The Coming of the Advocate
(Middle and Upper Elementary)

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

Overview
In the Gospel for Pentecost Sunday, Jesus promises His disciples that He will send them the Holy Spirit to teach them and to guide them. In this lesson, students will explore the various symbols of the Holy Spirit found in Scripture.

Directions
A. Have students read the Gospel passage, or read it aloud to your students, and then answer the focus questions. You may have students answer them on their own or you may discuss them together as a class.
B. Review and discuss the correct answers when finished.
C. Have your students read the story of Pentecost from Acts 2:1-11, printed on the Symbols of the Holy Spirit worksheet, and have them answer the reflection questions. Then, arrange your students into six groups (or more, and assign multiple groups to the same symbol). Assign each group one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit to look up in the given Scripture passage, determine which symbol is revealed by that passage and why they think so, and then draw an artistic representation of that symbol. Make markers and/or colored pencils available. When groups have finished, have each group share their findings and their drawings.

Answer Key
Focus Questions
1. The Advocate
2. They have been with Him from the beginning.
3. Guide us to all truth, not speak on his own, but speak what he hears and declare the things that are coming. He will glorify Jesus by declaring what is Jesus’ and the Father’s.
Symbols of the Holy Spirit:

Reflection Questions:

1. The reading from Acts fulfills the promise Jesus makes in the Gospel. Both readings provide us with an understanding of who the Holy Spirit is.
2. Because the Holy Spirit was necessary to strengthen and guide the Apostles in establishing the early Church and continues to be necessary until the Second Coming.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit Graphic Organizer

1. A dove/The Spirit of God descended upon Jesus at His Baptism like a dove.
2. Tongues or flames of fire/God's spirit often appears in fire, which is symbol of power and might.
3. Wind/The Spirit filled the room with the sound of a rushing wind, and God's Spirit hovered over the waters of creation.
4. Water/Water is often connected with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Baptism.
5. A cloud/God led His people at various points in the Old Testament by appearing in a cloud or a pillar of fire.
6. Anointing with oil/Anointing with oil represented being sealed with God's Spirit.