# Lesson 5: The Holy Spirit Is My Helper

## Overview:

**Key Focus:** The Holy Spirit helps and comforts believers by reminding us of God's love and helping us live the Christian life.

**Bible Story:** The Holy Spirit Helps Peter

**Scriptures:** John 16:4–8, 14:16; Matthew 16:18

**Memory Verse:** John 16:7 (NKJV) Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. **Depending on your group, you may want to just use the first part of the verse or extend the verse for two or more lessons.

## Prep:

**Materials Needed:**

- Soft comforter or blanket

## Engage:

**Let's make a list of things that you ask help for and who helps you.** On the board list the responses, such as I need help when I get sick so the doctor gives me medicine. **Do you like to ask for help?** Have the children nod their heads to answer. Ask several children why they do or don't like to ask for help. **Have you ever needed help and help came without even asking for it?** Invite volunteers to share about their experiences. **Have you ever needed help, but no one was there to help you?** Invite volunteers to share about their experiences. **In today's lesson will discover that God has given us a very special 24/7 Helper.**

**Memory Verse Activity:**
Display the verse. **Depending on which Bible translation we read, the word Comforter might be used instead of Helper, but they are very similar.**

Have the class form one long line facing the displayed verse and point out the punctuation marks that will indicate when the first child in line stops and the next child begins. Guide the first child to read or say the verse portion up to the period, and that child goes to the end of the line. The next child in line continues until the semicolon and repeat this pattern until the verse is completed. Go through the verse several times.

**Memory Verse:** John 16:7 (NKJV) Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. **Depending on your group, you may want to just use the first part of the verse or extend the verse for two or more lessons.

# Bible Story:

**As I teach the Bible lesson, I want you to listen for the word "Helper" and then quickly hold up one hand and quickly put it down again. The hand reminds us of helping someone, or giving someone a helping hand.** Practice saying "Helper" with the children responding.

**What do you suppose it would be like today, if Jesus had never returned to heaven after He came died and rose again?** Answers will vary. **It might seem like things on the earth would be better if Jesus was still a human living here. That's exactly what Jesus' followers thought also.** Read John 16:4–6. **Jesus saw that the disciples were sad. What things do you think the disciples would miss about Jesus?** (Possible answers: seeing miracles, talking with Him, asking Him questions) **Jesus loved the disciples and wanted them see how loving it was for Him to return to heaven so the Helper could come. Then Jesus spoke the words of our Memory Verse.** Have the group say or read John 16:7. **You will know who the Helper is when we read the next verse that was you already learned as a Memory Verse.** Have the children join you in saying John 16:8. **"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." Who is the Helper?** (The Helper is the Holy Spirit.) **The Holy Spirit's job is to point out the sin of not believing in Jesus. What happens the moment someone believes in Jesus as their Savior?** (God puts the Holy Spirit inside the believer.)

**Jesus was excited to tell His followers that when He went back to heaven—they wouldn't be alone without help.** Read John 14:16. **In this verse, Jesus says "another Helper" so the Holy Spirit is like Jesus. God the Father, God the Son, Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit are three parts of God called the Trinity. When Jesus was on the earth, He could only be in one**

**place at one time. The disciples traveled around with Jesus but Jesus wasn't with each of them as they traveled around the world. Instead of being limited to only one place at a time, the Helper was like having Jesus inside every believer going everywhere the believer went. This verse tells us the Helper would be with them forever, just like Jesus promised He would be with us forever. Even your parents can't be with you everywhere you go for your entire life, but the Helper can!**

**The Helper came at Pentecost. What do you remember learning about Pentecost?** (Jesus told His followers to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to fill them. Pentecost was fifty days after Jesus resurrected. When the Holy Spirit came, it sounded like a mighty wind, tongues of fire were on the disciples, and they all spoke in other languages.) **The Helper immediately helped Peter fulfill what Jesus spoke about him.** Read Matthew 16:18. **Jesus called Peter the rock that He would build His church upon. Rocks were the foundation of the building to keep the building standing strong. The Helper helped Peter preach to all the visitors to Jerusalem at Pentecost. Peter had been filled with understanding spiritual things when he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Helper gave Peter boldness to preach and to know what the people needed to hear. His sermon was so powerful that 3,000 people believed in Jesus that day! On the very day that the Holy Spirit came to be the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" to help people, Peter started the Jerusalem church with 3,000 new believers.** Compare the size of your church to the church that began at Pentecost.

