

I HAVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because we have trusted in
Jesus to save us, we have the
Holy Spirit in us.

 KEY PASSAGE

John 14:15-26

 KEY VERSE

John 14:26

SPARK THE CONVERSATION

As preteens grapple with their identity in light of the world they live in, they can often feel confused and overwhelmed. With so many competing voices around them, preteens who are following Jesus can learn to recognize the prompting of the Holy Spirit within them to lead and guide them in their faith. Today, preteens will learn more about the third Person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit, and the gift He is to believers to guide them in their faith journey.

IGNITE **PDG**

YOU WILL NEED

- Preteen Discipleship Guide (1 per preteen)

Guide preteens to complete “Unusual Gifts” in their discipleship guides (PDG, 70).

Invite preteens to share their drawings and discuss the unusual gifts they have given and received.

Ask: What made these gifts unusual? How did you feel when you received the gift? How did the person respond when she received your gift?

Continue: When a person becomes a Christian, he not only receives the gift of eternal life; he also receives the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is one of the three Persons of the Trinity. He is God just like God the Father and God the Son. Today, we’re going to study what Jesus taught His followers about the Holy Spirit.

SHARPEN & STRENGTHEN PDG

YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- Preteen Discipleship Guide (1 per preteen)
- Item 10: The Holy Spirit

PREPARE:

- Print Item 10: The Holy Spirit for each preteen

Direct preteens to Sharpen & Strengthen in their discipleship guides (PDG, 71). Invite the group to follow along as you lead the Bible study.

Ask: What are some truths we already know about the Holy Spirit? (Allow preteens to respond.)

Holy Spirit: the third Person of the Trinity; believers receive the Holy Spirit when they trust in Jesus for salvation (Acts 2:38)

Distribute Item 10: The Holy Spirit. Lead preteens to discuss the statements.

Say: This information gives us an overview of the Holy Spirit and the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

Ask: Is there anything here that you didn't know about the Holy Spirit?

🔒 THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Read aloud John 14:15-17 or invite several preteens to read these verses.

Say: John 14 is part of the Farewell Discourse in the Book of John (John 13-17). In these chapters, Jesus gave instructions to His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion. He wanted them to know what would happen to them once He died, was resurrected, and returned to heaven.

Ask: Who does God the Father send to be with believers forever? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

Counselor: another name for the Holy Spirit (John 14:6)

Continue: Jesus told the disciples God the Father would send a Counselor (Spirit of truth) to be with them forever. This was the Holy Spirit. The disciples would not be able to physically see the Holy Spirit like they could see Jesus, but they would know the Holy Spirit was with them and would never leave them. This doesn't mean that the Spirit of God didn't work within followers of God prior to this time, but rather the Holy Spirit would be with believers in a new and more powerful sense than the disciples had experienced before. The Holy Spirit would live within the disciples. **Because we have trusted in Jesus to save us, we have the Holy Spirit in us.**

🔒 THE PROMISES OF JESUS

Read John 14:18-21 or invite preteens to read these verses aloud.

Ask: What do we learn about Jesus in these verses? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

Continue: Jesus told the disciples He was going away, but He wouldn't leave them alone and they would one day see Him again. Remember, Jesus was preparing them for His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension back to heaven. Jesus promised His disciples that they would see Him again, and after Jesus' resurrection He appeared to His disciples on several occasions.

Ask: According to verse 21, what did Jesus say was evidence of love for Him? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

Explain: Jesus said those who kept His commandments were the ones who loved Him. He explained that obedience to Him was an indication of genuine love for God.

Ask: Have you ever met someone who said they were a Christian, but didn't obey God or follow His commands?

Continue: In our culture, we often meet people who know about Jesus and the Bible. We even know people who say they believe in and love God, but the evidence of their lives doesn't match up with what they say. While we can't judge a person's intentions or relationship with God, Jesus reminds His disciples here that true transformation of identity always leads to change. When we trust in Jesus, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to show us our sin and lead us towards repentance and obedience.

Ask: What evidence would other people see in you that displays your genuine love for God? (Allow preteens to respond in their discipleship guides.)

State: I can imagine the disciples were confused by Jesus' words in these verses. You may be feeling the same way. Many people do not understand the role the Holy Spirit plays in Christians' lives. Let's see how the disciples responded.

G GOD WITH US

Read aloud John 14:22-24.

