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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks  
Baptist Church  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

James Haymon  
Jose Cisneros

**Class Leaders:**

Inreach: Pat Hester  
Outreach: Joyce Kirkland  
Secretary: Mary Clark  
Deacon: C M Hester

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**  
When God permits trials, He also provides comfort

**POEM FOR THE WEEK:**  
When you receive God's comfort,  
Be sure to pass it on, Then give to  
God the glory From whom the  
comfort's drawn. —Hess

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**  
who comforts us in all our tribulation,  
that we may be able to comfort  
those who are in any trouble,  
with the comfort with which we  
ourselves are comforted by God.  
(2 Cor 1:4 NKJV)

*(From "Our Daily Bread", Sept 8, 2009)*

**Series: THE SPIRIT COMES**

UNIT: The Pledge of  
God's Presence

NEXT WEEK

**The Spirit of Truth**  
(John 16:4-15)

## The Promise of a Comforter

John 14:15-26

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews Jesus' declaration of **The Promise of a Comforter**. The **study's aim** is to gain assurance of the Lord's plan for our spiritual growth. The **study's application** is to live obediently to Jesus Christ through the Spirit's continual ministry.  
*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

Jesus came to reveal God to humanity. Jesus was the Word who "was God"; he was the Word who "became flesh" (John 1:1, 14). He was the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world (1:29). As the Gospel of John progresses, we see an increasing emphasis on the divine identity of Jesus. He was accused of "making himself equal with God" (5:18). He exhibited the power to raise the dead and the authority to pronounce judgment (5:21, 22). He said, "I and the Father are one" (10:30). His miracles confirmed that his claims were true (10:36-38). The climax of Jesus' claims came in the upper room in the final week before his death. There Jesus told his disciples that no one could come to the Father except through him (John 14:6). Even more stunningly he said, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (14:9). Truly God was present with his people! But Jesus also had an unpleasant shock to give his disciples that night: he was leaving. Just when they were realizing that they had God's presence in their very midst, it seemed that they were about to lose it! It was in this setting that Jesus promised to send another advocate—the Holy Spirit. From the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, the Spirit had had an active role. The Spirit had descended as a dove to Jesus at his baptism (John 1:32). Nicodemus had been told of the need to be born of water and the Spirit in order to enter God's kingdom (3:5). The woman at the well in Samaria learned that those who would worship God acceptably must worship "in the Spirit and in truth" (4:24). Although the Holy Spirit had not yet been given, Jesus promised that one day the Spirit would be granted to all believers (7:39). And on a Thursday night in an upper room, Jesus made final preparations for that to be possible.

Jesus now summarizes the forthcoming ministry of the Comforter, who is also known as the Holy Spirit. This is God's own Spirit, who will soon be sent to the apostles in the name of Jesus. Jesus also adds information about what the apostles can expect the Holy Spirit to do. First, he will teach you all things. This will become the basis of the inspiration of the men who will write the New Testament. Things that they do not know will be taught to them by the Holy Spirit. Like the prophets of old they will be moved by the Spirit to write Scripture. The Spirit will also remind them of things previously seen and heard. Since two of those present, namely Matthew and John, will later write Gospels of Jesus' life, it will be vital for them to be able to recall accurate details of what they have witnessed. Even as they write decades later, their thoughts on the life of Jesus will be clear and correct. In an indirect way, the work of the Spirit to teach and to remind is a promise to all of us. First through Scripture and then through his indwelling presence, the Spirit leads us toward the truth and to recall it. The Spirit is our helper, indeed!

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **PLEDGE OF THE COMFORTER (JOHN 14:15-17)**

#### *Pledge in response to obedience (15)*

- Obedience that delights God (1 Sam 15:22)
- Obedience that is bold and steadfast (Dan 3:16-18)
- Obedience that leads to righteousness (Rom 6:16)
- Obedience in love (2 John 1:6)

#### *Pledge of abiding (16)*

- Abiding because we are His temple (1 Cor 6:19)
- Abiding because He is the power to obey God (Ezek 36:27)
- Abiding because He teaches us how to live (Gal 5:16)
- Abiding because He is the guarantee and proof of our Divine ownership (1 John 4:13)

#### *Pledge of enabling (17)*

- Enablement that is at work in us (Gal 2:8)
- Enablement of spiritual power (1 Cor 2:4-5)
- Divine enablement (2 Cor 10:3-6)
- Enablement that strengthens the inner being (Eph 3:16)

### **ASSURANCE OF THE COMFORTER (JOHN 14:18-24)**

#### *Assurance of His presence (18)*

- Assured because nothing can keep God away (Rom 8:38-39)
- Assured because without God's presence, man is doomed (Ex 33:15-16)
- Assured because God's presence is everywhere (Ps 139:7-12)
- Assured because God will never forsake His people (Heb 13:5)

#### *Assurance of life (19)*

- Eternal life that is a gift from God (Rom 6:23)
- Eternal life that comes through being in Jesus (1 John 5:11-12)
- Eternal life through belief in Jesus (John 3:16)
- Eternal life realized in the words of God (John 6:68)

#### *Assurance of knowledge (20)*

- Knowledge from the enrichment of God (1 Cor 1:5)
- Knowledge from the light of God in our hearts (2 Cor 4:6)
- Knowledge of insight to discern what is best and pure (Phil 1:9-11)
- Knowledge that is renewed by God (Col 3:9-10)

#### *Assurance of obedience (21-24)*

- Assurance of an obedience that puts God's words into practice (Matt 7:24-25)
- Assurance of an obedience that loves (John 14:15)
- Assurance of an obedience that comes from the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2)
- Assurance of an obedience that is an obligation (Rom 8:12-14)

### **PURPOSE OF THE COMFORTER (JOHN 14:25-26)**

#### *Purpose of teaching (26)*

- By teaching about adoption into the family of God (Rom 8:16)
- By teaching us how to pray (Rom 8:26-27)
- By teaching the truth in Jesus (Eph 4:21)
- By teaching about all things (1 John 2:27)

#### *Purpose of enlightenment (26)*

- Enlightenment to become sons of light (John 12:36)
- Enlightenment of the inner being to the knowledge of God's love (Eph 3:16-19)
- Enlightenment to know God better and to know the hope to which we are called (Eph 1:17-21)
- Enlightenment to understand the Scriptures (Luke 24:45)