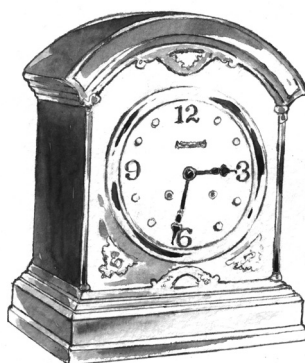




1. Making Plans



Sarah MacDonald woke up before her twin brother, Paul. She listened, but couldn't hear a sound, so it wasn't her parents' alarm clock which had woken her up. She crept downstairs to the hall to see what the time was. It was only 6.15 - another three quarters of an hour before the alarm would ring.

Sarah was very excited because it was the Friday before school finished for the spring holiday, and her father was going to have





Sarah and Paul



time off from work. He had promised to take them to Grandma and Grandad's cottage by the sea. In turn, Grandma and Grandad had offered to stay in Paul and Sarah's home to look after the cat and the goldfish.

Sarah was bursting with ideas of things to do. She decided to wake up Paul and tell him all about them. She tiptoed into his bedroom and whispered in his ear, 'Wake up, Paul!'

'What is it?' answered Paul with a yawn. 'Is it time to get up?'

'No, not yet. Another three quarters of an hour.'

'What did you want to wake me up for then, silly?' replied Paul. 'I'm tired. Go back to bed and leave me alone.'

He turned over to his other side as if to go back to sleep.

'Oh, no you don't, old lazybones!' exclaimed





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Sarah. 'Our spring holiday begins today and it's time we made our plans.'

The reminder of school finishing for a while made Paul feel a little happier at Sarah's waking him so early. 'So it is. Let's begin to make our plans!' he shouted.

'Shh!' whispered Sarah. 'Mum and Dad are still asleep. Don't make such a noise. Look, I've found Dad's guidebook and it looks as if there are all kinds of interesting things to explore near where we'll be staying. There's a large park, a famous cave, an old church and a big beach.'

'I hope the weather's all right!' exclaimed Paul.

'Dad said the weather was good this time last year,' replied Sarah. 'Let's write down what we want to do when we get to the cottage.'





Sarah and Paul

'You look happy, Paul,' commented Dad as Paul came leaping down the stairs for breakfast.

'I am,' answered Paul. 'We start our holiday today. Sarah and I've been making a list of all the things we're going to do.'

'We're going to put up our tent in the back garden tomorrow if the weather's warm enough,' added Sarah, who had just come down.

'It's good having some days together, isn't it?' said Paul.

Dad smiled and nodded. He was looking forward to the time away too. 'Have you remembered what next Sunday is?'

'Whit Sunday,' replied Sarah. 'I had to tell my class about it because Mrs Fox knew that I would have a lesson about it at church.'

'What did you say to your class?' asked her father.

'I said that it's the time in the year when we remember that God sent the Holy Spirit to the disciples as they waited at Jerusalem. I told what happened to the disciples, how they



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were made very bold and were able to tell others about the Lord Jesus.'

At that moment Mum called out from the kitchen, 'What do you all want this morning for breakfast?

'Our favourite cereals!' shouted Paul and Sarah.

'I'll have eggs and bacon, please,' added Dad.

Sarah began to put the mats on the table and Paul counted out the right number of knives, forks and spoons.

Paul had been listening to Sarah and he thought of a question he wanted to ask his father. 'Did It come into the world for the first





Sarah and Paul



time on Whit Sunday?’

‘I don’t know what you mean,’ said Dad.

‘I mean the Holy Spirit,’ explained Paul.

‘You’re making a mistake then,’ replied his father.

‘How?’

‘Do you know, Sarah?’

She thought for a moment. ‘Yes, I think so. Paul said, “Did It come into the world for the first time?” The Holy Spirit isn’t It but He.’