Say: See, even Judas (not Iscariot) was confused, but notice the words of Jesus in verse 23. Jesus said He and His Father will come to make their home in the believer. Do you remember in Genesis 1 and 2 when God created people and dwelt with them? God always planned to live with His people. After sin entered the world God dwelt with His people in the tabernacle or special tent where people met with God, but this was limited and only certain people had access to God. (See Exodus 25:8-9.) After Jesus' death and resurrection, God made a way for everyone to have access to Him. Jesus told the disciples that every believer has direct access to God the Father and the Son. One day Jesus will return and make all things new. God's people will dwell with Him forever.

Tabernacle: a large, portable tent the Israelites made according to God's instructions; the tabernacle is where God met with His people (Exodus 25:9)

Invite a preteen to read John 14:25 aloud.

Ask: What do these verses teach us about the Holy Spirit? (Allow preteens to answer in their discipleship guides.)

Recall the information of the Holy Spirit given to each preteen at the beginning of the session. Guide preteens to write how the Holy Spirit helps believers in their discipleship guides.

Ask: Which of the things the Holy Spirit does helps you the most right now? Why? (Discuss answers as time allows.)

MAKE THE CONNECTION

Say: **Because we have trusted in Jesus to save us, we have the Holy Spirit in us.** Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help believers. This week in your daily devotional time, you will learn more about the Holy Spirit. As you continue to grow in your relationship with God, you will understand more about the role of the Holy Spirit in your life. Right now, one thing that is important to remember is that you do not have to live the Christian life all alone. The Holy Spirit is living in you and helping you every day.

KEY VERSE

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you. [John 14:26](#)

YOU WILL NEED

- Bibles (1 per preteen)
- 2 oversized T-shirts

Guide preteens to open their Bibles to John 14:26. Select a volunteer to read the verse aloud as everyone follows along.

Form two relay teams. At your signal, Player 1 should put on the shirt, remove it inside out, and hand it to Player 2, who will put the shirt on inside out before reversing it for Player 3. Alternate the inside out / outside in pattern until one team wins the relay.

Remind preteens that Jesus taught His disciples that God would send the Holy Spirit to be with them always. Explain that God knows them from the inside out. No matter what our circumstances are or how we are feeling, we can trust that we are never alone. The Holy Spirit is with us to comfort us, guide us, and remind us of the truth found in God's Word.

Call attention to the key verse cards located in the discipleship guide. Lead preteens to discuss how they have used the cards so far to help them memorize scripture and encourage them in their daily lives.

FIRE IT UP!

A VERSE TO DECODE **PDG**

Direct preteens to complete “A Verse to Decode” in their discipleship guides (PDG, 72).

Select a volunteer to read aloud the verse.

Ask: What are some things you learn from the Holy Spirit? When has the Holy Spirit helped you remember things?

Say: When you study the Bible, the Holy Spirit is active in helping you understand it. He helps you resist temptation, comforts you, and helps you grow to live your life more like Jesus. Spend time this week thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit to be with us.

MOVIE POSTER DESIGN

YOU WILL NEED

- 11x 17 paper (1 per preteen)
- Markers

Ask: When you go to a movie theater, do you ever look at the movie posters outside the theater? These posters advertise upcoming movies. What is some information you would expect to find on these posters?

Invite preteens to discuss. Distribute paper and markers.

State: I want you to pretend you are a graphic designer. You have been hired to design a movie poster about the Holy Spirit. We know that we can't see the Holy Spirit, so we can't draw Him, but we know true things about Him. Use your imagination and be creative as you design your poster.

Assist as needed. Review key points from today's study as preteens design their posters. Encourage preteens to find and read the references about the Holy Spirit to help them as they design.

State: Hang your poster in your bedroom. Look at the poster each day and thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to help, comfort, and guide you.

Preview the week's daily pages and encourage preteens to complete each day's Bible reading and journaling on their own throughout the week. Review and discuss the entries from the previous week. Point out the Family Guide pages for preteens to use at home. Print any pages for preteens without a discipleship guide (Item 3).

BREAK IT DOWN

Finish: The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. When people trust in Jesus for salvation, the Holy Spirit lives in them and guides them as they live for Jesus. The Holy Spirit cultivates Christian character, comforting believers and giving them spiritual gifts by which they serve God.

Continue: As you grow in your faith and understand more of who God says you are, be encouraged that you are never alone. God sent the Holy Spirit to every believer to help and guide them as they learn more about Jesus and live for Him. Walk in confidence this week, no matter your circumstances, knowing that the Holy Spirit is with you to guide you as you follow God's plan.