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# The Gift of Jesus



*Whom does your child most like to spend time with? In the activity below, help your child describe what is special about that person. Then share what you believe is special about Jesus. Encourage your child to do the same on the lines provided.*

## Who Is Special to Me?

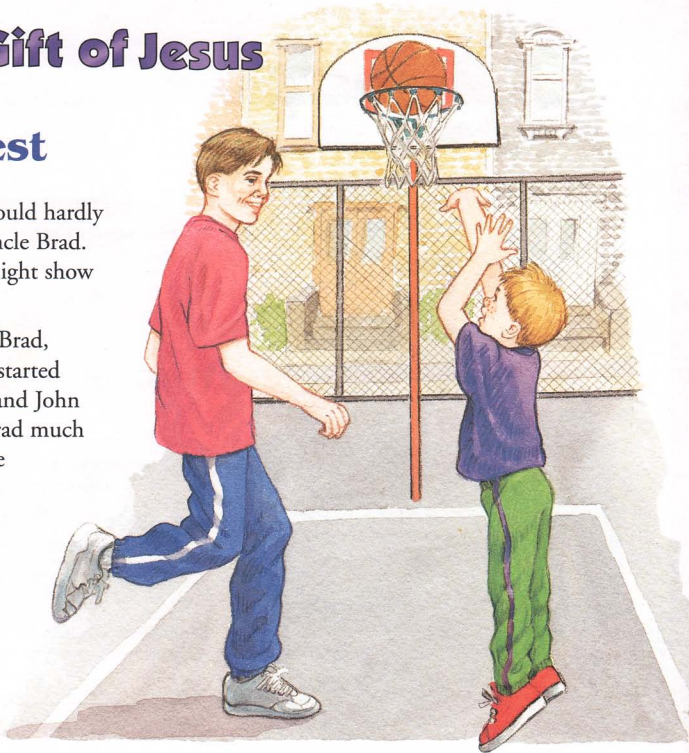
1. \_\_\_\_\_ is very special  
to me because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus is special to me because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

# The Gift of Jesus

## A Special Guest

John was so excited! He could hardly wait to play basketball with Uncle Brad. John hoped that Uncle Brad might show him some new moves.

John's mom was happy too. Brad, her youngest brother, had just started college in the town where she and John lived. They would get to see Brad much more now. She wanted to make his visit very special. She asked John for his ideas.





“Let’s make a chocolate peanut-butter cake,” John suggested. “It’s Uncle Brad’s favorite.” “Great idea!” Mom agreed. “He’ll like that a lot!” John smiled. “Can I help?”

As John and his mom prepared the peanut-butter cake, they remembered the last time they had tried to make a cake together. They had put in too many eggs by mistake. What a mess they had made! This time they were more careful. Still, they were having a wonderful time preparing for their very special guest.

