

# Camp Bible 2019

## “Be the Church: Truth”

### (John 16:4-8, 12-15, CEB)

#### For the leader:

- Read through John 16:4-15.
- Children will be making Truth Bracelets as they learn the story. There will be pauses during the story to talk about an individual promise, which corresponds to a certain color bead, and there will be a short discussions and questions. (Feel free to ask the questions given, or to scale it back if the questions seem too long for the lesson.) All of this can be found in the table below.
- Be prepared to answer questions regarding the following:
  - Skipping verses 9-11. Mostly because, for the purpose of this lesson, those verses may seem kind of wordy and confusing for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. We’re only focusing on verses 4-8 and 12-15 today.
  - Part of this lesson has to do with Jesus preparing the Disciples for when he won’t be with them anymore. Be ready for children to ask, “Where was Jesus going? Is He in Heaven? Is He in our hearts?”
- Supplies:
  - Index cards – 1 for each child
  - Pens or pencils
  - Pipe cleaners – 1 for each child
  - White beads – 1 for each child
  - Multicolored/rainbow beads – 1 for each child
  - Colored beads – 1 for each child

#### Gathering and Opening Prayer: (2 Minutes)

- As the children enter the room, ask them to have a seat.
- Say: **For our opening prayer, we are going to say a prayer that Jesus taught His Disciples in the Gospel of Matthew. It’s found in Matthew 6:9-13, if you would like to follow along.**
- Invite one of the children to lead The Lord’s Prayer. (Depending on which version of the Bible they have, the Lord’s Prayer might sound different than they are used to hearing.)

#### Activity: (15 Minutes)

- “Two Truths and A Lie”
  - Purpose of game – to get to know each other and prepare for our lesson
  - Have children to split up into 4 groups and pass out index cards.
  - Instruct them to write down 2 things that are true about them and 1 thing that is a lie. The goal is to read the 3 statements aloud to the group, and the group has to decide which of the 3 statements you say is the lie.

**Prepare for the lesson: (5 minutes)**

- Say, **“Today’s lesson is about Truth. Think about that word...and what it means. Do any Scriptures come to mind about the “truth” or telling the truth?”** (John 14:6 is a good one! “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” ~Jesus)
- Ask one of the children to open her/his Bible and read the text for today. (John 16:4-8, 12-15 – skip verses 9-11) Have all the children follow along in their own Bibles.
- Ask, **“What are some interesting things you noticed from our text today?”** Let the children answer.
- Hand out pipe cleaners and beads to children and say, **“We’re going to read this story again, but we’re going to read it really slowly because we’re also going to use *this story* to help us make something to remind us of the truth which Jesus tells us about in the Scripture. We are making Truth Bracelets. And, as we tell the story, we’re going to place beads on our bracelet to remind us that Jesus not only tells the truth...but keeps His promises. Are you ready? Let’s go!”**
- As you read the story, follow the directions below. At each section, 1) read the specific part of the scripture, 2) ask children the question related to that part of the scripture, 3) pass out the correct color beads and instruct children to put them on their pipe cleaner, 4) wait for children to catch up before you move on. *Encourage the group leaders to help children as you go.*

**Truth Bracelet Lesson: (15 Minutes)**

Scripture:	Promises/Bead for Bracelet:	Question/Reflection:
<p>“But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them. I didn’t say these things to you from the beginning because I was with you. But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me “Where are you going?” Yet, because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don’t go away, the Companion* won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.”</p>	<p>Promise: Jesus said that he would be leaving soon, but he wouldn’t leave them all alone. He PROMISED that the “Companion” or the Holy Spirit would come.</p> <p>Pass out the WHITE bead – to represent the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Have children place the white bead on their bracelets.</p>	<p>We are using a white bead to represent Jesus’ promise of the Holy Spirit. Can you think of any other images for the Holy Spirit that we have from Scripture? (Ex: dove at Jesus’ baptism, breathe of life, tongues of fire at Pentecost, etc.)</p> <p>Deeper Question: In our version of the story (from the Common English Bible), Jesus calls the Holy Spirit, “Companion.” The word “companion” means: A person that someone spends a lot of time with or travels with. Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit that way? (Encourage children to share.)</p>

