



WE'VE GOT SPIRIT | WEEK 1 YOUTH WORSHIP



WEEK 1 Youth Worship Guide Scripture: John 14:15-17

Summary

Explore

Back To School



The Good News

The God who died for you abides in you

Message

QUESTION

If you found a lamp that held an ancient genie, what 3 wishes would you make? Whoever rubbed the lamp and released the genie received three wishes. Of course, there are some basic restrictions. 1. Cannot make anyone fall in love, 2. Cannot kill anyone, 3. Cannot bring anyone back from the dead 4. Cannot wish for more wishes. Would you wish the Coronavirus to go away and everything back to what it used be?

Sometimes we treat God like a genie who grants us wishes. We think of God as a cosmic genie or Santa Claus who sits in the clouds and makes all our dreams come true. Or maybe some of us were taught that God is like a Judge—that when we mess up, God drops the gavel and we get punished for all the wrong we have done.

IS IT TRUE?

I know why we tend to look at God this way, like a genie because God does use supernatural powers to answer prayers and hopes and wishes we have. And God living in heaven is sort of like Santa living in the North Pole, I guess. And, like a Judge, one of God's roles is to pronounce judgment on sin and make sure there is justice for wrongdoing. I do not want to make it sound like you are crazy for thinking of God in those terms.

But life is too complex for a God like that to be helpful in your life. Things get especially hard this time of year— Coronavirus and back to school. Considering all your new classes, teachers, and coaches, you need



WE'VE GOT SPIRIT | WEEK 1 YOUTH WORSHIP

a God who shows up more often than Santa Claus. With all the relational obstacles you have been through this year, you need a God who cares more about you personally than a Judge. And since, chances are, your homework load and pressure to succeed in school is going to be higher this year than it was last year, you need a God who is more powerful than a genie.

WHAT'S THE TRUTH? (Read John [13:21-35](#) and [14:15-17](#))

You are not the first to wonder how you are going to live your best life in a complex world. There was a guy named John who was one of Jesus' disciples back in the day. He wrote down a bunch of the amazing things Jesus said and did in a book called "John." And in the scene, we are about to read, Jesus was spending his last night on earth with His disciples. They were gathered for the Passover meal, which was an annual Jewish feast day. Jesus was trying to explain to the disciples that He would be leaving them and trying to prepare them for what was going to happen in the next few days and beyond. (John 13:21-35)

As you can imagine, the disciples were seriously confused and scared. Can you imagine being in the presence of a physical Jesus and trying to understand that He would be leaving you? How would they survive without Jesus? He had been teaching them, saving lives, bringing their friends back from the dead, healing people, and fending off evil spirits. Not only that, there were people in the community who DID NOT like Jesus or His followers. These bullies were sneaky, and they were strong, and they had the government on their side. How were the disciples supposed to deal with those guys without Jesus? How were they supposed to know where to go next or what to do? They did not understand how they could be left to fend for themselves in these uncertain times.

Feeling overwhelmed. Dealing with bullies. Trying to choose between a thousand choices. Feeling the pressure to succeed on your own. Does any of this sound familiar to you?

Fortunately, the gospel is not just the message of Jesus dying on the cross, raising from the dead, and then abandoning us here to figure it out. And that's exactly what John and the rest of the disciples discover here in John 14:15. Here is what Jesus says to His anxious disciples:

15 "If you love me, keep my commands."

Okay, let us be honest. So far this does not seem super helpful. I do not think any of the disciples were hoping Jesus would pile on MORE rule in this moment! They did not need a LONGER list of do's and don'ts. They did not need MORE expectations. This statement alone sort of makes Jesus seem like a judge, doesn't it? If this were all Jesus left His disciples with, I think we can all agree that would not be totally helpful. But Jesus was not done.

*15 "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 AND I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.**"*

This is such good news! In this verse, Jesus is telling His disciples then, and those of us who believe in Him now, that we will never be alone. We will always have an advocate. Other translations of the Bible use the word "helper." We have someone who is always on our side. We will talk about this in the weeks to come, but the Bible says that the Holy Spirit can give us the right words, patience, peace, power, and kindness—just to name a few. The Holy Spirit also intercedes (pray) for us with God, even if we do not know what to



WE'VE GOT SPIRIT | WEEK 1 YOUTH WORSHIP

pray for. Jesus may not be walking around, but the Holy Spirit lives in all of us who believe, and He is there to help us in every way possible. Unlike the genie, there is no limit to the help the Holy Spirit can give us. Unlike Santa Claus, He does not just show up once a year! And unlike a judge, the Holy Spirit cares about the personal things going on in our lives.

HOW CAN YOU RESPOND?

I cannot possibly know all the things you will be navigating this year. For some of you, you will be making college decisions. For others, it could be friendship challenges. For a few of you, it could be family issues, or emotional pressures. But no matter what you are facing, you are not—and will never be—alone. Jesus did not die for you just to abandon you to figure it out on your own. He is with you. Always.

The God who died for you abides in you

*15 "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 AND I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither see him nor him. **You know him, for he dwells with you and will be with you.***

We are going to be talking about ways the Holy Spirit helps us with decisions in our lives. But please know this, the Holy Spirit is with you always, and you never have to earn it. Jesus didn't say if we are good, if we do not screw up, if we hang out with the right people, or if we get into the right college, then we would get that Holy Spirit, like a Rewards App. The Holy Spirit is already in you, already a part of you, and no matter how badly we screw things up, or how awesome we are, the Holy Spirit helps us. This is simply because God loves you. Back to school season can be tough. But the God who died for you abides in you.
