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# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Holy Spirit is God*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Holy Spirit is not just the “power of God” or “God’s active force;” He is Himself God.
- The Holy Spirit, being God, possesses all the attributes of God.
- The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity.
- Explain to the children the meaning of Trinity.



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Acts 5:1-11; Matthew 3:13, 16, 17; Matthew 28:19; Psalms 139:7-10



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week’s lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**1 Corinthians 6:19:** “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own ...”

### **Materials Needed:**

- 3 different bright food colouring powder
- A bottle of clean, clear water
- Double side sticky tape
- 3 clean glasses



## **INTRODUCTION**

Ask the children the following questions and wait for them to answer:

- Who is God?
- Who is Jesus?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- Is the Holy Spirit a person or is He some force or power of God?
- Is the Holy Spirit created by God or is He God?

In the coming weeks, we will learn that the Holy Spirit is God and discover how He relates with us as a person and manifests Himself. We will also see the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, New Testament, in the Early Church and in the life of a believer.

How many of you have watched the following movies—Superman, Spiderman, Hulk, Shrek, Frozen and Tangled? How many of you have dreamed or wished that you could possess the same power these people have in the movies, so you could do cool things like flying, walking through walls, throwing spider webs on bad people or getting back at somebody because they hurt you?

Many Christians think the same of the Holy Spirit. They think the Holy Spirit is some magical power or force. Some think that the Holy Spirit is ‘fire,’ or the ‘power of God,’ or ‘God’s active force’ with which they can do miracles. But the Holy Spirit is not just some power or great force. The Bible says the Holy Spirit is God. Just as the Father and Son is God, the Holy Spirit is also God.

Today, we will learn that the Holy Spirit is God.



## ATTENTION GETTER

### Materials Needed:

- 3 different bright food colouring powder
- A jar of clean, clear water
- Double side sticky tape
- 3 clean glasses

### Preparation:

Stick small pieces of double-sided sticky tape to the inside bottoms of three glasses. Choose three suitable food colors and place a little on each tape in each glass. These food colorings are very concentrated, so only very small amounts are required and are consequently unlikely to be noticed by the children. However, you will probably need to determine by trial and error the best way to do this preparation.

Stick a strip of paper on one side of the glass and write Father, Son and Holy Spirit on each glass respectively. Do not let the children see the names on the paper as yet.

*(Show them a bottle of clear water.)*

### Say:

I am going to pour the clear water in this bottle into three different glasses. *(As you are talking, pour equal quantity of water in all the three glasses).*

### Ask:

Oh wow! The water has changed its color. Children, do you think the liquid in these glasses is water or has it changed to something else *(Let the children respond).*

### Explain:

I put some food color powder at the bottom of these three glasses, which you were not able to see. When I poured water into these glasses, the water took the color of the powder in the glass. So we see, though

the clear water has changed its color (according to the color powder in the glass), it is still water.

Let us connect this to our lesson today.



## TEACHING CONTENT

### I. Holy Spirit is God

#### A. Trinity

We believe that there is one God in three persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three are the same but because of their different roles, they are three persons. People have called one God in three persons as 'Trinity'—three in unity.

Just like these three glasses, (*turn the side of the glass so the children are able to see the labels on the three glasses*) are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three glasses contain the same water but the water took the color of the powder I put in the glass.

#### Ask:

Do we worship three Gods? (*Let the children respond*).

No! We worship one God in three persons.

The Bible tells us that:

- Father, Son and Holy Spirit are God
- Though they are three, they are one
- All three of them have different roles but are equal

*(Refer back to the attention getter.)*

Let me try to explain further with this example:

Give me a list of the many names and titles that you go by, in different places in your life.

*(Brainstorm with your children a list of the many names and titles they go by in different places in their lives. For example, at school, they are*

*students; at home they are sons, daughters, brothers and sisters; at the clinic, they are patients; and at the store, they are customers. They may also be friends, writers, readers, artists, dancers, singers, magicians, gardeners or have other roles.)*

### **Explain:**

We may go by various nicknames with different people. Nevertheless, we are still the same person regardless of what role we are fulfilling at any given time.

God has many jobs to do and we use terms like “Father, Son and Holy Spirit” to describe the different roles done by Him.

It may be impossible for us to understand the Trinity. The reason is because it is impossible for us to understand everything about God because our minds are too small and God is so much bigger and greater compared to our little minds. He is completely different from us. We believe in the Trinity because this is what the Bible teaches us.

One example where we see the Trinity in action in the Bible is at the Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan.

### **Read Aloud:**

**Matthew 3:13, 16, 17:** “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’”

At the Baptism of Jesus, we see all the three in action. The Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) came upon Jesus as a dove. The voice from heaven that spoke out was the voice of the Father.

The Holy Spirit does not look like a dove. He appeared as a dove (Dove is a bird that resembles peace) at Jesus’ baptism to show that, through Jesus, God the Father would pay the price for the sins of human beings, so that they can enjoy peace with God.

## **B. Holy Spirit is Equal to God**

Though the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have different roles, yet they are all equal. One verse in the Bible that clearly mentions the Holy Spirit equal with God the Father and God the Son is in Matthew 28:19.

### **Read Aloud:**

**Matthew 28:19:** “Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

## **C. Holy Spirit and God are One**

Let us read a very interesting story that is recorded for us in Acts 5:1-11. This story will help us know that the Holy Spirit and God are one. *(Let the children read one verse each from Acts 5:1-11).*

**Summary:** Many people were believing in Jesus and coming to church. A few of them sold things that they had, to help others in need. Ananias and his wife Sapphira sold some land too. But they had some wrong motives. They were trying to make themselves look important and good. They wanted people to praise them and be proud of them. They agreed together to give only part of the money that they received, to the church. They were then going to tell the church that they gave ALL the money to them.

Ananias went to church and gave the portion of the money to Peter, who was the leader. Peter asked Ananias, “... how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?” In v. 4, Peter rebuked Ananias saying, “You have not lied to men but to God.”

In this verse, we see that lying to the Spirit is the same as lying to God, showing that the Holy Spirit and God are one and the Holy Spirit is God.

## **II. Holy Spirit Possesses the Attributes of God**

Everyone, look at your fingertips. Your fingerprints are like nobody else’s. Our fingerprints are unique, just like each of us. In fact, you can be identified by your fingerprints. Even identical twins have slightly different fingerprints.



Holy Spirit is God

God is like no one else. He has unique traits that are His and His alone. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit share those unique traits that make them God. Why? Because they are One God, even though they are three Persons.

A few months ago we had studied who God is in the topic “Doctrine of God.” Can you tell me the three natural attributes (qualities) we learnt about God in Lesson 1 of Doctrine of God? (*Let the children answer*).

We learnt that God is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient.

What does Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient mean?

**Omnipotent means** that God has the power to do all things.

**Omnipresent means** that God is everywhere.

**Omniscient means** that God knows all things.

If the Holy Spirit is God, then He should possess the attributes or qualities of being God. He has to be Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient.

**Read Aloud:**

**Psalms 139:7-10:** “Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me; Your right hand will hold me fast.”

We see in this passage that the presence of the Holy Spirit is identified with the presence of God. Where the Spirit is, there God is.

**Holy Spirit is Omnipresent**

In the verses we just read, David says that the Spirit and the presence of God the Father is everywhere—in the heaven (i.e., sky) above and also in the lowermost parts of the earth. David says there is no place he can escape from the Spirit.

**Holy Spirit is Omniscient**

David asks two questions in verse 7. Can you tell me what the two questions are? (*Let the children respond*). The first question is, ‘Where can I go from your Spirit?’ The second one, ‘Where can I flee from your presence?’ By asking these

two questions David is saying that there is no place in the heaven (i.e., sky) above or the earth below that he can escape without the Spirit knowing.

### **Holy Spirit is Omnipotent**

In this Psalm, David says that even if he tries to escape quickly, at the speed of the morning breeze and go to places unknown to man, yet, even there he shall find God guiding, protecting and providing for Him.

We see that the Holy Spirit is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipotent, hence He is God.



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

**Look up the verses given below and write down whether each is talking about the Omnipotence, Omnipresence or Omniscience of the Holy Spirit:**

**1 Corinthians 2:11-12:** “For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.”

Answer: Omniscience

**Job 33:4:** “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

Answer: Omnipotent

**John 14:17:** “... the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.”

Answer: Omnipotent

**In John 14:17 who is Jesus referring to as the Spirit of truth?**

Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit as 'The Spirit of truth.'

**What does this verse say about the Holy Spirit being everywhere?**

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit was presently living with them, and would one day also live 'in' them. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit would live inside everyone who would believe that Jesus is God.

**In 1 Corinthians 2:11-12, what does it say about the Holy Spirit being all-knowing?**

The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God, and the Holy Spirit makes known the thoughts of God to those in whom He lives.

**How does this help us?**

The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's plans for our lives. He answers our questions and provides solutions to our problems.

**In Job 33:4, what does it say about the Holy Spirit being all powerful?**

This verse talks about the Holy Spirit having the power to create and give life. Creation of the world and man is not the work of man but God. Hence the Holy Spirit is God.

**List down the things children your age might need God's power for:**

Suggestions:

- *Making decisions*
- *Forgiving others*
- *Saying the right thing*
- *Standing up for what you believe in*
- *Not giving in to doing the wrong things your friends are asking you to do*
- *Choosing to love instead of hate*
- *Being honest*
- *Getting to know Jesus more*

**What difference would it make if the Holy Spirit were giving you power in these situations?**

**Why is it so important for us to know and believe that the Holy Spirit is God?**

It is important for us to know the Holy Spirit is God because only then will we give Him the honor and respect that He deserves as God. It also helps us to know who He is and what His role is in our lives. This will help us to communicate with Him and ask Him to help us in every area of our lives, daily.



### APPLICATION

The Holy Spirit is God, and is the third person in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to work in our hearts.

Jesus mentioned in John 14:17 that the Holy Spirit 'is in us.' Our Memory Verse for today from 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

Maybe so far in our lives, we have failed to acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is God, and have failed to realize and give attention to His presences in our lives. *(Lead the children in a short prayer of forgiveness for not acknowledging the Holy Spirit as God and failing to acknowledge His presence in their lives).*

The Holy Spirit wants to take up personal residence inside us. The Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of those people who believe in Jesus as Lord and accept Him into their lives. When we do this, we can have a joyful life filled with the presence of the Spirit. *(Lead the children in praying the salvation prayer and welcoming the Holy Spirit into their lives).*

After you make Jesus the Lord of your life, you already have the Holy Spirit living in you. The Holy Spirit desires to work in and through each believer, but you may ask why has He not helped me if He is there? Well, the Holy Spirit is the perfect gentleman. He will never force anything on

you. He can and will work only to the extent we allow Him to. He will just wait for you to open your life and allow Him to work in your life. So decide right now to allow Him in. Begin to experience His presence in your life by building your relationship with the Holy Spirit, by speaking to Him every day and not just when you are praying but at different times of the day.