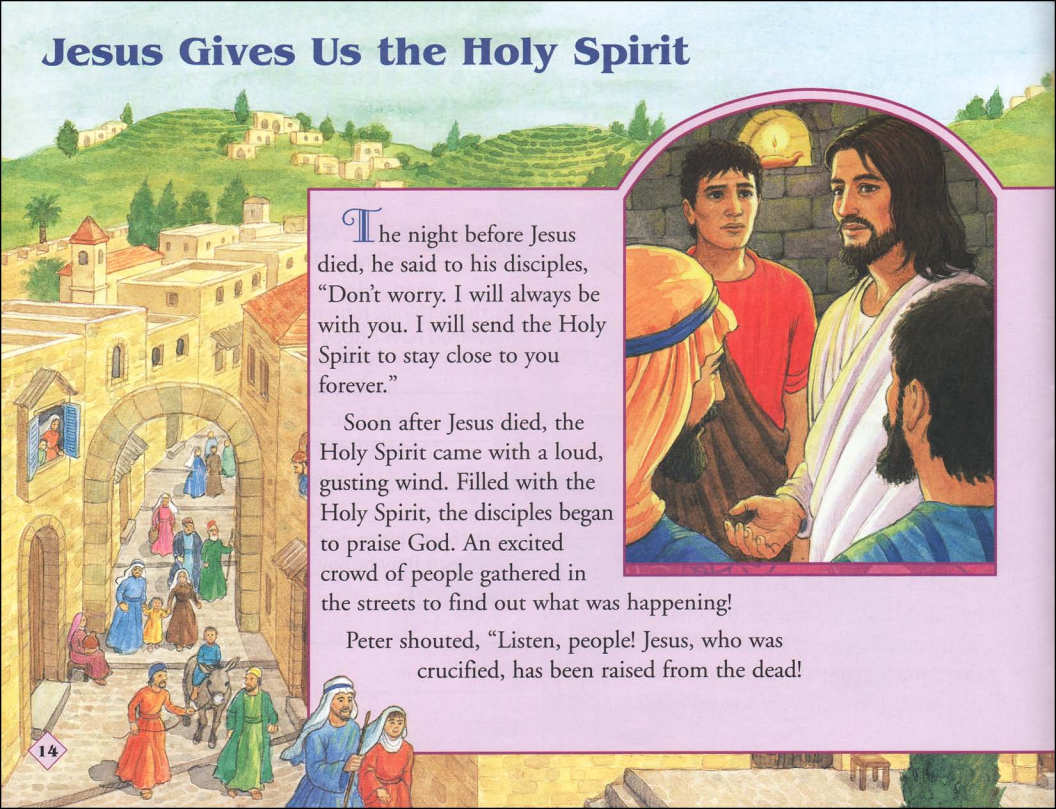
List three things John might say or do to show Brad how happy he is about Brad’s visit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What three things might you say or do to show Jesus how happy you are to be his friend and follower?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

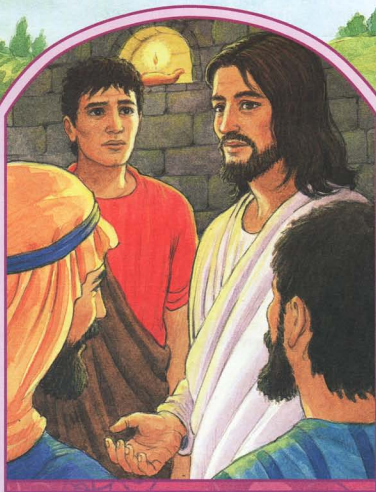
# Jesus Gives Us the Holy Spirit

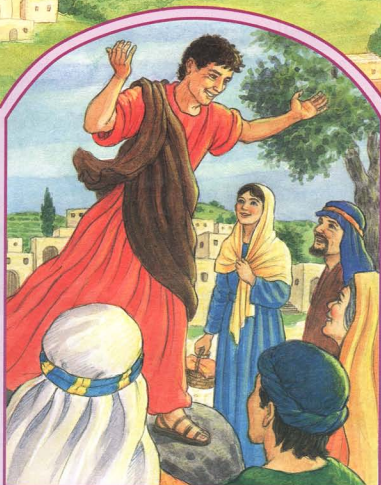
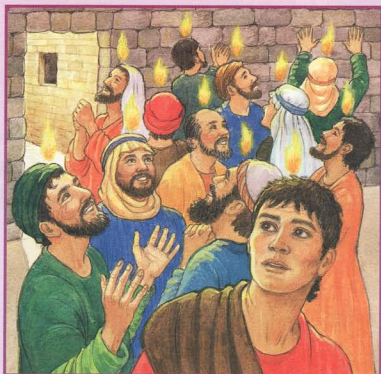


The night before Jesus died, he said to his disciples, "Don't worry. I will always be with you. I will send the Holy Spirit to stay close to you forever."

Soon after Jesus died, the Holy Spirit came with a loud, gusting wind. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the disciples began to praise God. An excited crowd of people gathered in the streets to find out what was happening!

Peter shouted, "Listen, people! Jesus, who was crucified, has been raised from the dead!"





Believe in him! Repent! Be baptized! Your sins will be forgiven! Receive the Holy Spirit!” Excited by Peter’s words, many people were baptized that day.