**The Helper helped Peter to be a leader in the new church. Sometimes we use the word "church" to refer to the building where people meet together to worship God and sometimes "church" refers to the people. Peter led the other disciples and the new believers. Peter began to do miracles in the name of Jesus and with the help of the Helper. Remember, Jesus promised that His followers would do even greater miracles.**

**The Helper gave Peter the boldness he needed to preach and do miracles even after Peter was put in jail several times. One time, a group of believers prayed for Peter to get out of jail, and an angel came and led him out of jail. God's plan for Peter's life was to lead the new believers and be a bold preacher telling all he knew about Jesus. Peter wrote two of the books in the New Testament. Does this sound like the same Peter who when Jesus was arrested denied three times that he knew Jesus?** (No.) **What was the big change in Peter's life?** (Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit.) **The Helper fills us with hope that we can change and become more like Jesus so we live the Christian life and do what God created us to do.**

**The Helper wasn't only Peter's helper—He helps every believer who He lives inside. If you said "yes" to Jesus and believe in Him as your Savior, the Holy Spirit is inside of you wanting to help you too**!

**In our last lesson, we learned that the Holy Spirit helps us pray. When we pray, we know God answers our prayers that match His will, and we learn His will by reading His Word, the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word so we will live more like Jesus. The Helper will never help you disobey God or His Word. The Helper helps you live more like**

**Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the Helper who knows God's will for your life and helps you do it—just like He helped Peter.** Lead a cheer for the Helper, the Holy Spirit.

## Bible Story Questions:

- **Who is the Helper Jesus promised would come?** (The Helper is the Holy Spirit.)
- **Why did Jesus say it was better for Him to return to heaven?** (Jesus said it was better for Him to go so the Helper could come.)
- **Who does the Helper help?** (The Helper helps believers in Jesus Christ.)
- **How did the Helper help Peter on Pentecost**? (The Helper helped Peter boldly preach and 3,000 people believed on Jesus.)
- **What other ways did the Helper help Peter after Pentecost?** (Peter did miracles and led the new believers.)
- **How would you like the Holy Spirit's help this week?** (Answers will vary.)

## Bible Story Activities:

**Games:**

- Divide the class into small groups with a helper in each group. Allow a few minutes for each group to create a skit showing how the Holy Spirit is the Helper in a situation. The children can use a Bible story or a situation from their own lives. Give a signal and select a group to perform their skit. Afterward, the rest of the group guesses how the Holy Spirit was the Helper. Continue until all groups have performed.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Take a soft comforter or blanket, and talk about how the comforter helps you feel safe and loved. Explain how the Holy Spirit is the Comforter or Helper that Jesus sent to each child. Choose a volunteer and place the comforter around the child's shoulders and say, "Thank You Holy Spirit for comforting ___." Have the child echo, "Thank You Holy Spirit for comforting me." Then say, "Thank You Holy Spirit for helping ___." Have the child echo, "Thank You Holy Spirit for helping me." Continue this pattern so that all the children have a turn.

**Discussion:**

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children work together to create a timeline of the life of Peter. Assign scriptures and let the children choose to write or draw about Peter's life.
  *Timeline Verses*: Matthew 4:18–20, Matthew 14:28–33, Matthew 16:18, Matthew 26:69–75, John 1:42, John 18:10–11, Acts 2:14 and 41, Acts 3:1–10, Acts 4:13–21, and Acts 12:5–17

**Worksheet:**
Point out that this puzzle shows the way the Holy Spirit helped Peter live the Christian life. Read the crossword puzzle clues and allow the children to work together to look up the verses to fill in the blanks.

**Affirmation/Declaration:**
*Jesus loves me and sent the Holy Spirit to be my Helper.*
*I want the Holy Spirit's help.*

## Make Connections:

**Biblical Worldview Connection:**
Not all church denominations teach about the active work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. A biblical worldview needs to encompass the Helper who comforts us by reminding us of God's love and helps us live the Christian life. Help the children learn to utilize the powerful Helper inside them, so they can fulfill their divine purpose and calling. Encourage the children to ask the Helper to help them share boldly about Jesus and salvation.