You can say “Holy Spirit, give me the power not to do or say the wrong things today.” When you are facing your test or exam you can say, “Holy Spirit, give me the power to be honest and not copy in my test.” When you are tempted to lie to parents or teachers, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to speak the truth even if it means getting punished for being honest. When your friends are doing the wrong things, say, “Holy Spirit, help me to guide my friends in the right way.” If you want to share about Jesus with someone, ask the Holy Spirit who the person is and ask Him to give you the power to speak to them, and the wisdom to know what to say. When you say these things the Holy Spirit within you will give you the strength and ability to walk in His ways and become more and more like Jesus.

In your choices and plans every day, ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose what is according to God’s plan and will for your lives. Once you begin to acknowledge His presence in your life by speaking to Him, you will see how beautifully He will lead you.



### CLOSE WITH PRAYER

#### **Note to the Facilitator:**

Remind the children to fill in their Take Home Activity (in the next page) given in their workbook before they come to Children’s Church the following Sunday.



## TAKE HOME

Take some time this week to write down a few lines about yourself.

My Introduction:

❖ Your name

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❖ How I look

---

❖ Two best things about my nature/characteristics E.g., friendly, helpful, caring, sharing etc.

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# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Personality of the Holy Spirit*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To help children understand that the Holy Spirit is a real person and relates to us as a person.
- To show the children the significance of the Holy Spirit relating to us as a person.
- To show children how the Holy Spirit helps us.



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**John 14:16-17:** "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth."

### Materials Needed:

- Blanket
- Magnifying glass
- Three candles and a match box



## ATTENTION GETTER

Last week, I gave you three things to write about yourself. We would like to hear what you have written. Before I begin teaching the lesson for today, I would like all of you to read what you have written in My Introduction:

- ❖ My name
- ❖ How I look
- ❖ Two of the best things about my nature/characteristics, e.g., friendly, helpful, caring, sharing etc.

*(Do this activity quickly so that there is no waste of time.)*



## INTRODUCTION

*Let the children answer the following questions:*

- ❖ Last week who did we study about?  
You are right! We studied about the Holy Spirit.

I need your help to introduce the Holy Spirit.

Let us begin:

*Let the children respond to the following categories.*

- ❖ Name: Holy Spirit
- ❖ How does the Holy Spirit look?

A few children may say He looks like 'fire' or a 'dove.' The Holy Spirit revealed Himself in these symbols, but He does not look like a dove or fire. As the name itself suggests, the Holy Spirit is a Spirit- being, which means He does not have a form or shape. The Holy Spirit is not someone that we can see or touch. However His presence is very real—like the wind.

*(Just hold a small piece of paper in your hand and blow on the paper.)*



**Ask:**

Did you see the air blowing the paper? No! But did you see the paper moving? Yes!

Similarly, we cannot see the Holy Spirit but we can experience what He does and the results of His work in our lives.

❖ Do Spirit-beings have a body?

No!

❖ Two of the best things about the Holy Spirit’s nature/characteristics. *(Children may answer that since the Holy Spirit is a Spirit-being, He does not have any characteristics).* The Holy Spirit is a Spirit-being; He is someone we cannot see but He relates to us as a person. In the Bible, the Holy Spirit is not mentioned as ‘it.’ If the Holy Spirit were mentioned as an ‘it,’ then we could have said that the Holy Spirit is a force, power, a thing or an object. But the Holy Spirit is mentioned as a person and He is referred to as ‘Him’ and ‘He’ in the Bible.



**TEACHING CONTENT**

Let us read John 14:16, 17, 26 to see how the Holy Spirit is referred to in the Bible.

**I. The Holy Spirit is Referred to as a Person in the Bible**

Have you ever had to say ‘Goodbye’ to a friend (you loved very much) who was going to live somewhere else? How did you feel?

The disciples had been with the Lord Jesus for three years. They lived, travelled, ate, talked and listened to Him. Above all, they loved Him very much. When He told them that He was going to leave them, they were very sad. They wanted Him to stay and nobody wanted Him to leave. He comforted them that it was better for them if He left them so the Father would send Someone who would take His place.

In the verses we just read, who did Jesus say the Father would send to take His place?

The Spirit of truth or the Holy Spirit.

How is the Holy Spirit referred to as a person in these verses?

Him and He.

Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit to His disciples as a Person and not an “it.” Since the Holy Spirit is a person, He has a personality.

## **II. Personhood of the Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit has a mind—thinks, has emotions, knows and speaks)**

How is a human being different from an object or thing? *(Let the children answer).*

A human being breathes, speaks, has emotions *(name a few emotions)*, uses his mind to think and is an active person.

Similarly, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit knows and searches the things of God. He is said to possess a mind and He speaks and teaches people.

Let us turn our Bibles and read an interesting story from Acts 10:9-21. *(If you do not have enough time, you can narrate to the children the summary given below).*

Summary: Peter—one of the disciples of Jesus, was on the roof praying. He was hungry and wanted something to eat. As he was waiting for food to be prepared, he fell in a trance. In the trance, he saw a sheet coming down from heaven in which were all kind of four-footed animals, reptiles and birds. He heard a voice which told him to kill those animals and eat it. Peter told God that he hasn't eaten anything unclean. God told him not to call anything impure which He has made clean. This happened three times and immediately the sheet was taken up to heaven. As Peter was wondering what the vision meant, the Holy Spirit told him, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them” (Acts 10:20).

### **Ask:**

From this story, what can we find out about the person of the Holy Spirit *(Let the children respond).*

**Explain:**

Just like any other the person, the Holy Spirit speaks, knows, and has a will and mind.

The Holy Spirit **spoke** to Peter, “Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs.”

The Holy Spirit **knew** that three men were looking for him.

The Holy Spirit has a **mind** and **will**. He told Peter to get up and go downstairs and not to hesitate to go with them because He had sent the three men.

Here we see the Holy Spirit performs the actions of a person – He speaks, knows has a mind and will. Hence the Holy Spirit relates to us as a person.

**III. Holy Spirit Performs the Same Actions that a Person Does**

In the passage that we read from John 14, verse 16, what does Jesus call the Holy Spirit?

*(Since there are different translations, children may answer “advocate, counselor, comforter or helper.”)*

- NKJV says Helper
- The King James Version translates Helper as Comforter.
- The New International Version translates Helper as Counselor.
- The New English Version translates Helper as Advocate.

The four translations together give us a more complete picture of the Holy Spirit. He is our Helper, Advocate, Counselor and Comforter.

Helper - He empowers us with a “want to” to follow Jesus and become more and more like Him.

Advocate - He reminds us that God is for us and loves us.

Counselor - He is our teacher and guides us in how to understand and apply God’s Word to our everyday lives. He gives us wisdom.

Comforter - He is our greatest, most-compassionate encourager in times of need.

How does the Holy Spirit comfort and help us; and what does He teach us?

### **A. Holy Spirit Comforts Us**

When Jesus told His disciples that He was soon going to leave them, they were very sad. Jesus told them that the Father would send another Comforter—just like Himself—who would never leave them. The word “comforter” means “one to run to our side and pick us up.”

#### **Ask:**

What are some of the problems you face at home and school? How do you feel when you face these problems?

*(Let the children respond.)*

When we face problems not just big ones but even small ones, the Holy Spirit who is our Comforter is by our side and helps us. He encourages us and fills us with joy and, takes away our fear and worry.

He comforts us, just like this blanket *(show them the blanket)*. How do you feel when you cover yourself with your blanket? *(Let the children respond)*.

The blanket (also called a comforter) makes you feel warm, safe and secure. Remember when you face any problem that it will not cause you any harm because like the blanket the Holy Spirit will keep you safe and secure.

### **B. Holy Spirit Helps Us**

*Light the first candle and say this:*

God speaks to all men and women calling them to leave their life of sin and come to Him. When people believe in the Lord Jesus and repent of their sin and ask for forgiveness *(Light the second candle)* they are made into a brand new person. The Holy Spirit comes and lives in them. But they soon realize that they still sin and make mistakes. Some of them read the Bible but have a hard time understanding it. Then, that person seeks the free gift of the Holy Spirit and gets a big dose of Him! *(Light the third candle)* With the third candle lit, can you see how much brighter this room is? Think about how much brighter your spirit and your life would be with that third candle lit? The Holy Spirit is the light of truth. He helps us understand and see the deep truths and revelations in God’s Word. He also shows us the sin in our lives

and helps to overcome those sins. He also helps us see traps the devil sets for us which will cause us to sin.

### C. Holy Spirit Teaches Us

#### Ask:

When we read the Bible, do we find it easy to understand what we read?

When you go to school, do you just sit and read the different text books the whole day?

*(Let the children respond.)*

#### Explain:

No! We do not understand everything we read in the Bible.

You probably have different teachers who teach you in school. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is our Teacher. When we read our Bible, the Holy Spirit helps us understand what the different Scripture verses mean and how they can apply to different parts of our lives. He helps us to see the truth in God's Word clearly.

In John 14:26, Jesus said, "But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you."

*(Use the magnifying glass to show kids how the letters of the Bible seem larger when you use it).* See how large and clear the words look? The same way the Holy Spirit helps us understand God's Word.

He also teaches us about the things that Jesus said. It does not matter how old you are because the Holy Spirit teaches everyone the same!

Sometimes it is hard to know what the truth is. We want to do what is 'right' but we are not sure what doing 'right' is. Jesus promised us that the Holy Spirit would be our Teacher. He will not only show us what 'right' is but will also help us do the 'right' thing.

## CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit is a real Person, not just a ‘force’ or a ‘presence’ or a ‘power.’ He should be your best friend. He was sent by the Father to encourage you and constantly assure you of God’s love. You must recognize Him as a Person. He can speak, He is praying for you, just as Christ is praying for you. He will teach you what you need to know. He will guide you in your decisions. So submit to His work in your life. If you reject Him, He will be grieved. Respecting the Holy Spirit as a person is necessary for your relationship with Him.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

**Read the following stories to see how the Holy Spirit helps us:**

### Case Study 1

Sneha loves and believes in Jesus, but she is having a problem with her temper. She often finds herself shouting at her younger sister and friends when she plays with them. It makes her very unhappy right after she has shouted at them. She knows it is wrong and that it makes Jesus very sad. So she asked the Lord Jesus to forgive and help her control her temper—the Holy Spirit did help her. Slowly, she found she could control herself—because the Holy Spirit gave her the strength to do so.

