

SMALL GROUP

TODAY'S WONDER TRUTH: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES US



WORD OF WONDER:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- Acts 1:8

GOD'S BIG STORY:

The Role of
The Holy Spirit
(Luke 11:9-13, John 14:16-20, Galatians 5:16)

POST-LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

- The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers at Pentecost. What did the Holy Spirit help the disciples do that day? What happened as a result? *(Share God's story with others and speak in languages they had never learned. Many people believed God's story and became Jesus' disciples too.)*
- Who does God give the Holy Spirit to? *(All people who love and follow Jesus, including us!)*
- As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is our paraclete. What does that mean? *(The Holy Spirit is our advocate who defends us, our counselor who guides us, and our helper who helps us through struggles.)*
- How did the Holy Spirit change the apostle Paul? *(The Holy Spirit changed Paul from an enemy of Jesus to one of His most dedicated followers.)*
- When we love and follow Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit! What is one way the Holy Spirit helps you?
- What would you like to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?

Welcome Question

- When have you been to a new place for the first time?
- When we go to new places or have new experiences, we sometimes need help from an expert or a friend! Since each day holds new challenges and opportunities, God has given us someone to help and guide us. We will discover more about this amazing helper today.

Curiosity Questions

- How do you usually figure out what to do when you're in a new place?
- When have you helped someone else who needed some guidance?

Curiosity Activity: A Puzzling Problem

- Print a copy of the [Puzzle Sheets](#) for every 3–5 kids. (Do not print two-sided.) Cut apart the puzzle pieces on page one, shuffle them, and place them in a quart-size resealable baggie. Every small group of 3–5 kids will need their own set of puzzle pieces. Set the copies of Puzzle Sheets page 2 in a separate pile, face down so kids can't see the image on them.
- If you plan on having kids play this game in smaller groups, help them form groups of 3–5 and give each group a baggie filled with puzzle pieces.
- **Let's play a game called A Puzzling Problem.** Hold up a baggie filled with puzzle pieces. **Your job is to put a puzzle together as quickly as possible. Let's get started!**
- If everyone is playing the game together, dump the pieces out on a table or the floor and invite all the kids to gather around and begin. If kids are working in small groups, invite them to start their puzzles. Do not let them see the puzzle boxes or images of the final puzzles.
- After about 30 seconds, interrupt them: **Would any of you like a little help? Pause for kids to respond. OK. I'm going to give one person the image of the completed puzzle. They can't show it to the rest of you, but they can help and guide you by describing what the final picture looks like.**
- If everyone is working together, invite one kid to come up and receive the box for that puzzle. If kids are in small groups, invite one representative from each group to come up to receive their puzzle box (or alternatively, the second page of the Puzzle Sheets). The representative(s) can describe the final image and guide their friends by telling them where each piece should go. They may not show the picture to the rest of the group until the puzzle is complete.
- Gather the kids back together. Ask these questions, pausing after each for kids to share:
 - **What was the hardest part of this game?**
 - **What happened when one person got to see the final picture?**
- **Trying to put together a puzzle without knowing what it's supposed to look like was pretty hard! But when one person saw the final picture and was allowed to help, the game got a little easier (and probably more fun too!). God cares about us and doesn't leave us to figure out on our own the best way to live! He gives us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.**
- Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES US.**

Word of Wonder Activity

- **Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series are the words Jesus spoke to His disciples when He told them He was sending the Holy Spirit to help and guide them. Let's say the verse together.** Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Encourage kids to read Acts 1:8 several times together.
- **Wow! Jesus gave us an amazing job—to tell people everywhere about Him! We're going to practice sharing the Word of Wonder with each other the way the verse itself instructs us to share the good news of Jesus—we will start with the people near us and then share with those farther away.**
- Help kids pair up with someone sitting near them. **First, let's practice saying the verse to our partner. Partners, you can read along and help as needed if your partner gets lost or forgets part of the verse. Take turns sharing the verse until both of you can say some of it by memory.**
- Once kids have shared the verse with their partners, invite everyone to find a new partner who is sitting a little farther away from them. **Now take turns practicing the verse with your new partner.**
- After a minute or two, have kids pair up with one more partner, this time choosing someone sitting even farther away from them. **Again, take turns practicing the verse with your new partner. This time, see if you can say it completely from memory!**
- Once they've practiced saying the verse with their third partner, gather the kids together. Invite a couple of kids to share the Word of Wonder with everyone.

Responding in Worship: Prayer Path

- Use tape and/or butcher paper to create a prayer path along the floor or the wall. Tape the four [Prayer Path Sheets](#) to the path in order. If your group is large, print multiple sets of the sheets, each on a different color paper, and create multiple paths so that kids can spread out during the activity.
- **Have you ever been hiking or biking on a path? What was it like? What would have happened if you had wandered off the path?** Invite responses and conversation.
- **A path helps us stay on track so that we get where we need to go without getting lost! Similarly, when we love and follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. We face difficult situations and decisions every day, and the Holy Spirit helps us stay on the best path.**
- **Let's spend some time talking with God now as we travel this prayer path.**
- Point to the prayer path you've prepared. Show kids each stop along the path and invite them to spend time at each. Explain that they can move from stop to stop at their own pace. Set out paper, writing utensils, and drawing utensils for kids who would like to journal their thoughts and prayers.

SMALL GROUP PRAYER

God is our good Father who loves to give good gifts to His kids! If we love and follow Jesus, we are God's kids, and He gives us the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to help us and guide us. Let's ask the Spirit to do that right now!

Invite kids to share one area where they need the Holy Spirit's help. For example, they might need the Spirit's help getting along with a sibling, showing kindness to someone who is unkind to them, or having the courage to ask a teacher for help. Then encourage kids to pray for one another's requests, asking the Spirit to help the person they are praying for. Praying to the Holy Spirit might feel strange for some kids, but assure them that like Jesus and the Father, the Holy Spirit is fully God and hears our prayers!