

## LESSON 3

## THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 11; John 14; Galatians 5

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to fill His disciples, helping them follow Him and share the good news! Jesus-followers today are filled with the same internal guide and helper—God's promised Holy Spirit.

**WORD OF WONDER:** The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

## FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

**WHO?**

Jesus taught His disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit; in fact, the Spirit is available to all the children of God. This is the Spirit of God—the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)—who is God's own presence with God's people.

**WHAT?**

Jesus said He wouldn't leave His disciples behind like children without their parents. He would send the Holy Spirit to be their helper and to live inside them. The Spirit guides God's people, showing them the right ways to live and how to best display Jesus to the world.

**WHERE?**

Physically, Jesus departed to join His Father in heaven. But strictly speaking, God isn't removed from human affairs in heaven. Rather, God is present in all of heaven and earth, and God even dwells within Jesus-followers through the Holy Spirit.

**WHEN?**

In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God was available to select individuals like prophets, priests, and kings. What was previously a temporary empowerment from God is now a constant presence and asset to all Jesus-followers because they are united to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God. That means that the Spirit who fills Jesus-followers is fully God, the same powerful God who was present at creation, who guided the people of Israel, and who raised Jesus from the dead.

## Activity: Guiding Cars

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! We're going to talk about how God can help us, lead us, and guide us when we need help. Come see what we have today! Let's play with these cars and get curious. You can guide the cars around the room.**

Provide toy cars for kids to share and move around. Help them guide the cars around the room. Let them navigate around natural obstacles in the room. Ask whether they're getting stuck anywhere or if they need help. Guide them toward parking their cars against the wall out of the way when you're ready to move on to the next activity.

## Activity: Follow Through the Hoops

**Today we'll learn from God's big story that God gives us the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit can guide us. The word guide means help and lead. The Holy Spirit can help us be more like Jesus and obey Him. Let's play a game like Follow the Leader with hoops. The leader is going to guide us through the hoops.**

**The hoops are like the hard things we face, where we may need God's help. What are some times when you need help?** Allow the kids to respond. If kids are struggling to come up with ideas, give them examples such as when they're sick, sad, or need help obeying the rules or being kind. **Let's go through the hoops and think about how the Holy Spirit helps us and guides us. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence.**

Choose volunteers to hold up the large plastic hoops so kids can go through them, one after another. They may not have the physical coordination to step over the hoops at this age and may need to crawl through them or hold someone's hand while walking through them. Lead the kids one at a time through each hoop. **It was easier to go through the hoops when you had a leader and helper to guide you. We'll learn today about how the Holy Spirit leads and guides us.**

**Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES US.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**—*Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.*

**HELPS AND**—*Give yourself a hug.*

**GUIDES US**—*Bring arms down from above and make a path in front of you.*

## Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God.

**God, thank You for giving the Holy Spirit to guide us. Thank You for helping us and leading us. Help us follow and obey You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** God sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples, and He sends the Spirit to us too. May you always remember that the Holy Spirit will guide you and give you the power to do what He tells you to do. Always and at all times, God hears you and He loves you!

## Activity: Hot or Cold

Ahead of time when the kids aren't looking, hide a Bible somewhere in the room.

**I need your help! The Bible is hidden, and you can help find it. I'll guide you by giving you clues. I'll say, "hot" if you're close to it and "cold" if you're far away.** Play Hot or Cold as the kids search for the hidden Bible. Young toddlers may need more assistance. When they find it, cheer and clap.

**You needed help finding the Bible. You listened as I guided you, and you found God's Word—the Bible! The Holy Spirit helps us know God and be closer to Him. The Holy Spirit helps us obey God and live the way He wants. We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.**