Lesson 7: The Holy Spirit Is My Guide

Overview:

Key Focus: The Holy Spirit guides us to know the truth about God, Jesus, and God's Word.

Bible Story: Paul Is Guided on His Missionary Journeys

Scriptures: John 16:13, Acts 16:6–10

Memory Verse: John 16:13 (NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority,* but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **Depending on your group, you may want to learn only the first part of the verse.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- GPS or cell phone with a navigation program
- 5 index cards

Classroom Prep:

- Write one item on each index card: Bible, someone else like your parents, Bible teacher or speaker on TV or the radio, song, and feeling of peace.

Engage:

Show the GPS or navigation program. **Who can tell me why someone would use this?** (Possible answers: You use a GPS so you won't get lost; it helps you know where to turn; it can show you what is in the area.) Share a personal experience where you were grateful to have a GPS. **When has your family used a GPS, and it was very helpful?** Choose several volunteers to respond. **Today's lesson will show us that God has a special GPS for people who believe in Jesus as their Savior.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. Have the children face the direction you call out (turn to face the back of the room, to your left, to your right, face the front of the room), and then say the verse. If you are doing only the first part of the verse, change directions each time you say a word in the verse). If you are doing the entire verse, change directions halfway through the verse.

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Bible Story:

In the last lesson, we learned that the Holy Spirit is our spiritual teacher, who teaches us about God. When we believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and He is the only way to heaven, the Holy Spirit lives in us and helps us understand spiritual wisdom. Our brain doesn't understand spiritual things, but when our spirit is filled with the Holy Spirit—He translates spiritual things to help us understand. Who would like to share something the Holy Spirit helped you understand about God last week? Allow time for several children to share.

We also talked about starting the good habit of asking the Holy Spirit to help us understand the Bible when it is being taught or read. Ask a volunteer to share how the Holy Spirit helped them understand the Bible.

Hold up the GPS. **God loves us very much and wants us to know Him and know the truth about Him. In the world today, many people don't want to hear God's truth. They like to live in sin and do things that are not what God wants for them. They don't have a spiritual GPS. When we believe the truth that Jesus paid for our sins, we get a spiritual GPS inside us. Who is our spiritual GPS?** (the Holy Spirit) **Our Memory Verse refers to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth.** Say John 16:13 together. **What are the things the Holy Spirit tells us?** (The Holy Spirit tells us truth, what He hears from God and Jesus, and things to come.) **What are some things a car's GPS says about what is coming up on the road?** (Possible answers: turn right at the stop sign, exit in one mile, accident up ahead) **A car's GPS is helpful because it warns you if there is an accident or something to slow you down. It also prepares you to know when to turn and which way to turn. The Holy Spirit GPS is even better than a car's GPS. The Holy Spirit GPS helps guide us because He is part of God and knows everything that God knows. The Holy Spirit will help you make decisions that are what God wants for you. He won't tell you the questions on tomorrow's science test, but He can guide you to make good friends who will help you grow closer to God.**

The GPS in a car is really helpful, but what happens when you don't do what it guides you to do? (Possible answers: The GPS redirects you; you take a longer route; you might not get to your destination; you get lost.) **The Holy Spirit GPS guides us, but we must listen and follow exactly what He says!**

Paul in the New Testament is a good example of listening to the Holy Spirit GPS. Paul was on a missionary journey with Silas and Timothy. What is a missionary? (A missionary tells people about Jesus.) **Paul and his friends traveled long distances to areas that had not heard about Jesus.** Select three volunteers to act out the story as you read and give directions. Read Acts 16:6 and have them move from one side of the room. Point to the back of the room as Asia. **Do you think the Holy Spirit stopped them because He didn't want the people of Asia to become Christians?** (No.) **Was the Holy Spirit against Paul being a missionary?** (No.) **The Bible doesn't say why the Holy Spirit stopped them. If you were Paul, Silas, and Timothy, what would you do?** Allow several responses. Read Acts 16:7. **This is the second time the Holy Spirit stopped them. Is the Holy Spirit being mean or difficult?** (No.) **When the missionaries were stopped again, how do you think they felt?** Allow several responses. **We know that the Holy Spirit is part of God and knows things we don't know. It is possible that the Holy Spirit knew of a danger or problem if they went to Asia or Bithynia. We know Paul, Silas, and Timothy were smart enough to obey the Holy Spirit GPS.**

Select another volunteer to be the Macedonian man. Read Acts 16:8–10. **The men continued to obey the Holy Spirit GPS to avoid the areas of Asia and Bithynia. During the night, Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking them to come and help them. When they woke up the next day, they knew God was directing them to go to Macedonia and this time they were not stopped.** Share any experience when you or your family felt the Holy Spirit telling you not to do something or go somewhere or were delayed and later discovered there would have been a problem. **Sometimes the Holy Spirit guides us not to do something or go somewhere and we might find out later that there was an accident or danger if we had gone. Sometimes we never understand why the Holy Spirit stopped us, just like the missionaries were stopped. Because they listened and obeyed the Holy Spirit, Paul had the vision, and they understood where God wanted them to go next. The Holy Spirit never forces anyone to obey, but it is always best to obey Him!** Thank the volunteers and have them return to their seats.

