

Teen Devotion

Year C – Day of Pentecost

Victorious



One truth shared: The Holy Spirit works both in us and through us according to God’s Holy Word.

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:23-27

The Spirit Marches Victorious Through the Word

Shortly before his suffering and death, Jesus encouraged his disciples saying, “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:2-3). He did suffer. He did die. He did come back to life. And—forty days later—he ascended into heaven.

That’s not the end of the story, however. A week and a half after ascending, we see God send his Holy Spirit on Christ’s followers, equipping them for the work that lay ahead for them.

That truth is what we celebrate on the Day of Pentecost. While living at a different time and place, this same Holy Spirit equips us for the work our gracious God has given us to carry out. It was not just to the Twelve, but also the massive crowds of all who call on the name of Jesus as Savior that he said, “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

The Holy Spirit does indeed work both in us and through us according to God’s holy Word. His means of grace—the Gospel found in Scripture and the Sacraments—are the tools that have been given us to both *come* and *see* the goodness of God and then to *go* and *tell* of this goodness to others.

Doing all that can be hard work. Sharing Christ with others can present challenges and pitfalls. In the midst of all of these things, we hear Jesus say to us, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid” (vs. 27).

What a promise these words bring! What assurance! As we close out this series titled “Victorious,” we realize that this is exactly who we are and what we have in Christ Jesus. We need look no further to find this truth than in God’s holy Word, which the Holy Spirit uses to march victorious each and every day of life and for all eternity.

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit. Come into my heart and guide me through my life. Fill me with your holy Word and strengthen me to take on the challenges of this world with the good news of Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

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Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

If given the chance, what would you say are your top three most amazing stories from the Bible?

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they’ve looked at it.*

Take a moment and read to yourself Acts 2:1-41 (or listen as a group to an audio account online). Which aspects of the first Day of Pentecost jump out most to you?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Jesus begins this teaching session to his disciples by saying, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.” How do we react to this statement?
- What promise does Jesus make to his disciples in verse 26? Why is it so important to know that Jesus is also speaking to us with this promise?
- Reread verse 27. What does Jesus promise in this verse? Why is this “peace” so elusive in people’s lives today? How does this peace affect us as we live as children of God in this godless world?
- Let’s discuss some ways the Holy Spirit uses the means of grace (the gospel as it is found in both God’s Word and the sacraments) to fulfill God’s promise to help us grow in our faith through this Word. Then discuss what would happen to your faith if it gets disconnected from the means of grace.
- Look again at the Pentecost account from Acts 2. In what ways did the Holy Spirit equip Christ’s followers to carry out the work Jesus had given them to do?

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the “connecting question” above.*

For Discussion: How can all of us—young and old—better use God’s Word in our lives?