

Mia the Missionary

Mark glanced at his sister, Marla. Like him, she barely picked at her mashed potatoes.

"I have an idea," Dad said. "Why don't you both go see Mia after supper? She probably needs cheering up."

Mark sighed. "I wouldn't know what to say."

"Me neither," Marla echoed.

"You've never had trouble talking before," Mom prodded.

"That was different," Mark objected. "Before she got cancer. I don't get it. Mia's so young, and she's religious. Why would God let her get cancer?"

Dad sipped his coffee before answering. "I can't say, Mark. I don't know much about the Bible."

"Don't you think it's weird how the Chuns believe in God so much?" Marla asked. "I thought people from Korea would have some weird religion, but the Chuns go to a regular church."

Mom nodded. "Mrs. Chun said missionaries told her and her husband about God."

"Well, I still think you two should visit Mia," Dad said.

"Okay," Mark sighed, "but I won't know what to do if she starts crying. Marla will have to hug her or something."

Later Mark and Marla stood on the Chuns' front porch. To their surprise, Mia opened the door and grinned at them.

"The M & Ms!" she shouted, using her favorite nickname for the brother and sister. "Awesome! Come in!"

Mia acted like her life wasn't in danger.

"I'm glad you came," Mia gushed. "Mom and Dad warned me that some people are scared to visit sick friends. But I'd be super bored without you guys."

Mark studied Mia's face. She was smiling, and her silky black hair settled around her shoulders the same as always.

Marla cleared her throat. "You don't look sick."

"Thanks. But sometimes I get bad headaches, and sometimes my words get messed up. That's how they discovered the cancer."

Mark changed the subject. "Let's play a game!"

"Sure! I'll get some from the closet."

During the following weeks, Mia attended school normally. But Mark and Marla noticed their friend was losing weight. Then her hair started thinning and falling out. Eventually Mia stopped coming to school. They heard she wasn't going to make it.

One time at Mia's house Mark surprised himself by saying, "Mia, do you still believe in God?"

She responded with her sweet smile. "Yep! In the Bible, Job said he would trust the Lord even if God took his life away. That's how I want to be, even though it's hard."

"But doesn't cancer make you sad?" Marla wondered.

"In a way," Mia confessed. "I've always dreamed of being a missionary who tells people how to become a child of God."

Marla nodded but nudged her brother. "We should be going."

"Wait," Mark said. "I don't get it. Mia, how can people turn into God's children? And what's Jesus got to do with it?"

Mia beamed. "I'll show you!" She opened her Bible to John 3:16, her favorite verse. She read it and then explained. "God loves us and wants to be our Heavenly Father. But our sin is like a wall that keeps us away from Him. God is holy and pure, so He can't have anything to do with sin."

Marla shrugged. "So what can we do about it?"

"We can't do anything about it. But God did! He sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin when He died on the cross. God forgives those who trust in Jesus as their Savior."

"Then what?" Mark wondered.

Mia's face lit up. "You become a totally new person—on the inside, I mean. You get to pray and talk to God personally. Plus, the more you read your Bible, the more like Him you become!"

After a few more questions, Mark reached a decision. "Well, I want to join God's family. Just like you, Mia. Show us how."

Following their friend's example, the "M & Ms" trusted in Jesus as their Savior that day.

More weeks passed, and Mia steadily weakened. Meanwhile, Mark and Marla's parents agreed to start going to church.

When the time came, Mark and Marla attended Mia's funeral with Mom and Dad. The pastor said, "For a long time, Mia had wanted to be a missionary. Well, she never got a chance to share God's Word in a distant land. However, at least two people here today are proof that Mia Chun was a missionary." He smiled at Mark and Marla.

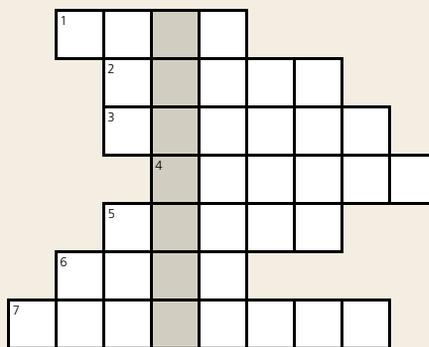
Mark smiled back. Mia's dream had come true. Even without growing up, she had been a missionary to her friends.



Holy Spirit Review



Use the clues and references to find the words to fit in the boxes. When you are finished, the letters in the colored boxes will spell what the Spirit gives to all believers.



1. The Holy Spirit came upon ___ of Jesus' followers (Acts 2:3).
2. A ___ from Heaven came before the Holy Spirit's arrival (Acts 2:2).
3. The people who saw the Spirit's power on display were ___ (Acts 2:7).
4. The Holy Spirit ___ the believers (Acts 2:4).
5. The Holy Spirit gives believers ___ (Acts 1:8).
6. Divided tongues as of ___ rested on each believer (Acts 2:3).
7. Jesus promised His followers would be ___ by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5).

ANSWERS: (1) Each, (2) Sound, (3) Amazed, (4) Filled, (5) Power, (6) Fire, (7) Baptized. COMFORT.

Find the Differences

Find **12** differences between the fireside scenes.



ANSWER:



Believers are different, but they have the same Spirit in them. Every believer has the power to serve God well!

Joke Spot

Q: Why couldn't the camper start a fire with 2 sticks?



A: He couldn't find a good match!

Measuring Growth

The Middler lesson for this week covered the arrival of the Holy Spirit and the start of the Church Age. The Spirit came in the form of flaming tongues to demonstrate His power. The flames rested on all believers to show that everyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior has the Holy Spirit. Your child was encouraged to recognize the Spirit's presence in his or her life and to rely on the Spirit's power while serving God. Talk with your child about the measurables.

Measurables

Look for the following clues that your child relies on the Spirit's enabling power.

1. My child prays for God's enabling.
2. My child serves God humbly.
3. My child praises God for enabling him or her through His Spirit.



STRONG
kids