



BACKGROUND

In John 14:15–17, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit. The text reads:

“Jesus said to his disciples: If you love me, you will do as I command. Then I will ask the Father to send you the Holy Spirit who will help you and always be with you. The Spirit will show you what is true. The people of this world cannot accept the Spirit, because they don't see or know him. But you know the Spirit, who is with you and will keep on living in you.”

Here, Jesus assures His disciples that the Father will send an Advocate to be with them always. But, this promise was not only for the disciples so long ago! Jesus' promise is as real for us today and is fulfilled in our lives, and in the life of the Church, through Confirmation.

INTRODUCTION

In this activity, we'll use the Tableaux technique (frozen scenes created with our bodies) to explore the meaning of Jesus' promise. This enables the children to 'step into' key moments and themes from the scripture, and helps them to connect personally with the Jesus promise that the Holy Spirit is always ready to be with them.





THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - JOHN 14:15-17 TABLEAUX SCRIPT

Visual stimulus assists the children to embrace the story. The 'actions', are actually frozen positions which the various characters display at different times throughout the reading.

People required: Reader, Jesus, 3 or 4 Disciples

Scripture story adapted from John 14:15-17

Freeze frames for tableaux

Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will obey my Commandments.'

Jesus speaking, disciples with hands to ears, listening

I shall ask God the Father

Jesus, alone, praying

And the Father will give you another Advocate

Jesus, one hand indicating God and the other with palm open reaching the disciples.

To be with you forever

Jesus not in this scene. Disciples only with linked arms or arms around each others shoulders.

The Spirit of truth

Jesus not in this scene. Disciples showing dawning understanding and joy.

Whom the world can never receive

Jesus not in this scene. Disciples with linked arms at elbows forming a circle and looking outward.

Since it neither sees nor knows the Spirit

Jesus not in this scene. 1 Disciple with hand over eyes, 1 with hand over ears, 1 holding head, one with hand over mouth.

But you know the Spirit

Jesus not in this scene. Disciples shaking hands with one another.

Because the Spirit is with you

Jesus not in this scene. Disciples hugging themselves with arms wrapped around.

Because the Spirit is in you.

Jesus not in this scene. Disciples linking arms, looking at each other.



For an example of this tableaux scan the QR code

