

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.

Curiosity

Play Stations

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Magnet Play

Set up: Set out magnets, magnetic items (such as paper clips and small metal toys), and cookie sheets. Watch carefully to ensure the kids don't put small objects in their mouths.

Play: Let the kids play with the magnets and move them around on the cookie sheets. They can make various designs. Encourage them to use one magnet to "guide" the small metal items around the cookie sheet.

Play Station: Puzzles

Set up: Set out a variety of puzzles.

Play: Invite the kids to help one another as they put the puzzles together.

Play Station: The Role of the Holy Spirit Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

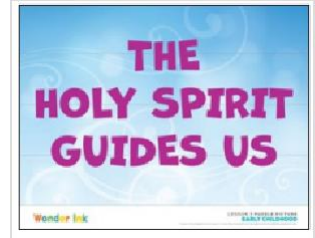
Play: Let the kids color. The kids could also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone helping them.

Faith

Craft: Holy Spirit Puzzles

Ahead of time, print a Puzzle Picture for each kid. Set out construction paper, glue sticks, and kid-safe scissors.

We're learning today that the Holy Spirit is our helper, our guide, our teacher, and our friend. When we trust in Jesus, we're not alone. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us. When we face hard things, the Holy Spirit can give us wisdom and power. We can remember that the Holy Spirit guides us. To help us remember this, everyone can cut on the dotted lines on your Puzzle Picture. Give the kids a Puzzle Picture and kid-safe scissors. Help them cut on the dotted lines (it's OK if the cuts aren't perfectly straight). Give them all a sheet of construction paper and glue sticks.



Now you have pieces to a puzzle. What happens if I take away some of your pieces and tell you to put the puzzle together? Take away a piece from several kids. Pause to allow them to respond. **You need help to see the whole picture and solve the problem. You need all the pieces just like we need the Holy Spirit to help us live for God and become more like Him. The Holy Spirit makes our hearts whole and new when we trust in Jesus.** Give back the puzzle pieces. **Put your puzzles together on your construction paper and glue them onto the paper. You can take your pictures home to help you remember that the Holy Spirit helps and guides us.**



Game: Guide Me

Ahead of time, create a simple obstacle course or maze for kids to take turns being guided through. Use small obstacles such as cones, disposable cups, or toys to create challenges.

Help each kid find a partner (or you can be the "helper" for each kid).

Everyone will get a partner, and then you'll go through this obstacle course while wearing a blindfold. You need to get from one side of the room to the other without touching a roadblock. But you won't be able to see where you're stepping! You'll take turns being the one who guides and the kid who wears the blindfold. The partner without a blindfold will help guide you through this maze, like the Holy Spirit guides us when we need help. Think of times you may need help in life or when you have problems. Pause and allow the kids to think of times when they need help.

How can God help you with that problem or situation? Allow the kids to respond. **When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us and is our friend, teacher, guide, and helper. We might face problems or hard times, but we aren't alone. The Holy Spirit helps us when we need help.**

Let the kids take turns wearing a blindfold and then being the one to guide a partner with their words and hands through the obstacle course without touching the roadblocks.

Identity

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, and thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit who guides and helps us.

Let's pray and talk to God. Think of something you need God to help you with. Let's pause and pray together, and you can ask God for help with whatever you need help with. Pause and invite the kids to pray.

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 out 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!