I'm sure Paul, Silas, and Timothy would rather the Holy Spirit GPS had just told them at the beginning to go to Macedonia. Often, we want to do what God wants for us, but we just don't know what He wants. That's when we need to use faith by relying on prayer and listening to our Holy Spirit GPS. Faith comes from hearing God's Word and understanding the true nature of God.

As we review what we learned about God, give one clap if you think Paul, Silas, and Timothy knew each of the following about God: God is good; God is love; God wants a relationship with people; God is my provider (Jehovah Jireh); God is my healer (Jehovah Rapha); God is my sanctifier (Jehovah M'Kaddesh); God is my banner (Jehovah Nissi); God is

There (Jehovah Shammah); God is my peace (Jehovah Shalom); and God is my righteousness (Jehovah Tsidkenu). The missionaries knew God wasn't mad at them or punishing them, so they had faith that the Holy Spirit GPS would guide them. We know that the Holy Spirit will always guide us to follow God's ways and do what God created us to do. The Holy Spirit loves to help us and teach us how to live the Christian life. He will guide each of us to know the truth about God.

There are many different ways the Holy Spirit might guide a Christian. Ask five volunteers to come to the front. Give each an index card to read and stand holding the card. Discuss each item and give an example of when you have been guided that way or explain how it could be used to guide someone. **Which of these ways have you been guided by the Holy Spirit GPS?** Allow several responses. **Which of these ways would you like the Holy Spirit GPS to use to guide you?** Select volunteers to answer. **It would be great if the Holy Spirit GPS used a real voice to guide us this week, but let's use our faith and see which of these ways the Holy Spirit uses to guide you this week.** Lead a cheer for the Holy Spirit GPS.

Bible Story Questions:

- **How is the Holy Spirit like a GPS?** (The Holy Spirit guides us and tells us things to come.)
- **What happened when Paul, Silas, and Timothy were on a missionary journey to Asia?** (The Holy Spirit stopped them from going to Asia.)
- **What happened when Paul, Silas, and Timothy were on a missionary journey to Bithynia?** (The Holy Spirit stopped them from going to Bithynia.)
- **Did the missionaries give up and go home?** (No.)
- **What unusual way were they guided to the next place?** (Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking them to come and help the people of Macedonia.)
- **What are some ways the Holy Spirit GPS might guide a Christian?** (The Holy Spirit GPS might show you something in the Bible, He might speak to you through someone else like your parents, you might hear a Bible teacher or speaker on the radio or TV, the words of a song might affect you, or you might have a feeling of peace.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Set up an obstacle course with several chairs and objects to maneuver around. Have everyone find a partner. The partner on the left is the Holy Spirit GPS giving directions to guide the partner walking backward around the obstacles. As soon as one pair gets past the first obstacle, the next pair can begin. When all pairs have gone through one time, let the partners switch roles and go through the maze again.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Play a version of "Duck, Duck, Goose" but instead say, "Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, guide me." Have the children sit in a large circle. Choose someone to tap on the head and say "Holy Spirit" but then when the child says "guide me" the tapped child stands and runs around the circle trying to tag the tapper. The child who was tapped gets to be the tapper. Play several times so everyone participates.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead a discussion about guides and why people hire guides. There were famous guides in history (Indians guided Lewis and Clark) and places you definitely need a guide (climbing Mt. Everest). Have the children also talk about their areas of expertise where they could guide someone (to do something that is a hobby of theirs, to a place they've visited before, etc.). End with discussing why the Holy Spirit is the best guide for them.

Worksheet:
Read the directions and point out that there are several wrong exits to the maze and only one correct exit. On the back of their papers, have them draw their own maze and then trade papers to solve each other's mazes.

Affirmation/Declaration:
God gave me a spiritual GPS—the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit guides me to know God's truth.
I will follow and obey God's truth.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The enemy of God has confused people about truth, especially God's truth. Truth can be known and the Holy Spirit shows believers God's truth. Encourage the children to be confident that as they learn what the Bible says—that is the truth! Point out current topics that are the opposite of the Bible and remind the children that God's truth about the topic doesn't change. Help the children stand firm on God's truth, whether it is popular or not.