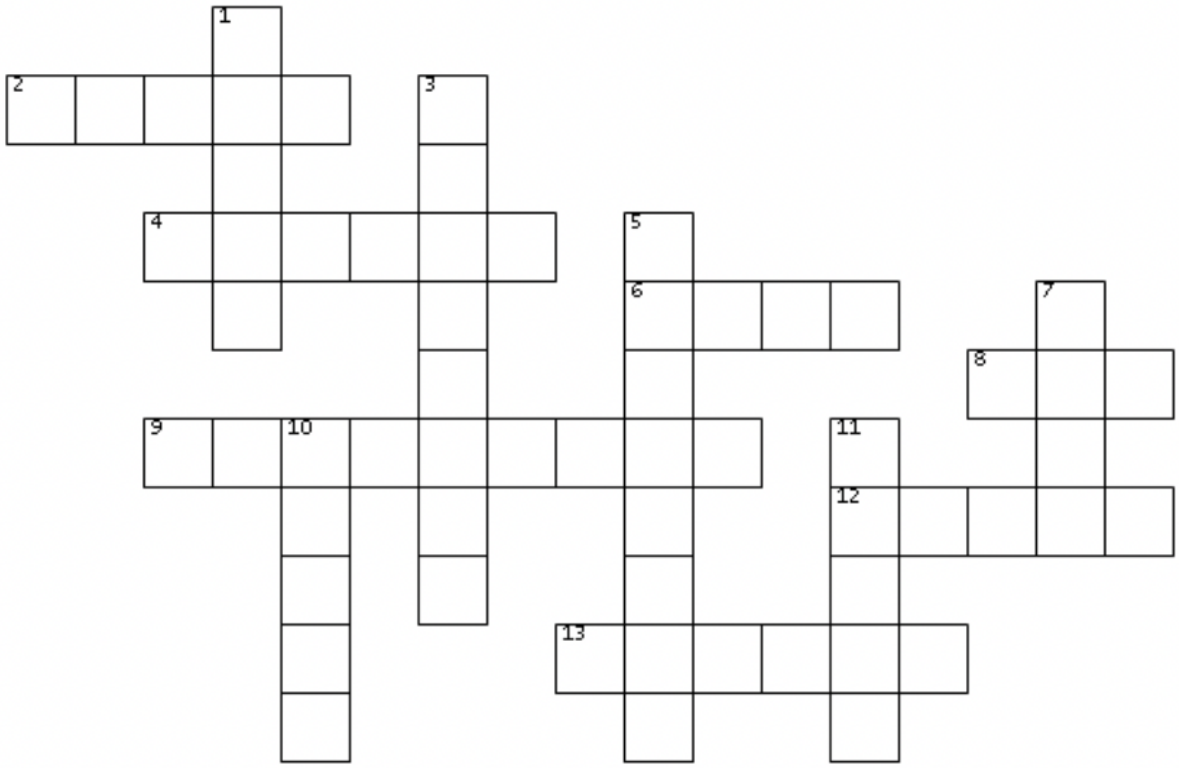
**Missions Connection:**
Missionaries often write newsletters and suggest ways people can help them. We know the Holy Spirit is the Helper, but the Holy Spirit needs people to partner and help. Share any needs from your church's missionaries and discuss ways the children can help by praying. Invite volunteers to pray for the missionaries and for their needs to be met.

**Family Connection:**
Children aren't always anxious to help out around the home or with younger siblings. Encourage your children to be helpers this week by pointing out all the ways you see the Helper helping them to live like Jesus. Provide extra opportunities for your child to help. You might want to look online for children's videos about the life of Peter, a great example of how the Helper helped him.

**Prayer Points:**
If your group is large, break into small groups with a helper in each group. During prayer time, pray that the Helper would help each child to recognize God's love toward them and to give comfort and help throughout the week. Name each child as you pray. Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside believers. Take time to pray with any children who indicate that they want the Holy Spirit inside them.