Susan studies in a Christian school and is the only Christian in her class. Every Thursday during the class assembly, Susan’s class teacher asks her to read a small passage from the Bible and pray. Susan has fear of reading and speaking in front of a group of people. When she does, she stammers, her throat chokes and it looks as though she is going to cry.

To avoid making a fool of herself in front of the whole class, she started making up excuses to avoid going to school on Thursdays. Her mother soon realized that every Thursday, Susan does not like to go to school.

Susan finally told her mother the reason. Her mother asked her to read Romans 8:26 (*ask one child to read the verse aloud*). After her mother explained this passage to her, Susan began to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help her in her weakness—to overcome her fear of speaking in public and to help her pray in front of everyone. Slowly, Susan gained confidence and began to do a good job at the class assembly.

### **According to Roman 8:26 how does the Holy Spirit help us?**

Susan's mum explained to her that the Holy Spirit not only knows us, but He helps us in our weaknesses. He helps us do things that we cannot do in our own strength. If it glorifies Jesus and is about His people and the Church, the Holy Spirit will work in and through our weaknesses. The Holy Spirit not only teaches us and helps us to pray, but also prays on our behalf to the Father.

### **Case Study 2**

Peter was a Christian but his best friend, Ravi, was not. Peter wanted Ravi to know that it is Jesus who created him and that He loves him so much that He died on the cross for his sins. The Holy Spirit helped Peter speak to Ravi about Jesus and invite him to the Christmas Outreach program held in Children's Church. But Ravi did not show any interest in attending the program. So, Peter prayed and asked God to do something, so that Ravi would believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit did just as Peter prayed. Whenever he got an opportunity, Peter began speaking to Ravi. One day, the Holy Spirit worked in Ravi's heart; He showed Ravi that he was a sinner and that he needed to be saved. Ravi accepted Jesus into his heart.

**Who gives us the courage and helps us witness about Jesus to our non-Christian friends? Read Acts 1:8 to find the answer.**

The Holy Spirit helps us to be a witness to others.

**Who helped Ravi know that he was a sinner? Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13 to find the answer.**

The Holy Spirit influences a person's life at the time of their salvation. It is the Holy Spirit who sanctifies or cleanses our hearts when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and come into our lives. After we become believers, the Holy Spirit helps us to overcome the desire to sin, corrects us when we disobey God and leads us to the truth.

### Case Study 3

Ronnie was a very shy boy. On Sundays during worship time, he saw most of the people in church sing, clap and raise their hands and worship God. Ronnie being a shy boy longed to worship God just like the others but he just could not do it. One day before beginning worship, the worship leader read out to the church from John 4:23-24.

Let us all turn to our Bibles and read from John 4:23-24.

After reading from the Bible, the worship leader led the church in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them worship God in spirit and in truth. Ronnie prayed that prayer very sincerely and with all his heart. The Holy Spirit helped him to truly worship God. Ronnie not only sang and raised his hands in worship, but also knelt down at times as an act of worship. Oh! How wonderful!

#### How does the Holy Spirit help us to worship God?

The Holy Spirit prompts and directs us to worship God in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him.



### APPLICATION

How wonderful to know that God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to help us do things which will glorify Him. Our parents and friends may not always be around to help us but the Holy Spirit is always there with us to help us.

Do you have a special need? The Holy Spirit is able to meet it. He will help you.

Do you need your sins to be forgiven? Do you need to trust and put your faith in Jesus? The Holy Spirit will help you to trust in the Lord Jesus.

Do you have a problem or weakness in your life? The Holy Spirit will guide, strengthen and help you overcome it.

Do you find it boring to read your Bible, pray and worship God? When you read your Bible, do you find it hard to understand some passages? Or do



you avoid praying because you don't know what to pray? Remember the Holy Spirit will help you understand and make known to you the truth as you read God's Word. He'll help you pray and worship God.

Do you find it hard to witness to your friends? The Holy Spirit will give you the boldness and will also help you say exactly what is necessary. Remember the Holy Spirit will help you when you acknowledge His presence and activity in your life and ask Him to do so.

Write down areas where you need the Holy Spirit to help you.

Example:

- Overcoming your sins
- Weakness
- Understand passages in the Bible
- Pray
- Witness about Jesus to your friends
- Worship Jesus in Spirit and truth

Begin by praying about these and see the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Come back next week, ready to share your testimonies.



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Symbols of the Holy Spirit*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce the children to the symbols used to describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
- To explain the significance of the Holy Spirit coming down as a dove, fire and wind.



### SCRIPTURE PORTION

Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:1-8 and Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Leviticus 20:26:** "You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own."

**Note to the Facilitator:**

Since children love listening to stories, narrate the three incidents in Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:1-8 and Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV) as a story to get the attention of the children.



**ATTENTION GETTER**

Have you ever heard the word “Simile?” Did your English teacher teach you about similes? (*Let the children respond*).

A simile is when we compare one thing to another— when we say that one thing is similar to another.

Let me see who can write down all the similes given in your student workbook in 2 mins:

1. Sharon is always as busy as a bee.
2. Ryan is as slow as a snail.
3. Without my glasses I am as blind as a bat.
4. Raja is as brave as a lion.
5. Rita is as cunning as a fox.
6. After my exams, I will be as free as a bird.
7. David is as innocent/gentle as a lamb.
8. Reena is as proud as a peacock.
9. Deepa is as wise as an owl.

What do we mean when we try to compare Sharon or Ryan or David to a bee or snail or lamb? (*Let the children respond*). We are actually trying to compare their nature or characteristics with that of an animal with similar characteristics.



**INTRODUCTION**

The Bible uses a number of symbols to describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit. These symbols show the nature, character and work of the Holy Spirit. They include: water, fire, dove, oil, wind, cloud, wine, rain, cloth and seal.

The symbols are not only important for us to gain an understanding of what the Holy Spirit is like, but also helps us know who God is. God, who is invisible, makes Himself known through us and to others in the world.

Example: The Holy Spirit as a dove. It is not enough for us to think, "Oh! The Holy Spirit is like a dove." Rather we must let the Holy Spirit enter us with the glory of God, so that others can see His glory in and through us.

Today, we will learn the significance of the coming of the Holy Spirit as a Dove, Tongues of Fire and Wind.



## TEACHING CONTENT

### 1. The Holy Spirit Comes as a Dove

Children, when, where and on whom, did the Holy Spirit come as a dove? *(If the children are not able to answer, give them a clue).* Ok, let me give you a clue: In lesson 1 when we learnt about the Trinity, we saw one event in the life of Jesus when all three – Father, Son and Holy Spirit were present.

Answer: At the Baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan.

#### **Read Aloud:**

*(To refresh their memory tell the children a summary of the event in Matthew 3:13-17.)*

Summary: Jesus came from Galilee to the river Jordan to be baptised by John. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'

John the Baptist had been sent by God:

- To prepare the way for the Messiah—who would come to save people and forgive their sins.
- To introduce the Messiah to the people.

John had a problem; he did not know who the Messiah was. God told him that he would recognize the Messiah when the Holy Spirit comes down on Him from Heaven. But how could John see the Holy Spirit who is invisible and doesn't have a body? Well, so that John could see the Holy Spirit when He came upon the Messiah, the Holy Spirit took a bodily form like a dove. The dove came down upon Jesus when He was being baptised.

How is The Holy Spirit like a dove? (*Let the children respond*).

Dove is a symbol for \_\_\_\_\_. (Answer: Purity, Peace)

### **A. The Holy Spirit is Holy Or Pure**

A dove is white and is a picture of purity. That reminds us that the Holy Spirit is holy or pure. That's the reason why He is called the 'HOLY' Spirit. A dove also reminds us that the one upon whom He came, the Lord Jesus, is pure and without sin.

The Lord Jesus wants us to live lives which are pure. The Holy Spirit helps us to be more and more like Jesus every day.

### **B. Holy Spirit Brings Peace**

A dove is a picture of peace. When a war finishes, the winning country often releases a number of doves to show that peace has come. The Holy Spirit wants to bring peace between God and man, and peace in our lives.

### **C. The Holy Spirit is Gentle**

Just as a dove is gentle, harmless and innocent, the Holy Spirit too is gentle. One of the signs that we have accepted Jesus as our Savior and the Holy Spirit lives in us when the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control) is seen in our actions and how we live our lives. One of the Fruit of the Spirit is gentleness.

## II. The Holy Spirit Comes Like a Wind

Children can you describe the wind? *(Let the children respond).*

- Wind is invisible but we can feel it.
- Since it is invisible we don't know where it comes from and where it is going.
- Wind is powerful and can even cause great danger.

Did you know that in John 3:1-8, Jesus compares the Holy Spirit to the wind?

*(Ask each child to read aloud one verse from John 3:1-8.)*

**Ask:**

Who was Nicodemus?

He was a Pharisee who was a religious leader.

When did he come to meet Jesus?

At night

What did Jesus tell him to do?

To be born again

Jesus told him that he needed to be born again. Nicodemus was completely confused. He wondered how a man could be born again when he was old. Then Jesus told him that this was as difficult as understanding where the wind comes from and where it goes.

How is the Holy Spirit like the Wind? *(Let the children respond).*

### **A. Holy Spirit is Invisible but Can be Felt**

Just like the wind, the Holy Spirit is invisible. He does not have a body but He is real. Just like you cannot see the wind but can feel it when it blows, in the same way you cannot see the Holy Spirit but you can feel what He does in your life. You can see the results of His work - even though you cannot see Him.

It was ten days since the Lord Jesus had returned to Heaven. Before He left, He had promised to send the Holy Spirit to live in His disciples and to make them strong, so that they could serve Him. The disciples were gathered in a large upper room.

Just before the coming of the Holy Spirit, there was a sound of a violent wind that came from heaven.

**Read Aloud:**

**Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV):** “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

At Pentecost it wasn't a wind that blew in, but it was the sound of a rushing wind—like a hurricane. The sound was so loud and powerful that it drew a crowd of people to the room.

Similarly, the work of the Holy Spirit in a born again believer is powerful. He can transform a person who is living in sin, hopelessness and sadness to freedom, hope and joy.