*Based on John 15:16, Matthew 28:20, and Acts 2*

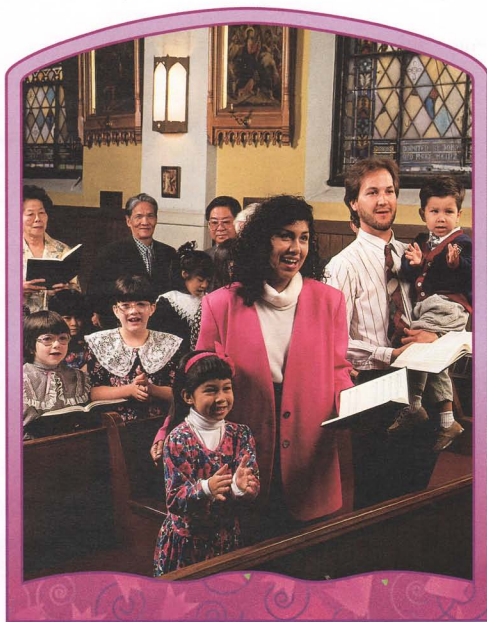
# Life for the Church

Just as the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers with wonder and praise at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fills us with new life today! One of the ways the Holy Spirit brings new life to the Church today is in the sacraments.

In Baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us new life in Jesus. We become members of the Church. We are part of God's family.

In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit makes our Baptismal faith stronger. We will learn to share our faith in Jesus by serving others. The Holy Spirit helps us tell others about Jesus' love.

In the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit changes our gifts of bread and wine into the gifts of Jesus' Body and Blood. The Holy Spirit also changes us. The Holy Spirit helps us unite with Jesus. Together we give God our lives and our love. We grow closer to God and one another. We show the world the love of Jesus who died on the cross for us.



As Catholics, we try to live the same way Jesus did. We can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us. The Holy Spirit helps us make good choices that keep us close to God and one another. We call this holiness.

Sometimes we say or do things that turn us away from God and others who love us. We call this sin.



When we have hurt one another, the Holy Spirit helps heal our friendships. Reconciliation is a sacrament of healing. In the Holy Spirit, we can hope that God will make things right again.



Unscramble the letters in the flames to complete the three words below. Use the words to begin a prayer. Invite the Holy Spirit to bring new life to your family, school, and parish. Share your prayer with a classmate or family member.

C    \_    \_    \_ ,  
H    \_    \_    \_  
S    \_    \_    \_    \_

# Living in the Spirit

Living in the Spirit means following Jesus and believing Jesus is with us. It also means celebrating the sacraments with the family of the Church and listening to God in prayer.

Jesus is with us today through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Grace is the gift of God's love and presence in our lives that helps us live as Jesus taught.

We ask the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. When we sin, the Holy Spirit helps us to be sorry. When we make good choices, the Holy Spirit helps us to be holy.



Check each item below that someone who is living in the Spirit might say.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. "I know that God loves me."  | <input type="checkbox"/> 4. "God is too busy to care for me."    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. "I pray to Jesus every day." | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. "People at my parish care about me." |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. "Let's be friends again!"    | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. "I will never tell her I'm sorry!"   |

# A Prayer for New Life

Thank you, Father, for your Son, Jesus,  
who died for us.

Thank you, Jesus, for the Holy Spirit,  
who brings us new life.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for guiding us  
and helping to make us holy.

Help us to live as your children, God.

May we receive the gift of new life that  
you promise to all those who live  
in your love.

Amen.

## Family Time

Invite each family member  
to describe how a special  
follower of Jesus he or she  
knows lives a life of  
holiness in the Holy Spirit.

## We Believe

- In his life and death,  
Jesus showed us  
God's love.
- Jesus gives us the  
Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit  
brings us new life.
- In the sacraments,  
the Holy Spirit makes  
us holy.



## We Remember and Celebrate

Today, we remember and celebrate our new life in Christ. God gave us this gift of new life at Baptism. We live this new life in the Holy Spirit, who helps us grow strong in our faith.

God's word tells about helping new life to grow. Let us listen to the story Jesus told about the Sower and the Seed from Matthew 13:3–9. We will respond:

**"The seed that falls on good ground  
will yield a fruitful harvest."**

Come forward to receive a potted flower seed. When we return to our seats, we greet one another with a hug or handshake and say,

**"Be filled with new life!"**