<p>“When he (the Companion) comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment... I have much more to say to you, but you can’t handle it now. However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won’t speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come.”</p>	<p>Promise: When the Holy Spirit comes, the Spirit won’t just be hanging out in the sky – watching and waiting around... The Holy Spirit will show God’s people the truth about God and lead God’s people to live in “truth,” together. This promise came true when the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost and gave birth to the Church – a faith community made up of many, many different individuals.</p> <p>Pass out the multicolored bead – to represent the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the birth of the Church.</p> <p>Instruct children to place the multicolored bead on their bracelets.</p>	<p>Can you recall the story of Pentecost? This from the Book of Acts. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will come and guide the Disciples...and that’s just what the Spirit does! Scripture tells us that the Disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, that tongues of fire rested on their heads, and that they went into the city center, speaking many different languages, in order to share the Good News of Christ to all! After this, many people found faith in Jesus and became baptized.</p> <p>Have you seen the Holy Spirit at work within the church? Do you actually see the Spirit? How do you know the Spirit is there? Is the Spirit only in the church...or in other places, too?</p>
<p>“He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That’s why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.”</p>	<p>Promise: Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will show each of us the truth. <i>He didn’t just say this to the Disciples...this is still true for each one of us today.</i> The Holy Spirit is still here!</p> <p>Ask children what their favorite color is. Pass out beads that are their favorite color – to represent the Holy Spirit’s ability to show every single individual the truth and the way to God’s heart.</p> <p>Instruct children to place the their bead on their bracelets.</p>	<p>Here, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit (the Companion) will guide each of us along our faith journeys. The Holy Spirit is our travel partner through life, showing us what is right and wrong, showing us the truth about God and Christ, and reminding us that we have a special place in the Kingdom of God as God’s beloved children.</p> <p>Have you felt/seen/experienced the Holy Spirit guiding you along your faith journey? (If not, that’s ok!) How might the bead that you chose represent the Holy Spirit, as you know it, in <i>your</i> life?</p>

### **The Takeaway: (4 Minutes)**

- As you all admire your Truth bracelets, say, **“Our bracelets look pretty amazing! Some parts of them look the same, and some of them look very different.”**
- Continue by asking, **“What things look the same among all our bracelets?”** Let the children respond. You could say, **“We all have a pipe cleaner bracelet for starters. They might be different colors, but that could represent our faith in God. With our white bead, we all know that Jesus’s promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit came true. And our matching multicolored beads show that while each of us are very different in the most unique ways, we are all part of God’s community – the Church!”**
- Also ask, **“What things look different about our bracelets?”** Let the children respond. You could say, **“Our pipe cleaners are different colors. This might represent each of our own faith stories. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> bead we put on – the bead that’s our favorite color – shows how the Holy Spirit knows and loves each one of us individually, just as we are, unique, special, wonderful, beloved children of God.”**
- Finish up by saying... **“As you wear your truth bracelets today, may you remember that we believe in a God who not only loves us and knows us by name, but also shows us the truth...and keeps promises. And each of these beads reminds us of those 3 promises that we can feel, experience, and be a part of today.”**
- Finally, **“No matter what our faith journeys look like, no matter how we feel, no matter what happens along the way, we can know – truly know – that the Holy Spirit is always with us, guiding us as a friend, and showing us, all the time, just how much God loves us. (Which, spoiler alert!, is a whole, whole lot!)”**

### **Activity: (5 Minutes – You can also continue doing this at the end if time permits.)**

- **“Trust Falls”**
  - Have children to split up into the same 4 groups from the beginning.
  - Instruct children to make a line in their groups. When it is their turn they will turn away from the adult in their group with his/her arms out like an airplane. The adult is to stand behind them with his/her arms out ready to catch the child. The child will fall backward, and the adult standing behind them is to catch the child before he/she hits the ground. This is a lesson on trust – and it’s quite funny sometimes!
  - Some children may be able to do this to each other. Please work with adult volunteers to watch children and be there on standby, just in case!

### **Closing Prayer: (1 Minute)**

- Say a prayer over the children and their bracelets:
  - **“God, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ and the gift of your Holy Spirit. We thank you for your friendship, your truth, and your promises. Help us to remember those promises you have made to and for us, and help us know your truth as we journey closer to your heart. In Christ’s holy name we pray, Amen.”**