**B. No One Can Control the Holy Spirit**

No one can control the wind, it blows as it wishes. In the same way no one can control the Holy Spirit. He does what He wants to do. Sometimes He works in a person's heart; sometimes He doesn't. We can pray for Him to do things, but we cannot tell Him what to do or force Him to do those things.

Jesus said we don't know where the wind is coming from and where it is going. It's the same with the Holy Spirit. We never know what He is going to do and how He is going to work.

**III. The Holy Spirit Comes as Tongues of Fire**

As we just read in Acts 2:1-4, at Pentecost, divided tongues of fire came on each one of them. This was not fire itself—but looked like fire.

It would seem that both the wind and the fire that day were symbols of power - the power that the disciples would need for their ministry, and which Jesus promised they would receive.

In what way is the Holy Spirit like fire? What does fire do? (*Let the children respond*).

### **A. The Holy Spirit Gives Power**

Fire can be very powerful and difficult to control. It can burn forests, houses and buildings. It can turn water into the steam which operates great-engines. So, the Holy Spirit is the One who gives you the power that you need to overcome your sin and weaknesses; power to boldly share about Jesus to others, power to pray and minister healing for the sick.

### **B. The Holy Spirit Makes Us Pure**

Many metals that are used to make different things are found in the ground, where they look like rocks. When dug up, they're not automatically ready to use. They have all kinds of "dirt" mixed in them. The only way to clean or purify a metal is by melting it in a very hot fire, so that the "dirt" is burnt off. When the metal gold is heated up and refined in this way, the result is a bar of gold which is then used to make jewelry.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin, and works in your heart and life, to get rid of sin and make you clean and pure.

### **C. The Holy Spirit Joins Together**

Do you know who a welder is? He is a man who joins pieces of metal together. How does he do this? He uses an inner flame of fire to join two pieces of metal and make them one. Fire can join things together. Similarly, the Holy Spirit works in our lives to restore our life from sin and separation from God to a relationship with God the Father and Son.



## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

The specific symbols used to represent the Spirit are related to common everyday things: wind, water, fire, water etc. Perhaps it's God's way of getting us to think of the Spirit more than we



**usually do. So how can we remind ourselves of the work of the Spirit who dwells in us, as we move through life each day?**

### **Note to the Facilitator:**

Based on all that they learnt so far, let the children reflect on how the Holy Spirit is like a Dove, Wind and Fire. Then let them write down on their own, how they will be reminded of the different representations of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives. The teacher can help them with the points mentioned below.

### **Dove**

The Holy Spirit is Holy – He wants me to be holy in what I say, do, think and watch.

Holy Spirit Brings Peace – The Holy Spirit will give me peace when I'm afraid to face a test/exam. Similarly, if I have fought with my friend, or they fought with me, making me feel very sad, the Holy Spirit will help me to make peace with them.

When my mum/dad are upset with me because I spoke rudely to them or did something I shouldn't have, I can ask the Holy Spirit to give me the strength to tell them I'm sorry, and to bring peace to our relationship.

If my Dad and Mum are constantly fighting, I can pray for the Holy Spirit to bring peace into their relationship.

The Holy Spirit is Gentle – He speaks very gently with me; so I need to be quiet to hear Him. As the Holy Spirit is gentle, He can help me to be gentle with others who are rude to me, make fun of me, hurt me or get angry with me.

### **Wind**

Holy Spirit is Invisible but can be Felt – The Holy Spirit may ask me to stop doing the sin that I'm involved in or have committed.

The Holy Spirit asks me to be gentle, kind, loving, forgiving, patient etc.

The Holy Spirit tells me not to gossip about my friend or copy even if others are doing it. He also tells me not to lie, to back answer etc.

Holy Spirit is Powerful – When I think I lack the ability, or am afraid to perform on stage, take part in a competition, play an instrument, or say 'No' to the wrong

things that my friend asks me to do, the Holy Spirit will give me the power that I need because nothing is impossible for Him.

### **Fire**

The Holy Spirit gives us power. Just as the wind was powerful, the Holy Spirit too had come into their lives to give them power and strength to witness for Jesus, and do miracles like healing the sick, raising the dead back to life, and casting out demons.

If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit lives in you and is ready to give you the power and strength to live for the Lord Jesus.

The Holy Spirit Makes me Pure – The Holy Spirit is willing to make me holy and pure like Jesus.

He will help me overcome my weaknesses – of getting angry, hating and being jealous of others, pride, selfishness, disobedience, etc.



### **APPLICATION**

This coming week, take one symbol of the Holy Spirit each day, and invite Him to work in your life in a fresh way. Experience His power to change you and minister to you in the areas you have mentioned above. Come next week with testimonies of how He changed you, ministered to you and used you to minister to others.



### **CLOSE WITH PRAYER**



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
- The Holy Spirit is still active among believers today.
- One way the Spirit operates through the believers today is through the nine gifts of the Spirit.



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Luke 11:13:** "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

### Materials Needed:

- A deflated balloon
- A balloon filled with air



## INTRODUCTION

In lesson 2, we learnt that the Holy Spirit is God and we also learnt how He relates to us as a person. We looked at the passage in John 14:16, 17 where Jesus tells His disciples that He would soon be leaving them and going back to the Father. When the disciples heard this, they were very sad. Jesus encouraged them saying that they would not be alone as He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit who would be with them forever as their teacher and guide.

Twice, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit. If Jesus spoke of the coming of the Holy Spirit and asked His disciples to wait for His coming, does this mean that the Holy Spirit was not present before or after Jesus came down to earth?

The Holy Spirit was present from the very beginning—even before the creation of the world. He was actively involved during creation, throughout the Old Testament times and even during the time Jesus spent on earth.

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was actively involved in creation and preservation of life, equipping some men with certain skills and empowering a few others to do special tasks assigned to them by God. The Holy Spirit also performed miracles and revealed God's Word, through the prophets to the people.



## ATTENTION GETTER

### Materials Needed:

- A deflated balloon
- A balloon filled with air

*(Show the different balloons and point out the differences between them.)*

The deflated balloon represents us—ordinary people. The balloon filled with air represents God.

Compare the two balloons:

The empty balloon represents us. On our own, without the Holy Spirit inside our hearts—all floppy and flat—we are pretty useless, certainly not as beautiful and really not good for anything. *(Show the balloon that represents the Holy Spirit and talk about the difference.)*

This balloon is much better in many ways:

- It is certainly more beautiful than the deflated empty 'ME' balloon
- It is certainly more powerful
- It can fly high

A balloon filled with air can represent my life filled with the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. It is only because of the presence, power and strength of the Holy Spirit that we can do great things for God

### Note to the Facilitator:

Narrate the instances mentioned below as a story to get the attention of the children.



### TEACHING CONTENT

Let us look at a number of passages in the Old Testament, to confirm the ways in which the Spirit worked in the lives of the people of old, to do great things for God.

## I. The Holy Spirit as the Source of Life

I would like three of you to read from Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4 and Psalms 104:30. In these verses, we will see the Holy Spirit's significant role in creation and, in giving and sustaining life.

### Read Aloud:

**Genesis 1:2:** "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

In the beginning, the Spirit of God was covering the waters; then God spoke over the region and things happened. This shows that the Spirit of God is the One who creates, shapes and forms the natural world in accordance with the Word spoken by God.

**Psalm 104:30:** “When you send your Spirit, they are created and you renew the face of the earth.”

**Job 33:4:** “The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

## **II. Holy Spirit Gifted a Few Men with Special Skills**

### **A. Bezalel and Oholiab**

When God’s people were living in the wilderness, on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land; God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle in which to worship God. The Holy Spirit gave Bezalel and Oholiab special skill, knowledge and ability to teach the other workmen entrusted to carry out the work of constructing the Tabernacle and making all the articles and curtains for the Tabernacle.

#### **Read Aloud:**

**Exodus 35:30–36:1:** “Then Moses said to the Israelites, ‘See, the Lord has chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship. And he has given both him and Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach others. He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers—all of them master craftsmen and designers. So Bezalel, Oholiab and every skilled person to whom the Lord has given skill and ability to know how to carry out all the work of constructing the sanctuary are to do the work just as the Lord has commanded.’”

Wow! The Holy Spirit gave artistic skill and ability to men.

## **B. Holy Spirit Put in King David's Mind the Plan to Build the Temple of God**

David had an immense desire in his heart to build a temple to worship God. God gave David the plans, instructions and designs for building the temple. However, He instructed David that his son Solomon would build the temple. In 1 Chronicles 28:19, we see David giving instructions to his son Solomon on how to build the house for the Lord ... "All this,' David said, 'I have in writing from the hand of the Lord upon me, and he gave me understanding in all the details of the plan.'"

### **Explain:**

Wow! David was able to write (draw) the design of the temple as it was given to him by the Spirit of God. "The Lord's hand" is an Old Testament term to refer to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

### **Read Aloud:**

**1 Chronicles 28:12:** "He gave him the plans of all that the Spirit had put in his mind for the courts of the temple of the Lord and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things."

### **Explain:**

The Holy Spirit put in David's mind the entire plan, design and things for the temple.

## **III. Holy Spirit Enabled and Empowered Men to do that which was Humanly Impossible**

### **The Holy Spirit gifted Samson—Israel's judge—with unusual physical strength to defeat the Philistines**

The Israelites angered God when they worshiped idols. He punished them by letting their enemies rule over them. These enemies made life very difficult for the Israelites. Whenever they were treated harshly by their enemies, the Israelites cried out to God for mercy. Each of these times, the Lord raised a Judge who delivered the Israelites out of the hands of their enemies. However, when the Judge died, the people returned to their evil ways. Samson was the 15<sup>th</sup> Judge of Israel whom God raised to fight against the Philistines who were Israel's enemy. Samson was known for his great strength. His great strength was not just in his hair; for he was able to fight a lion and tore the lion apart with just his hands.

**Judges 14:6:** “The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat.”

On one occasion, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power and he went to the place called Ashkelon and killed 30 Philistine men.

**Judges 14:19:** “Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. He went down to Ashkelon, struck down thirty of their men, stripped them of their belongings ...”

On another occasion, he allowed the men of Judah to tie up his hands with two new ropes and handed him over to the Philistines. When the Philistines came towards him, the Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power and the ropes on his arms became like charred flax and it fell off from his hands, and Samson found a fresh jawbone of a donkey and he killed 1000 men with it.

Samson was able to do all these extraordinary things because the Holy Spirit came upon him at those times.