Dad nodded. ‘That’s right. You speak of a thing as it. If we were talking about our car, we might say, “It needs to be washed.” Or we might say about the phone, “It’s ringing.” But if we saw a man coming up our path to deliver something, we’d say, “Here he comes” because the delivery man’s a person. The Holy Spirit isn’t a thing, but He’s a Person. When the Lord Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit, He always called Him “He” and never “it”. How would



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you like to be called “it”, Paul?’

‘I wouldn’t,’ retorted Paul.

‘You’ve learned something important then. Remember that the Holy Spirit’s a Person and that we may upset Him by our sin, even as you and I may upset one another by doing wrong things.’

‘Did He come into the world for the first time that Whitsunday?’

Dad was sure that Paul and Sarah ought to be able to answer this question themselves. ‘What do you think?’

Paul and Sarah looked at one another and didn’t answer.

Dad decided to help them. ‘Can you remember our talking about the Holy Spirit before?’

Sarah remembered first. ‘When you explained to us about the Trinity - how there’s only one God, but He makes Himself





Sarah and Paul

known to us in three Persons.'

'Good,' said Dad. 'Now, can you remember the passage in the Bible we looked at where it tells us about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit doing something together?'

'Yes, I know,' Paul remembered. 'It was Jesus' baptism. God the Father spoke from heaven. And then the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus, like a dove.'

Dad smiled. 'Yes, that's right. Now you've almost answered your own question.'





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'I see,' said Paul. 'The Holy Spirit was here on earth before the first Whit Sunday because He was with the Lord Jesus when He was on earth.'

'There's more to it than that,' Dad went on. 'The Holy Spirit had a lot to do with the Lord Jesus' coming to live in this world. He made possible the birth of the Lord Jesus without a human father. He helped the Lord Jesus in the wonderful things He did. It was the Holy Spirit too who raised Jesus from the dead.'

'I didn't know He did all those things!'





Sarah and Paul



exclaimed Sarah with surprise. 'But did the Holy Spirit ever help ordinary people like us?'

'Yes, He did. He helped, for example, all the people who wrote the Bible. He made them feel they ought to write down

God's message to them, and without their knowing sometimes the full meaning of what they wrote, He showed them what to write. He helped them to write about things in the future no one else knew would happen. He let them into some of God's secrets to prepare people for them.'

'I should have remembered that,' Paul said.

By now the smell of eggs and bacon was drifting into the room from the kitchen.

'Mmmm! Smells good!' murmured Dad.

'I've a question too, Dad?' said Sarah.

Mr MacDonald nodded.

'Did the Holy Spirit do anything else before Jesus came?'



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‘He certainly did,’ answered Dad. ‘He had a lot to do with the creation of the world. The first chapter of the Bible tells us something about that. All the beautiful things you see in the world - the birds, the animals, the trees, the flowers, indeed all the wonders of nature - are things God has made. Whenever you see something wonderful and beautiful like that in the world, you may be sure that it’s God’s work. Always remember that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity.’



‘It was rather silly of me to ask if He began His work on that first Whit Sunday, wasn’t it?’ exclaimed Paul.

‘No, it wasn’t silly at all,’ replied Dad. ‘It’s sensible to ask questions. That’s how we learn. The Holy Spirit didn’t come into the world for the first time on the day of Pentecost, the day many Christians call Whit Sunday. But He did come in a new and special way at that time to



Sarah and Paul



be with Christians and to live with them. I'm sure we'll hear something about Him at church on Sunday morning.'

At that moment Mum came in with Dad's plate of bacon and eggs.

'I suggest you all stop talking and eat your breakfast or you'll be late for school at this rate!'

'And I'll be late for my work,' added Dad.



Go to the Seaside

Get Active!

Can you remember?

1. Should we call the Holy Spirit 'it' or 'Him'?
2. Can you remember when it was that the Holy Spirit came on Jesus like a dove?
3. What important things has the Holy Spirit done?

* You may check your answers on page 126

Book Look!

Beginning with God

by Nancy Gorrell

ISBN 1 85792 4533

This book will help you understand something about the Trinity and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.