Missions Connection:
Every culture has something that helps them know the truth that God exists. Even the ancient Chinese picture word for "righteousness" is a picture of a lamb over the person depicting Jesus the Lamb of God over me makes me righteous. Have the children pray for the Holy Spirit to

show missionaries how the culture shows the truth about God. Remind the children that they are missionaries who can share the truth about Jesus and salvation to everyone they meet.

Family Connection:
This week when you travel together, use a GPS system and talk about how helpful a GPS can be. Throughout the week, look for ways the Holy Spirit was guiding your family and showing spiritual truths.

Prayer Points:

Prayer is simply talking to God. We begin our prayers by addressing them to God. Some people say "God the Father," "Our Heavenly Father," or "Abba" which means daddy. We end the prayer by reminding ourselves that we pray in the powerful name of Jesus and then end with "amen" as a way to say we agree and want it to happen.

Have the children gather in small prayer groups with a helper. Encourage each child to pray a prayer of thanks, asking for help for a need, praising God for who He is, or promising to follow the Holy Spirit GPS this week.

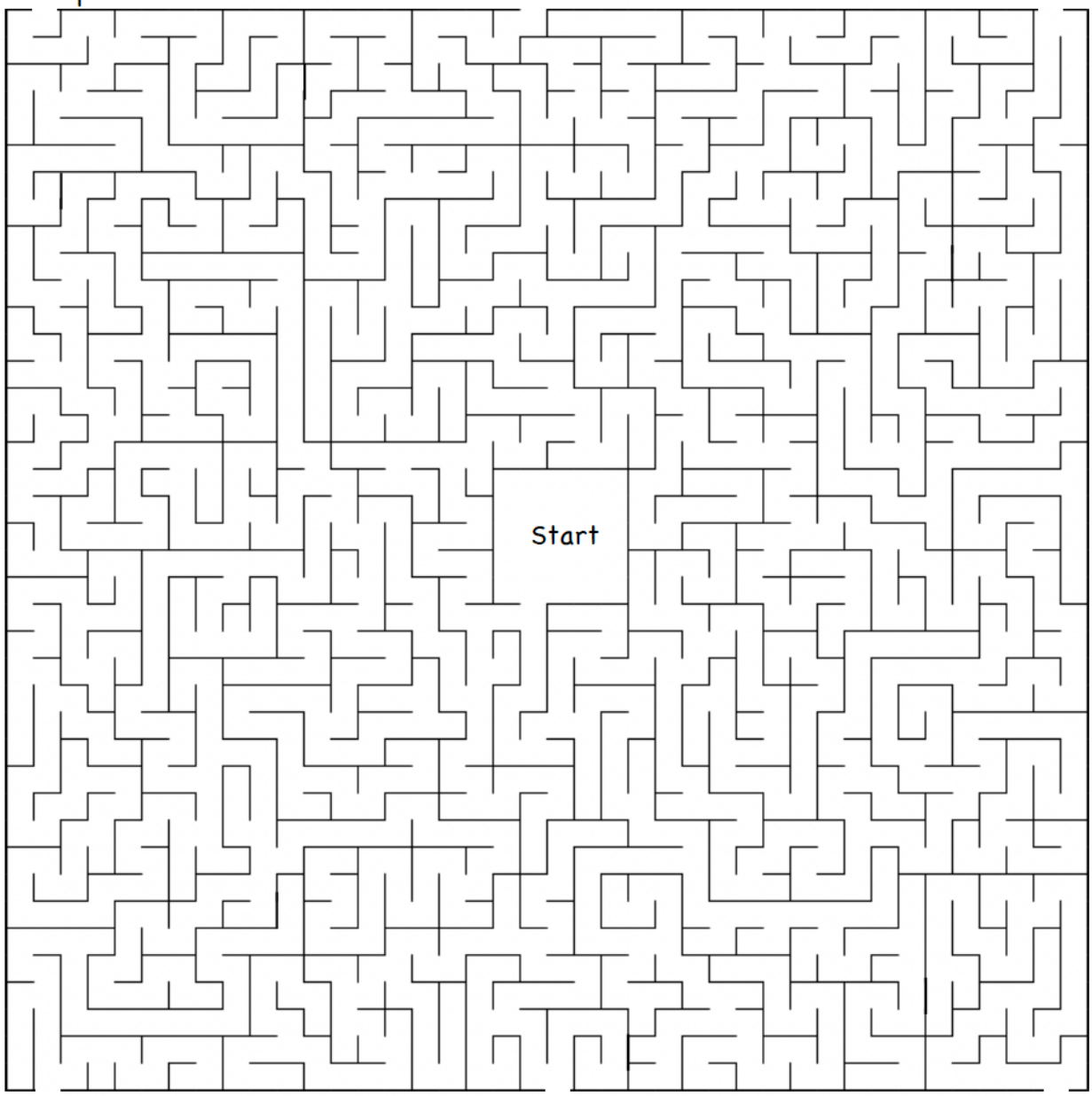
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Name _____

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Use the Holy Spirit GPS to guide you out of the maze. The correct exit is the answer to this question. The Holy Spirit will guide you to _____?