Name _____

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ACROSS

2. Peter denied Jesus _____ times. (Matthew 26:75)
4. Peter and John went to the _____ to pray. (Acts 3:1)
6. Jesus called Peter "the _____." (Matthew 16:18)
8. Peter cut off a servant's _____. (John 18:10)
9. Peter had been a _____. (Matthew 4:18)
12. An _____ led Peter out of prison. (Acts 12:7)
13. Peter's mother-in-law was _____. (Mark 1:29-30)

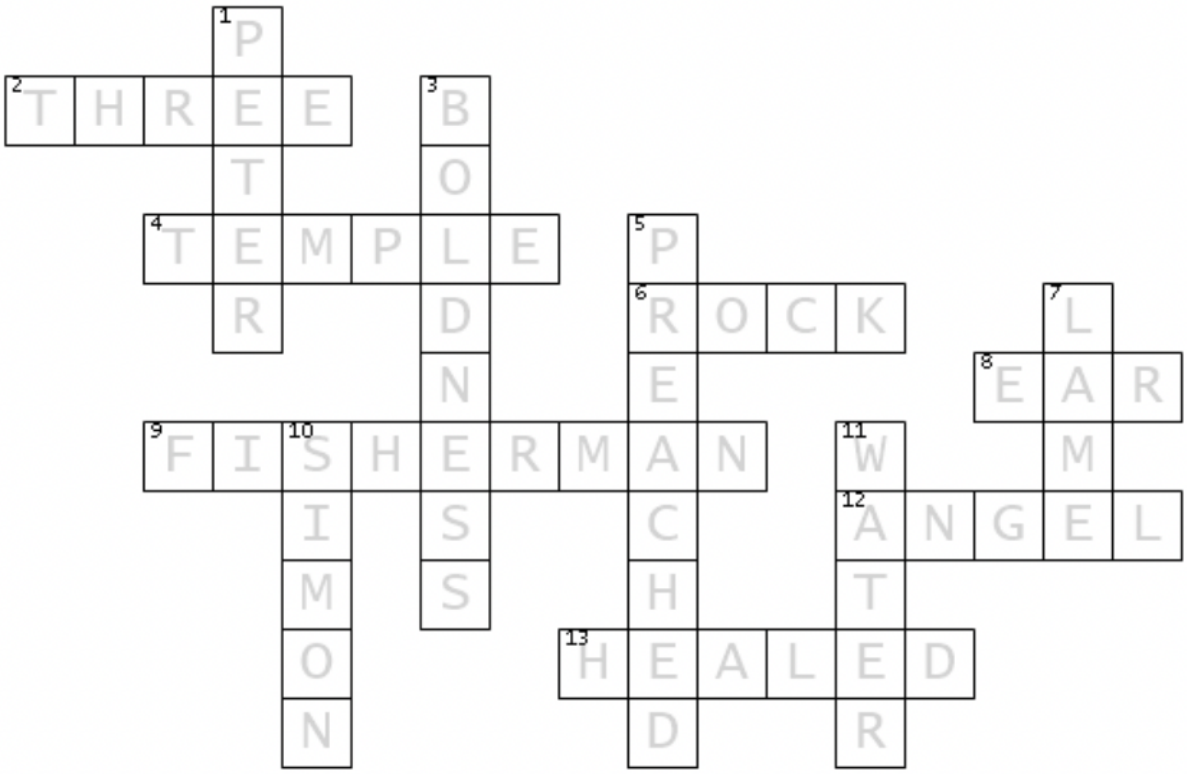
DOWN

1. The Holy Spirit helped _____ preach. (Acts 4:8)
3. People saw _____ in Peter. (Acts 4:13)
5. At Pentecost, Peter _____. (Acts 2:14)
7. Peter healed a _____ man. (Acts 3:11)
10. He was also called _____ Peter. (Matthew 16:16)
11. Peter walked on the _____. (Matthew 14:28)

Word Bank:
water
lame
ear
three
Rock
Simon
healed
boldness
Peter
angel
fisherman
preached
temple

ANSWERS

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ACROSS

2. Peter denied Jesus three times. (Matthew 26:75)
4. Peter and John went to the temple to pray. (Acts 3:1)
6. Jesus called Peter "the Rock." (Matthew 16:18)
8. Peter cut off a servant's ear. (John 18:10)
9. Peter had been a fisherman. (Matthew 4:18)
12. An angel led Peter out of prison. (Acts 12:7)
13. Peter's mother-in-law was healed. (Mark 1:29–30)

DOWN

1. The Holy Spirit helped Peter preach. (Acts 4:8)
3. People saw boldness in Peter. (Acts 4:13)
5. At Pentecost, Peter preached. (Acts 2:14)
7. Peter healed a lame man. (Acts 3:11)
10. He was also called Simon Peter. (Matthew 16:16)
11. Peter walked on the water. (Matthew 14:28)

Word Bank:
water
lame
ear
three
Rock
Simon
healed
boldness
Peter
angel
fisherman
preached
temple

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