**Judges 15:11-15:** “Then three thousand men from Judah went down to the cave in the rock of Etam and said to Samson, ‘Don’t you realize that the Philistines are rulers over us? What have you done to us?’ He answered, ‘I merely did to them what they did to me.’ They said to him, ‘We’ve come to tie you up and hand you over to the Philistines.’ Samson said, ‘Swear to me that you won’t kill me yourselves.’ ‘Agreed,’ they answered. ‘We will only tie you up and hand you over to them. We will not kill you.’ So they bound him with two new ropes and led him up from the rock. As he approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands. Finding a fresh jawbone of a donkey, he grabbed it and struck down a thousand men.”

## **IV. Holy Spirit Anointed Kings to Fulfill their Godly Appointment as King Over Israel**

### **Saul**

Saul was the first King of Israel. When Prophet Samuel anointed Saul as King, he prophesied over him saying, “The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.



Once these signs are fulfilled, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you” (1 Samuel 10:6).

Just as Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart. It happened exactly just as Samuel has said, “When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.” (1 Samuel 10:10). In the next chapter, we read the Spirit of God comes upon Saul and Saul delivered the Israelites from their enemies.

God not only chose, equipped and anointed Saul as King but also changed his heart and made him a different person. When Saul disobeyed God, God was grieved that He made Saul as King over Israel. He took away His Spirit from him and anointed David as the next King of Israel. God helped David rule as King over Israel.

## V. Holy Spirit Performed Miracles

### A. Elijah

God told Elijah to tell King Ahab that He would not send rain on the land for the next few years. When King Ahab heard this, he was very angry and he wanted to kill Elijah, so he asked his soldiers to look for Elijah. God protected Elijah and the soldiers could not find him.

After three years, God told Elijah to go and present himself before King Ahab. On the way, Elijah meets Obadiah (the governor of the King’s house) and told him to inform King Ahab that he was there. Obadiah told Elijah that when he goes to inform the King, the Spirit of the Lord may carry Elijah elsewhere. If the King comes and finds that Elijah is not there, he would kill him.

**1 Kings 18:12:** “I don’t know where the Spirit of the Lord may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn’t find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshiped the Lord since my youth.

Maybe there were previous instances when the Spirit of the Lord suddenly carried away Elijah to a different place to protect him from King Ahab.

## B. Ezekiel

Just like in Elijah's case, the Spirit of the Lord transported the prophet Ezekiel from one place to another. Ezekiel says:

### Read Aloud:

**Ezekiel 3:14:** "The Spirit then lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness and in the anger of my spirit, with the strong hand of the Lord on me."

**Ezekiel 8:3:** "He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood."

**Ezekiel 37:1:** "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones."

So we see that the Holy Spirit was present even before creation, in creating, giving and sustaining life. In the days of Old we see that the Holy Spirit gave skill, wisdom, knowledge, strength and enabled people, Kings, leaders to fulfill their Godly assignments.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

**Did the Holy Spirit enable people to do miracles and give them power, skill, talent and wisdom only in days past, or does He still work among the believers today? To find the answer read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.**

The nine gifts of the Spirit listed out in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 are expressions of the Spirit's presence and operation in a believer's life.

They were given first to the Early Church. All of these gifts, except speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues, were operational during the Old Testament days. However, they were given when the Holy Spirit came upon a few people to help them do a specific task. But now it is given to all believers.

The Holy Spirit has not changed! He desires to work in and through believers even today. However, He is not limited to working in just the way that He did in the past, because He is God. He will also surely work in fresh and new ways today.

### **In what way is it helpful for us to know that the Holy Spirit enabled people in the Old Testament?**

When we know what the Holy Spirit did for men in the past, we can desire to have the same gifts of the Spirit operating in our lives today. This will not only help us have a deeper relationship with Him, but also cause us to experience His working in and through us, in a greater measure, for the building of His church.

### **How does the Holy Spirit enable children/people with special skills today?**

The Holy Spirit does not enable us to be skilled only in working with gold, silver and other metal but also in practicing other kinds of skills. This could include skills like playing instruments and being the best at what we do. This could mean being the best cook, teacher, preacher, writer, singer, dancer, speaker, athlete or designer (whether of clothes or computer programs). Even today, the Holy Spirit is able to impart designs and plans to our minds. He also gives us intelligence, insight and the ability to learn.

### **Since the Holy Spirit gives us the gifts of wisdom and understanding to make us skillful, does this mean we don't have to work hard?**

The same way the Holy Spirit gave the workmen, Bezalel and Oholiab, gifts of wisdom and knowledge to accomplish tasks that seemed impossible, the Holy Spirit will enable us as well, to do things which may seem difficult or impossible to us. But we need to do our part of working hard to get the work done.

**The power of the Spirit enabled Samson to tear the lion with just his hands. How does the Holy Spirit empower believers today, to do mighty acts for God? Read Acts 1:8 to know the answer.**

Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come upon them. Jesus told them that when the Holy Spirit would come upon them, they would receive power to witness for Jesus and do miracles—healing the sick and casting out demons just like He did.

After the disciples received the Holy Spirit, we see them boldly witnessing for Jesus and doing many miracles. Similarly, when the Holy Spirit comes upon us and He will enable us to witness boldly for Jesus, heal the sick and cast out demons.



### APPLICATION

The Holy Spirit is here for us to experience Him in our daily lives. He works differently in each of our lives, depending on what we are called to do. If you need to experience more of His working in your life, you need to constantly talk to Him, ask Him for the gift you need, listen to Him and yield to His leading. We must not be afraid to follow what the Spirit is telling us. This is a relationship that is built over time. The more we know the Holy Spirit, the more we are able to experience Him.

As I have said over the last three weeks, begin by constantly talking to Him, asking Him for His help and asking Him for the gifts you need, depending on the things you are doing.

Example: Ask Him for wisdom and knowledge to be the best at what you are doing—like painting, drawing, playing an instrument, cooking, writing stories or poems etc.

If you are a leader in school, ask Him for wisdom and knowledge so that you can be an example of a godly leader in your school.

If you want to witness to others about Jesus, ask Him for power and boldness.

When you pray for sick people, ask Him to perform miracles of healing.

If you need correction in some area of your life, or you need encouragement and direction, ask Him to reveal God's truth and plans.

When you ask the Holy Spirit, He will surely fill you with the needed gifts and help you. Remember He is your helper.

**Among the nine gifts, write down the gifts you need.**

**Write down the areas where you want these gifts to operate in your life.**



### TAKE HOME ACTIVITY

This week you have a very interesting Take Home activity. Read some of the miracles done by the early apostles, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Read one passage each day during this week. Next Sunday, we will see what we can learn from these passages.

**Sunday** : Acts 3:1-10

**Monday** : Acts 8:1-8 and 14-17

**Tuesday** : Acts 8:26-40

**Wednesday** : Acts 10:17-48

**Thursday** : Acts 19:1-11

**Friday** : Acts 9:32-43

**Saturday** : Acts 28:1-10



### CLOSE WITH PRAYER



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the children to the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
- To help children see the difference in the working of the Holy Spirit during Old Testament times and at the Pentecost.



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Acts 1:8:** "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."

### Materials Required:

- Strong Rope
- Chalk piece or something to mark lines on the floor

**Note to the Facilitator:**

In today's lesson, we will be referring to a number of incidents in the New Testament. It would be good if you read the incidents and narrate them as a story.

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, we see the Holy Spirit active before the birth of Jesus and during Jesus' ministry here on earth. At Pentecost and thereafter, we see a major change in the working of the Holy Spirit in the early church. We will learn about this in our lesson today.

**ATTENTION GETTER**

**"Power Pull"** – Have teams on either side hold on to the rope. Each team has to pull the other team to their side. Help one team in pulling the other team towards you to demonstrate that God gives us power to do the job He wants us to do.

**Participants:**

- Teacher
- Two teams of three children each

**Materials Required:**

- A rope
- Something to mark lines on the floor – a "start" and a "finish" line

**Preparation:**

Mark two lines on the floor in the front of the classroom approximately three meters (ten feet) apart. Mark a line in the centre which is equal distance from both the lines.

**What to Do:**

Choose two teams of three children each. Make sure that one team has smaller children and won't be as strong as the other team.

**Say:**

Each team must stand behind the two lines and hold on to the rope and they must pull the other team to their side. The moment one of the team members of any one of the team cross the middle line, that team loses the match.

**Instructions to the Facilitator:**

Give them a starting signal. After a couple of seconds have passed, step forward quickly and grab the rope near the side of the weaker team. Help the children pull the other team to your side. Make sure that the team you are helping are the winners. After the activity declare the team as winners.

The first team, and perhaps many of the other children in the class, will probably complain that helping the second team was unfair.

**Explain:**

You may think it is unfair that I helped the second team. But in my instructions I did not say you can't get help from anyone. I helped them because I want to give you an example that not only God is on our side, or for us and with us, but He is also in us.

Just like the first team, we can try to do things in our own strength, and we may even succeed. But God wants to help us. He wants to give us more power better than we could on our own. In the same way, I helped the helped the second team to be better and more powerful so that they were able to do more than they could in their own strength. Similarly, when we are born again, the Holy Spirit lives in us and when we pray for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us, He fills us and we begin to operate in the power of the Spirit.

Today, we will learn how the Holy Spirit fills us and what we can accomplish with the help and power of the Holy Spirit.





## TEACHING CONTENT

### I. Work of the Holy Spirit Before the Birth of Jesus

The angel of the Lord came to Mary and told her that the child she will bear will be through the power of the Holy Spirit. The angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him the same message.

As soon as Mary heard the news, she hurried to her relative's house, to Elizabeth, to tell her what the Angel had said. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she revealed to Mary that her unborn child was 'the Lord.'

Before the birth of John the Baptist, the angel of the Lord appeared to his father Zechariah, and said that his wife would bear a son who would be filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. After the birth of John the Baptist, his father Zachariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he prophesied about John's future ministry and the coming of the Messiah.

### II. Work of the Holy Spirit During Jesus' Life on Earth

#### A. Holy Spirit Anointed Jesus at His Baptism

After Jesus was baptised, He came out of the water and the heavens opened. He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. Soon after His Baptism, Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, where He was tempted by the devil.