Be Popular | Truth | Win



Be Funny | Find Things | Eat Snacks

BONUS: *On the back of this page, make your own maze showing the Holy Spirit guiding you.*

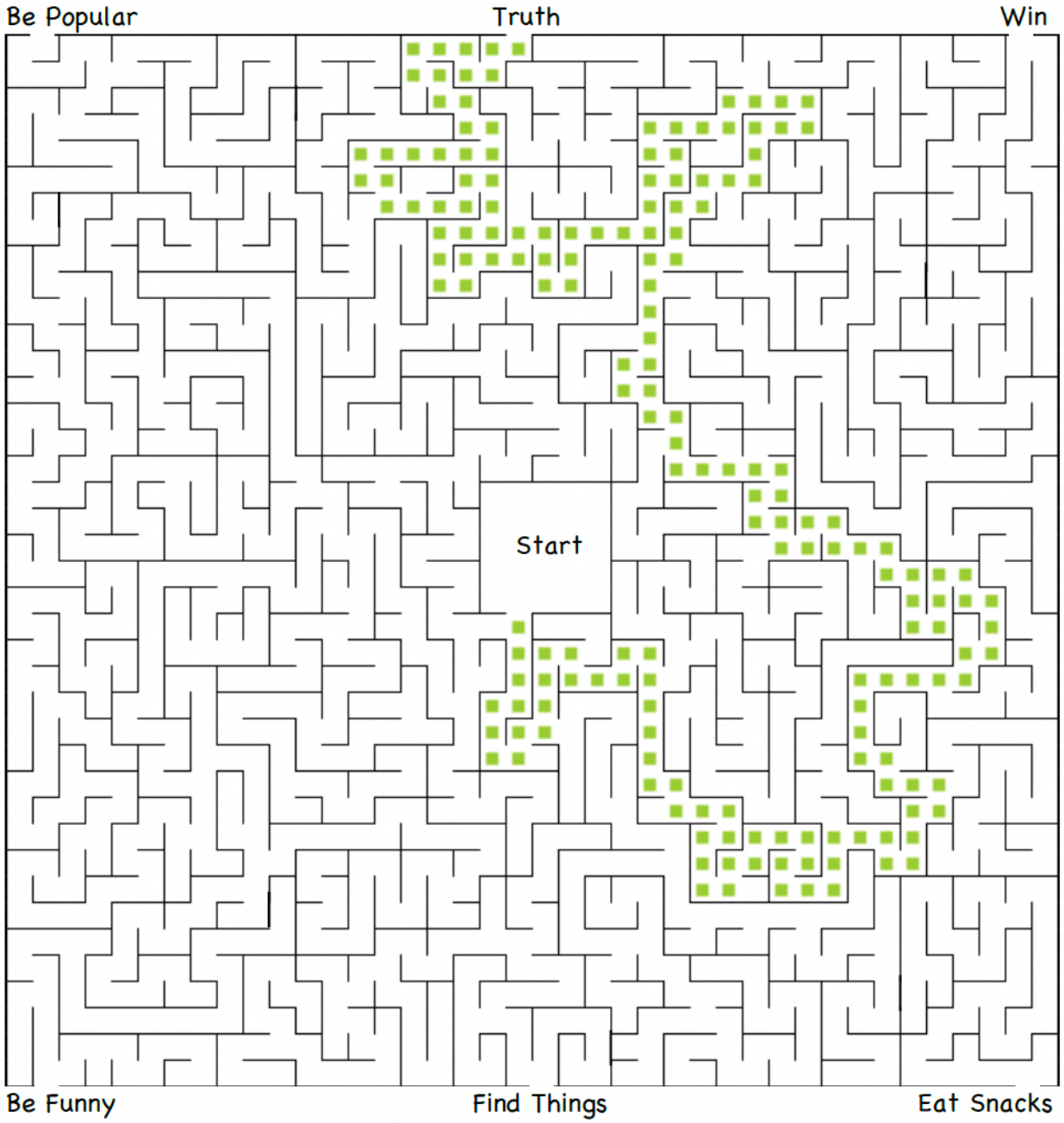
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ANSWERS

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Use the Holy Spirit GPS to guide you out of the maze. The correct exit is the answer to this question. The Holy Spirit will guide you to TRUTH?



BONUS: *On the back of this page, make your own maze showing the Holy Spirit guiding you.*

this way

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