

# THE HOLY SPRIT:

## The Person, the Gift and the Work of the Spirit in the World

Lesson # 8 of 27

### Scripture/Memory Verse

“...and behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the City until you are clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49 RSV

## Lesson Goals & Objectives

### Goal

- The students will learn that the Holy Spirit is a Person – in fact the Third Person of the Trinity – by spending time in the Bible discovering Who the Holy Spirit is, what the Holy Spirit is like, and what the Holy Spirit does.

### Objectives

- The students will take a “whirl-wind” tour through the Bible in all the places which talk about the Holy Spirit.
- The students will listen to Jesus talk about the Holy Spirit and then discuss what they think about what has been learned.

## Introduction and Background for the Teacher

We often leave the Holy Spirit out of our teaching because we may view Him as a “part of God” that somehow came after Jesus or Who is, at best, an unequal partner of the Trinity. Lesson # 4 specifically introduced the Trinity including the Holy Spirit. This lesson seeks to enable the students to deepen and enlarge their appreciation for the fact that the Holy Spirit has existed forever as an equal member of the Holy Trinity.

We can see much concerning Who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does simply by looking through the Scripture. Therefore this lesson takes a “whirlwind tour” of the Scriptures. You will need to have done this for yourself ahead of time.

The teaching in this session will have to be very clear. Today the world is full of phrases about “God is in you”, or “God is everywhere” – presenting the Holy Spirit almost as some “warm and fuzzy” feeling. Nothing could be further from the Scriptures themselves.

There is a generation of Christians that thinks of the Holy Spirit as “the force” of the Star Wars movies (interestingly many of your young adults may not have seen these movies). Of course this is not true: the Holy Spirit is truly a Person, and as a Person the Holy Spirit has characteristics that all persons

have. Finally, our invitation to have a relationship with God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit has very specific Biblical support and will be covered in the next lesson. This lesson aims at helping the participants have “right thinking” about the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

### **Materials Needed for Lesson**

- Paper, pens, markers
- Chalkboard, flip chart, or white board
- Religious picture for each student
- Book of Common Prayer

### **Opening Prayer** (5 min.)

You can start by praying extemporaneously, or use this prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, page 227: “O God, who taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.” (*The students may also add their own prayers*)

### **Review** (5min.)

#### **Discuss:**

- What does it mean to be a savior?
- Who is our savior?
- Why do we need to be saved?

### **Introductory Activity** (5-10 Min.)

*(These ideas are intended to ensure a lively and exciting atmosphere at the beginning of the lesson. It is fine for each parish to approach this differently if you wish to make use of your own games or materials. However, do make use of some fun activity to get started).*

Choose **one or both** of these activities:

- The students will draw pictures of flames, a dove, and “wind”.
- When all the students have gathered, turn out all the lights, let it get dark and let it get quiet (it will be hard for them to sit there but give it a try) – and read the opening line from Genesis 1:1. Have one student turn on the lights “on cue.”

**Lesson** (20-25 min.)

1) Assign one of the Scriptures listed below to each participant. There will be more Scriptures than participants, so just go around the group again and keep assigning until all the Scriptures are assigned.

2) Starting with the first Scripture assigned, have the participants read each one in turn. When all have been read members of the group will call out what the “Spirit” is doing; write their ideas on a chalk board or flip chart.

3) When you have gone through all the Scriptures, look at all the words and ask the students to reflect on what the Holy Spirit does

Here are the Scriptures:

- Gen 1:1 – HS is involved in the process of creation, bringing new things to life.
- Gen 2:7 – The Old Testament word for spirit is *ruhach* meaning breath or wind; so what did God do?
- Exodus 31:1-5 – have you ever experienced a song/art that is more than “just art” but which feels “inspired?” God can inspire the arts and music.
- Judges 6:14-15 & 34 – God can make us effective even when we feel weak.
- Judges 15:14 – HS can help us to break free of bonds: what things bind people?
- Isaiah 61:1-3: The prophet is sent to preach good news

**Discuss:**

We can see through these readings that the Holy Spirit is **not** just a “good feeling.” When the Holy Spirit gets involved, things happen.

In the Old Testament we see the Holy Spirit coming upon “*particular people at a particular time for a particular task.*”

4) Read the Gospel of John 15:26. Jesus describes the Holy Spirit.

**Discuss:**

– What does Jesus call this Counselor? Jesus calls him “He,” that is, a Person.

– From Whom does this Counselor come? From the Father.

– What does this Counselor do? He testifies to – tells people about – Jesus.

– Who is the Holy Spirit like? He is the Spirit of Truth: Who is “The Truth?” Jesus!

## **Reflection** (10-15 min.)

- The students will re-read John 15:26 or Genesis 1:1 and reflect on Who they think the Holy Spirit is. They will then write out what they think about Jesus.
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?

## **Take-home Activity** (5 min.)

*(It is recommended that you make use of this take-home activity to re-enforce the learning experience. You **may** eliminate this exercise if **necessary**. You may also substitute another activity if you find that to be more helpful. You should briefly review this lesson and review the take-home activity at the beginning of the next learning session).*

- The participants will take home a religious picture (have copies for them ahead of time off the internet) and ask them to think about how the Holy Spirit inspired the artist.
- Say a prayer every night before you go to bed that you may be filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **Closing Prayer** (5 min.)

Holy Spirit, be with me today. Be my teacher, my guide, my counselor, my friend. Fill me with your gifts, especially the gifts of wisdom, discernment, knowledge, understanding, compassion, love, and awe in God's presence in all that I think, say, and do. I ask all this in Jesus' name. *AMEN.*

*Allow the students some time to add their own prayers, concerns and thanksgivings.*

## **Scripture References**

- See above

## **Resources**

- Youth Alpha Course Manual
- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) for printable versions of different Bible texts
- The Alpha Course has a great teaching on the Holy Spirit, if your parish has it review it ahead of time.

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