#### B. The Anointing of Jesus Empowered Him for Preaching and Healing People

After Jesus overcame His temptation with the devil in the desert, He went to Galilee in the power of the Spirit to teach in the synagogue (the place where the Jews worshiped). In the Synagogue, He read a passage of Scripture from the Old Testament. After He finished reading from the Scripture passage, He said, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor ..." (Luke 4:18). Jesus declared to everyone that it's the Spirit of God who has anointed

Him to preach the good news. Not only did Jesus preach with the anointing of the Holy Spirit but the Bible tells us in Act 10:38 that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, because of which He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil. All the miracles Jesus did was through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **C. Jesus was Led by the Spirit**

After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. His continuous obedience to the guidance of the Spirit enabled Him to always do the things that pleased the Father. Jesus says in John 8:29: "... The one who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him."

### **D. Holy Spirit Empowered Jesus to do Miracles**

Once when the Pharisees mocked Jesus by saying that it is through the prince of demons that He drives out demons. Jesus made it clear that He was casting out demons by the power of the Spirit.

## **III. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church**

At the beginning of the class, I told you that we see a major change in the working of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church. Did I tell you what the change was? (*Let the children respond*).

No! I did not tell you. And I won't tell you now either. I want you to observe carefully what the changes are and we will discuss them at the end. Let me see how many of you are able to answer.

### **1. The Holy Spirit Infilling the Disciples and Believers in the Early Church**

I explained last week that Jesus assured His disciples that He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit, who will be with them forever. After Jesus resurrected from the dead, He appeared to His disciples and told them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus went back to Heaven, God the Father sent the Holy Spirit and He in-filled all the disciples and believers. Let's read from Act 2:1- 4 and see how the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **A. Disciples were Filled with the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 2:1-4:** “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.”

### **Note to Facilitator:**

As part of last week’s Take Home activity, the children were asked to read most of the passages given below. To save time I have not asked the verses to be read aloud. Before you begin discussing each point, you can ask the children a few questions to refresh their memory on what they have read then summarise the story. This will also help you get their attention.

## **B. People in Samaria Received the Holy Spirit**

In Acts 8:1 and 14:17, we read that a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem. All of the believers were scattered to Judea and Samaria and began preaching the Word there. When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to receive the Holy Spirit. When Peter and John placed their hands on them, they received the Holy Spirit.

## **C. The Gentiles (non-Jews) Received the Holy Spirit**

We read in Acts 10:25 - 46 that when Peter spoke in the house of a man called Cornelius (who was not a Jew). The Holy Spirit came upon all who heard the message. All the Jews who came along with Peter were astonished, because they thought that the infilling of the Holy Spirit was only for the Jews. When they saw that God had poured out the Holy Spirit on the Gentiles (non – Jews) as well they were surprised.

After the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit they performed miracles just like Jesus did. We’ll look at a few miracles.

## **2. Disciples Performed Miracles by the Power of the Spirit**

### **A. Peter Healed a Crippled Beggar and a Lame Man**

In Acts 3:1-10, we read that Peter and John went to the temple at the time of prayer and they saw a crippled beggar being carried to the temple gate. They asked the crippled man to look at them, and when he did, Peter commanded him in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth to rise up and walk. Peter then took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately the man leaped up, stood and walked. He entered the temple, with them walking, leaping and praising God.

In Acts 9:32-35, we read that when Peter went to visit the saints in Lydda, he found a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who was bedridden for eight years. Peter told him, "Jesus Christ heals you, get up and take your mat." Immediately Aeneas stood up and was well.

### **B. Peter Raised Dorcas Back to Life**

In Acts 9:36-43, we read that in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha or Dorcas (a woman who was always doing good and helping the poor) lay dead. When Peter came to the room where she lay, he knelt down and prayed. He said 'Tabitha get up.' She opened her eyes and seeing Peter, she sat up.

### **C. Miraculous Signs by Philip**

In Acts 8:5-8, we read that Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. The people saw miraculous signs, watched evil spirits come out of many with shrieks and, many paralytics and cripples were healed.

### **D. Paul Casts Out an Evil Spirit**

In Acts 16:16-18, we read that when Paul and the others had gone to a place of prayer, they were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' She kept this up for many days. Finally, Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her.

### E. Extraordinary Miracles by Paul

In Acts 19:11, we read that God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul. Even when handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, they were cured of their illnesses and evil spirits left them.



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

**Did you notice any change in the ministry of the Holy Spirit between Old Testament times and the time of Jesus?**

*(Make a note of all the answers the children give.)*

We will go through the discussion questions to help us find the answer.

**In Acts 14:16-17, Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would live with them and be in them forever. In the Old Testament, did God give the Israelites any such promise?**

No!

**When we studied the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, did we see the Holy Spirit living in anyone forever?**

No! The Holy Spirit came upon a few people to help them complete a specific God-given assignment. It was not forever but only till the time they completed the specified task.

**In Acts Chapter 2 and the following chapters, we saw the apostles and all the believers (Jews and Gentiles) receiving the Holy Spirit. Did all the Israelites and Canaanites receive the Holy Spirit as well?**

No! All the Israelites and Canaanites did not receive the Holy Spirit. Only the Israelites experienced the working of the Holy Spirit when He

empowered a few people and prophets to do certain tasks assigned to them by God, and also when they revealed to the people the Words of the Lord. In the Old Testament, God was for Israel and with Israel, but He was not in Israel. But in the Early Church, all who believed and accepted Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles, received the Holy Spirit. In other words, since the time of the Early Church, God is for us, with us and in us.

**How do we know that God is in us? Read John 14:17, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:16 and 1 Corinthians 6:19.**

In John 14:17, Jesus promised His disciples that the Holy Spirit would live with them and in them.

The verses in 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:16, 19 tell us that our bodies are the temple of the Holy God and the Spirit of God dwells in us. So we see that through the Holy Spirit, who is the third person in the Trinity, God Himself indwells a believer after he is born again.

**Why did the Pentecost happen only after and not before Jesus died and went up to heaven?**

The infilling of the Holy Spirit in a person's life could only happen after God the Son—Jesus Christ—died for the sins of the whole world. When a person believes and accepts what Jesus did for them on the Cross, and asks for forgiveness, then the Holy Spirit comes and indwells the believer.

**What were the outward signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the believers?**

**Read the following passages:**

**Acts 2:6-12** – The believers started speaking in different tongues.

**Acts 8:1, 4** – All the believers started preaching the Word of God wherever they went. Many of them who heard the message believed in Jesus and were saved. Persecution did not stop them from preaching the Word.

**Acts 4:32** – All the believers were one in heart and mind, there was unity among the believers in the Early Church and the apostles did many miracles.

**All the miracles Jesus did were by the power of the Holy Spirit. Did the disciples do the same miracles that Jesus did?**

Yes! We read that Peter, Paul and the other disciples healed the sick, cast out demons and raised the dead.

**Can we too heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons? To find the answer read John 14:12.**

Yes, Jesus promised His disciples in John 14:12, "Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in Me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." We will be able to do greater things than those Jesus did when we place our faith in Him and the Holy Spirit comes and empowers us.

## CONCLUSION

In closing, let us look at the difference in the working of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testament:

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
Holy Spirit came upon a few people	Holy Spirit came upon everyone who accepted Jesus as God
Holy Spirit came upon just a few Israelites	Holy Spirit came upon everyone who believed in Jesus
Holy Spirit came upon them till they completed the task assigned to them by God	Holy Spirit indwelt in them forever
A few of them manifested the gifts of the Holy Spirit	Everyone in whom the Holy Spirit lives, manifest the gifts of the Holy Spirit



## APPLICATION

We are so privileged to have God not only for us and with us, but also in us. The promise Jesus gave His disciples in Acts 1:8 was not just for the disciples but for each and every one who believes and accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When we accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us. However when we pray for the Holy Spirit to come and fill us, He helps us begin to operate in the power of the Spirit and makes us manifest the nine gifts of the Spirit.

If you are born again, the Holy Spirit lives in you. Your body is the temple of the living God. Christians rarely believe that God lives in them. If we knew God lives in us and that our bodies are the temple of the living God, we would not talk and act as we do sometimes.

Since you know that the Holy God lives in you, what changes are you going to make; and what are the things you will stop doing that that will make Him sad?

This week pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon you just like He did at Pentecost and thereafter. Be open to the working of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Come next week to share what the Holy Spirit did in your life.



## CLOSE WITH PRAYER





# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Indwelling Work of the Holy Spirit*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Work of the Holy Spirit in a person before he is born-again.
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.
- How the Holy Spirit manifests Himself in our lives.



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Galatians 5:22:** The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

### Materials Needed:

- Two opaque glasses
- Mud
- A towel

- A bottle of water
- A tray with 5 or 6 glasses on it

**Note to the Facilitator:**

To introduce the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life, you will be narrating a story on Riya. Please note—don't dwell and stress too much on Riya's story but on the teaching that follows.



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament—before the birth of Jesus and how the Holy Spirit enabled Jesus to preach the good news and perform miracles. We also saw how the Holy Spirit enabled the believers in the Early Church to preach the Word of God and perform miracles.

Today, we will study how the Holy Spirit works in a believer's life. In other words, if you have accepted Jesus into your life, you will discover how He works in your life.



## ATTENTION GETTER

To show some of the work of the Holy Spirit before we were born again.

**Participants:**

- Teacher

**Material Required:**

- Two opaque glasses
- Mud
- A towel
- A bottle of water
- A tray with 5 or 6 glasses on it

**Preparation:**

Spread the mud around the inside of the opaque glass. Leave a small clean edge at the top edge. Be sure that none of the mud shows from

the outside. You don't want the children to know that the inside of the glass is muddy until you turn it towards them. Place the bottle of water and all the glasses on the tray and cover them with the towel.

### What to Do:

*(Bring out the tray with the glasses and the bottle of water. Place it on a table or chair and remove the towel. Make sure that the children cannot see into the dirty glass.)*

*(Pick up the bottle of water).* Tell the children that this bottle of water represents the Holy Spirit. *(Now pick up the dirty glass, keeping the inside hidden).* The glasses represent our lives. The Holy Spirit wants to fill us with His power, but He won't waste His power, just as you wouldn't waste water filling up this glass. *(Act as if you are going to pour water into the glass, but stop before you actually pour any into the glass).* Why would it be a waste? Because no one would actually want to drink out of this glass. *(Turn the glass towards the children and show them the inside).*

**What would we do before we can use this dirty glass? *(Let the children respond).***

We would wash it with soap. Similarly, the Holy Spirit will first clean us of sin before He will fill us with His power and use us like He used Peter, Paul and the other disciples.



