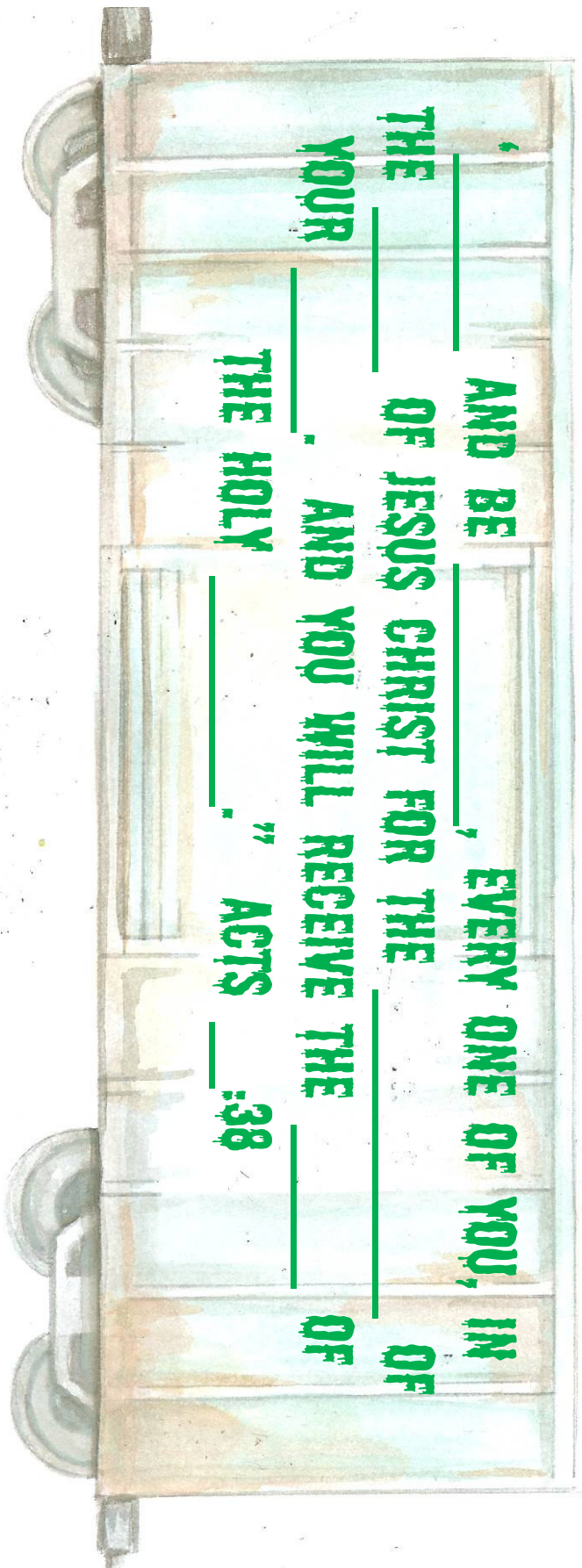


Practice your heart graffito for this month!



GOD'S SPIRIT IN JOHN

John has a lot to tell us about the Spirit of God. He first mentions the Spirit in chapter 1, using the Greek word *pneuma* for Spirit. It means a current of air or breath. The spirit is the breath of God. It means the thinking part, the soul, the important attitude, or the character. (Meyers) The Spirit is who God is.

How does Jesus explain the Spirit of God to Nicodemus in John 3:5-8? _____

Why do you think this was one of the first ideas that Jesus wanted to explain to him? _____

John uses another special word for the Spirit - *paraclete*. It means someone who sticks up for you, like a defense attorney in a trial. It can also mean comforter, or someone that tells you things you need to know, like what you are doing wrong. (Kysar 11-14)

What do we learn about the Paraclete from John in the following passages?

John 14:16-17 _____

John 14:25-26 _____

John 15:26, 27 _____

John 16:7-8 _____

John 16:12-14 _____

Why do you think the Holy Spirit did not come until Jesus left? _____

What was the world's attitude going to be toward the Spirit? _____

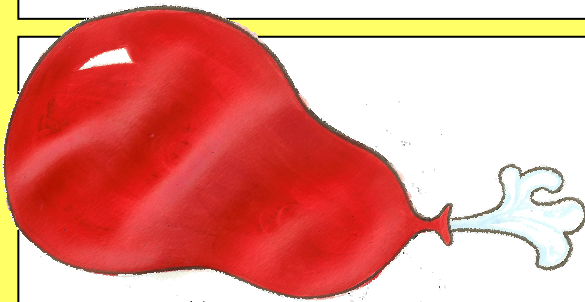
What is the relationship of the Spirit with the Father and the Son? _____

TIPS for parents and teachers

If time permits, elaborately wrap an empty gift box. Explain to the class that it is a gift from God of the Holy Spirit. What would they expect to find inside? How do we “see” this gift? How do we enjoy and make use of this gift?



Describe to the kids the difference the presence of the Holy Spirit has made in your life. What part does He play in your faith?



Since “pneuma”, the Greek word translated spirit, means breath or wind, I used an inflated balloon to represent the presence of the Spirit of God. Without God’s Spirit we are an balloon that has not been inflated with the breath of God. His presence makes a difference in what we look like and the energy with which we move. We also talked about how the Holy Spirit’s presence in our life is different than the air in a balloon since the fruit of self-control keeps us from zipping all over the place like the balloon does. If you have one of those balloon powered toy cars or boats, that would work great and you could have some fun “races” with the controlled power.

No time for the extra activities? I remind the kids that if they have their home-work done ahead of time, then we can move through the discussion time quicker and have more time for the games. This is their class, and they get to decide which way we will do it. If they haven’t already come up with answers, then we will go back through every verse, but if they have a good grasp of what the Bible has to say, then we move on to the hands on stuff to build on what we have learned.



The kids are having a lot of fun practicing their graffiti (memory verses) on these chunks of wax. I just heat them up and smooth them back out before the next class. If I can find a large enough heart mold, I’ll make them heart shaped.

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JOHN p. 4

Meyers, Rick. e-sword. 12 Nov 2007.

<http://www.e-sword.net>

Kysar, Robert. “What’s In a Name.” The Contemporaries Meet the Classics on the Holy Spirit. Comp. Randall Harris. West Monroe, LA: Howard Publishing, 2004. 11-13.



Would you like to receive this study guide by email, or make comments? Contact me at kayannausherman@hotmail.com