church bulletin or ask the pastor to make an announcement.

Once you've gathered items, figure out a date for the sale. An ad in the local newspapers, signs on the road or a mention on craigslist can get the word out. Make sure the people buying the goods know that all the money is going to help less fortunate families. Encourage your family to get involved by organizing items and manning tables. Coordinate with other families at church. Many hands make light work, so get as many people involved as possible.

With some planning and a lot of effort, your family can reach out in a tangible way to your church. You can make a difference!

Extra Mile

Believers in the early church sacrificed for each other. Rich people sold their land and helped the poor. Strong people defended and protected the weak. Two brothers can teach everybody something about real caring. Go to YouTube and watch "Sports Illustrated Kids 2012 SportsKids of the Year: Conner and Cayden Long (OFFICIAL)" (4:42).

Answer these questions. Is Conner a hero? Who benefits more, Conner or Cayden? What one lesson do you want to take away and apply to your own life? What does their story teach you about unconditional love?