## TEACHING CONTENT

### I. Work of the Holy Spirit Before We Were Born Again

#### Holy Spirit Convicts

In John 16:5-16, Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness because I am going to the Father ... in regard to judgment because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

According to this verse, the Holy Spirit convinces an unsaved person of sin, righteousness and judgment. Let us listen to Riya's story and see how the Holy Spirit worked in her life ... which is very similar to how He works in all our lives.

### **Riya's Story**

Riya always looked very sad and hardly smiled. Everyone in her class thought she was a quiet and unfriendly person. No one in class spoke to her, and they often made fun of her dark complexion. Because of this she hardly spoke to anyone and never took part in any school activities.

One day, when her classmates made fun of her color, she confronted them and this led to a big fight. The whole day tears kept rolling down her cheeks. Even when she went home she couldn't stop crying. "What's wrong?" her mother asked her. Riya said "I don't know why I look like this. I don't know why I'm here on earth." Her mother told her that God created her in His image and she is God's wonderful and special creation. She explained to her that God had made her special so she can live for Him ... so that people can see who she is and what she does, and know that it is God who helps her do those things. However, her mother pointed out that she first needed to trust God as her Savior. When she does this, He will change her and help her live for Him.

Riya's parents prayed for her salvation and took her along with them to church every Sunday. Riya faithfully attended Children's Church every Sunday and, learnt about Jesus and salvation; but she never gave her life to Jesus. She just didn't seem to care or to understand, and she continued to live a sad and defeated life.

Then something happened:

It was another bad day in her life with her classmates joined together and made fun of her. As usual she fought back. During the test, she copied so she could score good marks and show the others in her class that she is a clever girl. While copying, her teacher caught her but Riya insisted that she had not been copying. When she came home from school, her mother asked her to clean her room. But Riya said angrily "I won't" and began to watch TV. Just then her brother came and changed the channel to Star Cricket, to watch a cricket match that had just begun. Riya was mad with anger, got into a fight with her brother and slapped him. She went

to her room, banged the door shut, sat on a chair in front of her study table and began to cry.

After some time she saw a book mark on which was written Psalms 69:5, "God, you know my sins and my guilt is not hidden from you." She realized that God knew she copied in the test and had seen her bad temper, her disobedience and her rude nature. She realized that God knew her sin.

### **Learning:**

How do you think Riya realized her sin? Somebody was working in her. Who was this? It was God the Holy Spirit. This is one of the things He does for an unsaved person. He shows them how bad and sinful they really are. The word for this is 'convict.' He convicts us of our sin.

As we read in John 16:7-11, the Holy Spirit convicted Riya of sin, righteousness and judgment.

**Sin**—The Holy Spirit helps unsaved people by revealing their sin and unbelief to them and enables them to seek salvation.

**Righteousness**—The Holy Spirit helps an unsaved person see themselves in relation to Jesus Christ, as one who is holy and righteous. The Holy Spirit helps them see their sin and shortcomings.

**Judgment**—The Holy Spirit helps people come to Christ by convicting them "of judgment" for their sins. He shows them that Jesus took upon himself the judgment for their sin on the Cross, thus setting them free.

### **Continuation of Riya's Story:**

Riya was sorry for the bad things she had done. She knew she was wrong. The Holy Spirit convicted and showed her that what she had done was sinful and in disobedience to God's commands. But she didn't know what to do now. She again looked at the book mark and found a verse from 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." She quickly searched for her Bible and when she found it, she read 1 John 1:9.

After she finished reading, she remembered her teacher in Children’s Church telling her that Jesus came to the earth to die on the Cross for our/her sins. He took the punishment of our/her sins on the Cross. When we trust the Lord and ask Him to save us, He forgives all our sins and makes us clean in the eyes of God.

How wonderful! At the right time, what Riya’s teacher taught her came back to her memory. Now she knew what Jesus had done for her and what she must do next. She asked Jesus to forgive and cleanse her, and come into her life.

It was the Holy Spirit who convicted her of sin and brought back to remembrance what she heard. He helped her see and understand what she read from the Bible verse.

## **II. Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a Believer**

### **A. Holy Spirit Illuminates**

That is exactly what the Holy Spirit does for a believer—He helps them understand the Bible. By nature, we are spiritually blind and do not have spiritual understanding. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes to understand the deep truths in God’s Word.

If you remember, we learnt in lessons 2 and 3 that Jesus promised His disciples the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth (John 16:13). We learnt how the Holy Spirit helps us understand what all of the different Scripture verses mean and how they can apply to the different parts of our lives. He helps us to see the truth in God’s Word clearly.

#### **Continuation of Riya’s Story:**

When Riya attended Children’s Church the following Sunday, the teacher taught the class that when a person believes in Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live in them. When Riya heard this she couldn’t believe it! She immediately thought, “Oh! If the Holy Spirit lives in me, I need to be careful about what I say and how I behave and react to people. The teacher told us that if I don’t, I will be hurting the Holy Spirit.”

### **B. Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Life of a New Believer**

Children do you remember the Memory Verse in lesson 1? *(Let the children respond).*

The Memory Verse is from 1 Corinthians 6:19 which says, “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own ....”

We learnt that when we accept Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us forever, just as we read in John 14:17. When the Holy Spirit came and began to live in Riya’s life, what did He do for her? What does He do for those He lives in?

### **C. Holy Spirit Regenerates Us**

The Holy Spirit gives new birth to those who trust in Jesus Christ. ‘New Birth’—means those who are spiritually dead receive new life and those who are sinners become new people with a new nature. This new nature has the power to say ‘No’ to the old nature of sin and has a new capacity to please Christ and grow to be like Jesus.

### **D. Adopted into God’s Family**

Believers are adopted into God’s family and become sons and daughters of God, enjoying the privileges of being God’s children.

The privileges we enjoy:

- We are forgiven of all our sins and God does not choose to remember them anymore.
- We become God’s friend and have peace with God.
- We have eternal life and nothing will ever change that again.
- God lives in us and the Holy Spirit will never leave us.
- Nothing can separate us from the love of God.
- Whatever we ask for in prayer, if it is God’s will, He will surely give it to us.
- We can overcome the devil.

### **E. Sealed by the Holy Spirit**

We are sealed by the Holy Spirit as one who is saved and cleared of all sin before God. It is a guarantee to the person:

- That they are saved unto the day when they shall be with God forever.
- That they are certainly a child of God.

Do any of you know the meaning of a 'seal?' When and where do people use a seal?

In the days when the Bible was written, the seal was used primarily as a stamp of ownership. Roman merchants would travel to Ephesus to choose their goods. The goods chosen by them would be put in a box and sealed with candle wax. The person would press his signet ring into the melted wax as a seal, so that his goods would be safe. He would then return home. The goods would then be shipped to the recipients. When their goods arrived, the merchants claimed them only if the seal was intact.

Similarly, after a person accepts Jesus as their Savior, God claims them as His possession. The seal of God's ownership is the Holy Spirit indwelling (living) in us. When a person is born again, the Holy Spirit comes and indwells in them.

### **F. Anointed with the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit anoints us so we can fully accomplish what God is asking us to do for Him. Anointing is not only to preach, teach, witness about Jesus to others, heal people but we can have the anointing on the other areas of your life as well. For example: To be good children, excellent students, etc.

### **G. Holy Spirit Sanctifies Us**

God wants us to be holy and wants to conform us to the image of His Son. Sanctification is the work of the Holy Spirit by which He gradually changes the believer's sinful habits and attitudes and makes him more and more like Jesus in his character.

The Holy Spirit sanctifies only those who decide and desire to overcome sin and be like Jesus.

Continuation of Attention Getter:

How would we know when a person has been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit?

*(Pick up another glass. Make sure it is opaque and that the children cannot see what is inside).* Remind the children that this glass represents our lives.

*(Pick up the bottle of water).* Ask the children to tell you when they think the glass is full. *(Hold the glass over the tray and begin to pour water slowly into the glass).*



Keep asking the children to raise their hands when they think it is full. (*When the glass is about half full, pour water very slowly, as if you are running out of space and then stop pouring*).

Ask the children to raise their hands if they think the glass is full now. Why do you think it is full? Can you be sure that the glass is full? (*Allow responses*). Tell them that the glass is not full, that you can prove it. (*Slowly pour more water into the glass. Stop pouring again, while pretending as if the glass is full*).

Once again, ask the children to raise their hands if they think the glass is full now. Why do you think it is full? Can you be sure that the glass is full? Allow responses. Tell them that they are wrong again. (*Continue pouring. Repeat this process until you have only one centimeter of space left at the top of the glass*).

Tell the children that there is one sure sign that the glass is full. There is one way that everyone will see and know without doubt. (*Start slowly pouring the water again*). Tell me when the glass is completely full by raising your hand. (*Keep pouring until the glass overflows*). At this point, the children will all respond that the glass is obviously full.

Ask the same questions as before. Do you think the glass is full? Why do you think so? Can you be sure? Allow responses. Explain that this is the same when we are filled with the Spirit that God has given us as a sign that lets everyone see and know, without a doubt, that our lives have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **H. Holy Spirit Manifests His Fruit in Our Lives**

The Holy Spirit's work of 'Sanctification' will show itself in our lives in two ways. We will be more and more like Jesus and secondly, the Fruit of the Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control will be seen in our words, actions and reactions. Please note that it is called the 'Fruit of the Spirit' and not the 'Fruits of the Spirit.' This shows us that though there are nine qualities, they are one. All of them should be evident in a believer who lives under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Is it possible for us to have all these nine qualities? By our own strength and effort it is impossible. As the name itself suggests, it is the Fruit of the Spirit. This means

it can be produced in us only by the Spirit living in us. So if we want the Fruit of the Spirit to grow in us we must know Him, love Him, remember Him, be joined to Him and walk with Him. When we do this, He will help us produce this Fruit in our lives.

If our lives are not under the control of the Holy Spirit, we are controlled by the desires of our own flesh. How was Riya's behavior before she accepted Jesus into her life? She was sad, irritated, angry, upset and depressed. She did not like the way she looked, copied at school, disobeyed and back-answered her mother. She behaved that way because she was not under the control of the Holy Spirit. After she gave her life to Jesus, the Holy Spirit changed her.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note: *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.***

**It's the Holy Spirit living in us who produces the Fruit in our lives or should we just wait for the Fruit of the Spirit to be seen in our lives?**

It's the Holy Spirit who will make the Fruit grow and become evident in our lives, but we need to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in our lives. We should know Him, love Him, talk to Him and be joined to Him.

