**1. Motivate**

What’s your favorite memory of a parade you’ve watched or attended?

* marched in Memorial Day parades in high school band
* went to see the Rose Bowl parade
* saw parades at Disney World
* watch the parades in color for the first time on neighbor’s TV
* parades for winning team

A video introduction to the lesson is available. Watch at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_67k8h4g3> If you have no   
Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/fbu3skk2>

* parade for returned astronauts
* crazy Mardi Gras parades
* Halloween parades in hometown
* parade for local person who was a hero
* small town parades for county fair

**2. Transition**

These parades all celebrated someone or some particular occasion.

* They magnify that person or event.
* They draw attention to something worth celebrating.
* It is the Holy Spirit’s role to magnify the work of Jesus, to draw attention to Him.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 The Holy Spirit Empowers

Listen for who testifies.

John 15:26-27 (NIV) "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

What did Jesus reaffirm to the disciples?

* He would send the Holy Spirit
* the Spirit of Truth
* He will come from God the Father
* He will testify about Jesus

How is the truth of the union of the Father, Son, and Spirit seen in verse 26?

* Jesus is sending the Spirit
* The Spirit, the Counselor will come
* The Spirit comes from the Father

Why do you think it is important that Jesus called Him the “Spirit of Truth?”

* truth is that which aligns with reality
* there are many ideas and religious concepts floating around out there which *do not* align with reality
* God’s Spirit will make sure we are aware of reality, of Spiritual Truth

The Greek word used for *counselor* has to do with one who “comes along side.” When you hire a counselor, what kind of service do you anticipate? How will they come alongside?

* give good advice
* be with you in a stressful or complicated situation
* be an expert in the field for which he/she counsels
* represent you before others (in court, in a business deal, in a legal proceeding)
* help you solve problems (financial, marital, legal, academic, etc.)

What are ways in which the Holy Spirit testifies/witnesses about Christ?

* He is the Spirit of Truth (*the* Spirit of *the* Truth, much more than someone who hands out “truisms”
* He reveals the Truth
* He gives enlightenment and understanding concerning Scriptures we read and hear
* He empowers believers to communicate the Truth of the Gospel message

What does this have to do with Jesus instruction in verse 27?

* believers must also testify about Jesus
* the Holy Spirit will testify of Jesus to us, we testify of Jesus to others
* God’s Spirit will also testify/speak *through* believers
* He will bring to our minds words of encouragement and challenge
* When we share the Truth of God’s message, the Holy Spirit does the convicting, the convincing of the one who hears the message
* it’s not up to *us* to convince someone about the Gospel message … we are merely the communicators … the Counselor is the one who convinces

3.2 The Holy Spirit Convicts/Convinces

Listen for another task of the Spirit.

John 16:7-11 (NIV) But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

What advantage would come to the disciples only if Jesus went away to the Father?

* Jesus had been alongside the disciples for these 3 years of training
* He knew the Body of Believers, the Church would grow exponentially
* As a human, he was limited to time and space … could not be everywhere with everyone at once
* Contrast that with the presence of the Spirit of God who could (and IS) everywhere with every believer

What work of the Holy Spirit did Jesus introduce and to what three areas did He apply it?

* convict/convince the world of sin
  + the sin of unbelief
* convince of righteousness
  + only through the Holy Spirit’s work in our lives can we live lives of righteousness
  + we live righteously *as a result* of our salvation, not to earn salvation
* convince of judgment
  + Satan is already judged, condemned
  + he is a defeated enemy
  + we are set free from his power

What are some other words your translations use for convict? What are some other synonyms?

* reprove
* convince

Note once again, the concept of the legal advisor … this time to act as a prosecutor

* to shame
* to blame
* to expose
* to accuse

What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us recognize our sins?

* through Scripture
* through preaching and teaching
* through the sowing and reaping principle
* when we act sinfully, there are often consequences
* the Spirit points out to us that these problems are the result of our bad choices

Why do *unbelievers* resist the convicting work of the Spirit?

* the grip of sin on their lives – they don’t want to give up what they consider sin’s pleasures
* as an act of their will, they reject Truth – the choose to remain unconvinced
* they want to run their own lives

Why might *believers* resist the convicting work of the Spirit?

* they don’t want to surrender some part of their life
* they are afraid
* lack of understanding
* still have areas of rebellion in their lives

Why is it a positive thing to be convicted of your sin?

* then we are convinced that we must deal with the problem
* we must confess, repent, receive forgiveness
* then we can be set free from the load of guilt
* we also learn we can be set free from the power of sin – through the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives

3.3 The Spirit Glorifies Jesus

Listen for other works of the Holy Spirit

John 16:12-15 (NIV) "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

What work of the Spirit does Jesus identify in verse 13?

* He comes
* He guides us into all Truth
* He speaks to us the messages of what He hears

Whose message does the Spirit declare and to whom does He bring glory?

* the source of the messages is God the Father
* He brings glory to God the Son, to Jesus
* He reminds us of Jesus’ teachings
* He brings to our thoughts the Truth of what Jesus said
* He impresses upon us the teaching of God’s Word

What connection do these verses show between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that affirm their oneness and the consistency of their message?

* they work together
* Jesus taught
* Jesus’ death took the penalty of death we deserved
* God the Father raised Him from the dead and we can receive that same resurrection life
* God the Spirit indwells the believer,
* the Spirit both instructs/guides and empowers our lives to live righteously and serve the Kingdom of God

How does the Holy Spirit guide believers into all truth?

* bring Scriptural Truth to our minds
* impress upon our thoughts directions we should take (or avoid) in our lives
* magnify Truth we hear in preaching, in a Bible study and applies it to us personally

Verse 14 speaks of the Spirit’s task to glorify Jesus. Why is it so important that the Spirit always points to Jesus?

* some folks might over emphasize the Gifts of the Spirit … it is Jesus’ work of redemption that is important
* Jesus was God who came as man … who died for us and rose again … these are the main Truths of Scripture
* we have lots of other influences in our lives that want to take our focus off of Jesus – the Spirit maintains that focus on Him

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Confess.

* The Holy Spirit comes alongside us to convict us of sin.
* If He is convicting you of an unconfessed sin, take a few minutes on your knees repent of that sin.

Submit.

* Allow the Holy Spirit to fill you and have control of your life.
* Lean on Him to guide your steps.

Share.

* Allow the Holy Spirit to use you to talk about Jesus with another person.
* Trust Him to guide the conversation and give you words that bring honor to Christ.

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| ABOUT |  |  | ADVOCATE |  | ALREADY |  |
| AWAY |  |  | BEAR |  | BELIEVE |  |
| COMING |  |  | CONVICT |  | FATHER |  |
| GUIDE |  |  | HEARD |  | JUDGMENT |  |
| MINE |  |  | MINISTRY |  | MORE |  |
| MUCH |  |  | REFUSES |  | RIGHTEOUSNESS |  |
| RULER |  |  | SEND |  | SIN |  |
| SPEAK |  |  | TELL |  | TELL |  |
| TESTIFY |  |  | TRUTH |  | WORLD |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Hidden Message Puzzle



Don’t tell the Word Search Lady, but we’ve used her format to communicate messages to the church in the country of Waltaibujerat. There’s a hidden message *between* the above words you must find in the grid. As usual, they go up, down, left, right, and diagonal. The remaining letters contain the message. It will read left to right from the top down. Use the blanks at the left to record this message from Billy Graham. You can get help at <https://tinyurl.com/fbu3skk2> where there are other intriguing Family Activities

