

# Send St. Louis

Kids learning to live life on mission

## Lesson: Empty on the Inside

Items needed:

- 3-leaf clover
- Bible
- U.S. map

## Lesson Objective

Children will learn that when people ask Jesus to be Lord of their lives, He sends the Holy Spirit to live inside them to teach them about God and to guide them in life. They will learn that many churches in St. Louis are empty because the people of St. Louis are empty. They do not have the Holy Spirit living inside them.

**Background Passages:** John 14:15-26; John 15:26-16:33

## Bible Verse:

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you” (John 14:26, NKJV).

## Lesson

Study the background passages above to gain a context for the information you are about to share.

Ask the children if they have heard of the Holy Spirit. If some have, invite them to share what they know about Him. Tell them that the Bible tells us that God is one, but He has three distinct persons—God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit.

Hold up the three-leaf clover. Help them see that the clover has three distinct parts, but it is still one leaf. The Trinity is sort of like that, but not exactly. This is one of the mysteries of God and difficult to understand. But we don’t have to understand it to believe it is true. Today you will be talking about the Person of the Holy Spirit.

Tell the children the following in your own words:

Jesus knew that He would soon be crucified and was giving His twelve apostles instructions and telling them what was to come. They were having a difficult time understanding what He was telling them because they were thinking of physical, earthly things, but Jesus was talking about heavenly, spiritual things.

He told them that He would soon be going to God the Father and that it was good for Him to go because God would send a Helper (the Holy Spirit) to guide them in all truth. (Read John 14:26.)

They didn’t understand that the Helper would come after Jesus died, was resurrected and had ascended into heaven. How could they? They had never experienced any of that before meeting Jesus.

And everything happened just as Jesus told them. Jesus died on the cross and things looked hopeless until He was raised from the dead. Then, after spending time with people on earth for 40 days, He told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait for the

Holy Spirit. Then He went back up into heaven. Ten days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and gave them powers never before seen. He came to live inside them to help them understand and remember all the things Jesus had told them. They relied on the Holy Spirit to show them what to do and to give them the power to do it.

Today, when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, it is actually the Holy Spirit who comes into our hearts. His job is to help us become more like Jesus and to help us carry out God's will. He fills us with the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

Aren't those good things to be full of? Isn't it a good thing to have the Holy Spirit living inside us? People who don't have the Spirit are empty inside. They don't have the Spirit inside them to help them understand God or to accept and follow Jesus. They don't even want to go to church.

*Transition to talking about St. Louis.*

There is a city in Missouri that has lots of churches, but they are empty inside. The city is St. Louis. (Show them on the map where St. Louis is in relation to where you are.) The church buildings are empty inside because so many of the people living there are empty inside. If you had 10 friends in St. Louis, only you and maybe one more person would have the Holy Spirit as a Helper. That is not very many, is it? God wants all people to have the Holy Spirit living inside them. When people aren't being guided by the Holy Spirit, they may do many wrong, mean things, and they are very unhappy.

Church planter missionaries are moving to St. Louis to help people learn about and accept Jesus. Other churches are helping them go. They want all people in St. Louis to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and we should want that, too.

*At this point, you may want to show the video [namb.net/video/noah-oldham-empty-on-the-inside](http://namb.net/video/noah-oldham-empty-on-the-inside) and do the video recall activity.*

### **Action**

What actions can we take to help the people in St. Louis want to know Jesus? (Let the children offer some suggestions.) Here are some more things we can do:

1. Pray that the people in St. Louis will seek God and invite the Holy Spirit to live inside them.
2. Pray that many people will go to St. Louis to plant churches so more people living there can have a church family.
3. Pray for the church planters and their families. (Go to [namb.net/send-cities/stlouis](http://namb.net/send-cities/stlouis) for a list of church planters in St. Louis.)
4. Support ministry in St. Louis through our generous offerings.
5. Prepare ourselves in case the Holy Spirit guides us to one day serve God in St. Louis.

Close in prayer, inviting a child to pray for the items mentioned above.

*For articles, video and more information on Send St. Louis, go to [namb.net/send-cities/stlouis](http://namb.net/send-cities/stlouis).*