**What does it mean to be joined to the Spirit? Read John 15:5.**

In John 15:5, Jesus says that when a branch is joined to the main stem, only then does it bear fruit. Likewise Jesus is the vine and we are the branches; so when we are connected to Him we are able to bear fruit.

**How can we be connected to Jesus and the Holy Spirit?**

Firstly, by asking Jesus to forgive our sins and accepting Him into our lives.

Secondly, obeying the commandments given in His Word. Obeying out of love for Him and not because we have to.

Thirdly, growing in our relationship with Him by reading our Bible and praying everyday.

### **What happens when we choose to live in the Spirit?**

We become more like Christ and the Fruit of the Spirit is seen in the way we act and behave.

**Some people say they have accepted the Lord Jesus; but we still see them lying, using bad words, fighting with others, being rude, selfish, angry, jealous of others, etc. Why does the Holy Spirit not change them?**

The Holy Spirit is willing to change them; but they have not given control of every area of their lives to the Holy Spirit. They choose to please the desires of their old sinful nature rather than choose to obey God and His ways.

### **Is it God's desire that we bear Fruit? Read John 15:8.**

This verse tells us that it is God's desire that we bear Fruit, so that we can show the rest of the world that we are His disciples/people. Through our lives, people will know who Jesus is.



### **APPLICATION**

Do you feel that your life is miserable, sad and frustrating, just like Riya's? The Holy Spirit is willing to change you into the person that God intended you to be—full of joy and abundant life. Are you willing to ask Jesus to come into your life?

If you have accepted Jesus into your life, the Holy Spirit is living in you. But are you saying, "I haven't changed much even after accepting Jesus into my life. I still get angry, I copy, I disobey and back-answer my parents. I fight with my siblings and friends, and don't have the confidence to do anything or participate in any competitions." If this is the case, then you have not allowed the Holy Spirit to take complete control over your life and help you.

You can make a choice today. Do you want to continue as the same person, or do you want to say, "Holy Spirit I need your help. I know you alone can change me and make me like Christ. I want to be like Jesus; so please take control of my life. Help me to manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in my life. Thank You for hearing my prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."

Beginning today, thank the Holy Spirit for living in you, and pray each day for the Holy Spirit to do His work in your life and manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in your life.

Come prepared next week to share with all of us which Fruit of the Spirit you were able to show forth in your life this week, in the different situations you faced.



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## *Infilling Power of the Holy Spirit*



### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce the children to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain that a person is baptised in the Holy Spirit after they are born-again.



### RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson by asking a few questions.
- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.



### MEMORY VERSE

**Acts 2:17-18:** "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy."



## ATTENTION GETTER

### Materials Required:

- 1 Pack of Mentos (Regular old Mentos, no flavors).
- 1 – 2 litres bottle of Pepsi or coke, diet Pepsi or diet coke.
- 1 – Handmade funnel about the size of a Mentos but small enough to fit inside the 2 litre bottle of pop. PVC pipe works great but so does a toilet paper roll (It is ok if you don't have it).

### Say:

After a person accepts Jesus as their personal Savior, they can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit which, much like salvation, is a free gift from God.

If this bottle of POP is you and the Holy Spirit is the Mentos, when the Holy Spirit goes into you and fills you up then you begin to overflow with God's love and the Holy Spirit takes control over you (*Drop 5 or 6 Mentos in the pop and move away or you will get wet*).

This is an example of how when you are Baptized in the Holy Spirit, you become flooded with God's presence and power to the point where you overflow and others notice.



## INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learnt how the Holy Spirit works in a believer's life. This week, we will see how the Holy Spirit empowers us to serve God.

Before we begin our lesson today, we are going to have a small quiz. The person who answers most of the questions right will get a small prize (*make sure you get a small prize*). Are you ready?

In Lesson 3, we learnt the various symbols or representations of the Holy Spirit—Wind, Fire and Dove. When I explained to you how the Holy Spirit comes like a Wind, we read a story from John chapter 3.

Who was the person who came to Jesus? *(If the children don't remember, give them a clue that the name begins with 'N').*

Nicodemus

Who was Nicodemus?

He was a religious leader.

Which part of the day did He come to Jesus?

At night

What did Jesus tell him to do?

Jesus asked him to be born again.

When Jesus told Nicodemus to be born again what did he say?

Nicodemus said, "How can a man be born again when he is old; surely he cannot enter his mother's womb a second time."

Jesus told Nicodemus no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*(Award the child who answers most of the questions correctly).*



## TEACHING CONTENT

Let us turn in our Bibles to John 3:1-10 and read the story again. *(Let each child read one verse).*

### Read Aloud:

**John 3:1-10:** "Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.' In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.' 'How can a man be born when he is old?' Nicodemus asked. 'Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!'

Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' 'How can this be?' Nicodemus asked. 'You are Israel's teacher,' said Jesus, and do you not understand these things?"

In this story, Jesus told Nicodemus that he needs to be born again. Nicodemus was confused, because he was thinking of physical birth. So he asked Jesus how can a man like him, who is old, be born again; how can he enter his mother's womb a second time!

Do you think Jesus was talking about physical birth? *(Let the children respond)*.  
No!

What birth was Jesus talking about? *(Let the children respond)*.

He was talking about spiritual birth. We learnt last week what happened to Riya. When Riya confessed her sins to God and accepted Jesus into her life, she was 'Regenerated'—born again. Riya learnt that from the time she accepted Jesus into her life, the Holy Spirit began to live in her.

Jesus knew that Nicodemus was thinking about physical birth; so He told him that if anyone wants to enter the Kingdom of heaven, he should be born of water and the Spirit.

What is the meaning of being born of water and the Spirit? *(Let the children respond)*. In physical birth, the baby in the womb is born of water *(the water breaks and the child comes into the world, conceived in sin)*. But in spiritual birth, the person is born of the Spirit, and is symbolically conceived/created in utter holiness and righteousness!!!

Therefore, we should not be surprised at Jesus' saying, "You must be born again." (Being born of water is not enough).



Is Water Baptism and Baptism of the Spirit two different things?

Yes!

Let us see the difference.

## Water Baptism

How many of you have attended a Water Baptism service? What happens during Water Baptism? *(Let the children respond. Don't spend much time on this).* When a person accepts Jesus, they take water baptism *(Pastor dips the person in water and then prays with them)*. Water Baptism is an outward sign of a person accepting Jesus in their lives. It is also a way of declaring to the church family that they have accepted Jesus and are 'born-again.'

## Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Last week, we learnt that the moment a person accepts Jesus into his/her life, the Holy Spirit begins to live in them. The Holy Spirit is active in every believer's life from the time of salvation.

But it is important to remember that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate work from what the Holy Spirit does at the time of salvation. These two events *(Salvation experience and Baptism of the Holy Spirit)* may sometimes happen together, or may be separated by days, months, or even years, depending on when the believer's heart is ready for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you two examples to show you that the Salvation experience and Baptism of the Holy Spirit are two different events.

### First Example:

In Lesson 5—'The Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament'—we learnt that Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Did the disciples obey Jesus?

Yes

What happened to the disciples on Pentecost?

They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

Did the disciples have a born-again experience on the day of Pentecost?

No! After Jesus resurrected from the dead and was on the earth 40 days before His ascension, He breathed His Spirit upon them. In John 20:22, Jesus breathed on His disciples and told them to receive the Holy Spirit. That is when the disciples were born-again. As we learnt on the day of Pentecost when they were all gathered in the room, they were baptised with the Holy Spirit.

So we see that the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit after their Salvation experience.

**Second example:**

Let us read from Acts 8:5-8, 12 and 12-17 (*Let the children take turns in reading one verse each*).

**Read Aloud:**

**Acts 8:5-8 (NKJV):** "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city."

**Acts 8:12 (NKJV):** "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized."

**Acts 8:14-17 (NIV):** "When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Did the people believe and accept Jesus when Philip preached to them?

Yes!

Did those who believe get baptised in water?

Yes. In Acts 8:12, we read that both men and women were baptised. The baptism mentioned in this verse is water baptism.

When the Apostles in Jerusalem heard this, whom did they send to Samaria?

The Apostles sent Peter and John.

What did Peter and John realize when they met the new believers?

They realized that the new believers were baptised in the name of Jesus Christ (i.e. water baptism), but had not yet received the Holy Spirit.

When a person accepts Jesus into their lives, does the Holy Spirit live in them?

Yes, that's right. The Holy Spirit was living in these new believers; but they were not baptised - filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

What did Peter and John do for the people who had accepted Jesus and been baptised with water?

They prayed for the new believers that they may receive the Holy Spirit. They laid hands on all the believers and they were baptised in the Holy Spirit.

So, we see that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is promised to anyone who has already believed in Jesus Christ and has become part of God's family.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the beginning of a Spirit-filled life. As a result of this gift of power in our lives, the Holy Spirit can help us overcome sin and live in holiness. Through His Spirit, God guides our thoughts, which in turn will control our actions. If our actions are to be Christ-like, the source for all of our actions and our thoughts need to be Christ-like and Christ-controlled.

This power is given for a specific reason: to fulfill the mission of God, to share the gospel. It was for this purpose that Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit: so they would have power to be witnesses and make disciples of all nations (Acts 1:8).

We will also manifest the gifts of the Spirit—healing the sick, raising the dead and casting out demons—just as the disciples did after they were baptised in the Spirit. Remember the passages you read in the Take Home Activity, and remember

the miracles of Peter and Paul that you studied in Lesson 5. (*Name a few of the miracles listed in Lesson 5 to refresh their memory*).

It is important to know that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. It is free. It is not earned. The only thing we must do is to ask God for it in faith and receive. In Luke 11:13, Jesus promises that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

One way we know that we are baptised in the Holy Spirit is when we begin to speak in tongues. Like we saw on the day of Pentecost, when the disciples were baptised in the Spirit they spoke in tongues. Five times, the book of Acts tells of believers being baptised in the Spirit. Three of the passages give details about the event, and speaking in tongues are mentioned each time.

Now that you have asked Jesus into your heart and you are a child of God through Christ Jesus, take the next step to fullness in Him by seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit! And in doing so, your prayer life, your studies, your witness to your friends will excel more than you could ever imagine!



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Note:** *All discussion questions must be answered by the children, and NOT by the teacher. The guidelines given here are only meant to assist the teacher during the discussion.*

**Did all believers in Samaria receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

Yes

**Does the baptism of the Holy Spirit happen only when there are a group of people as it happened at Pentecost and as we read in Acts 8?**

No

**Even if there is just one person, will they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Read Acts 9:17-19.**

Yes! God sent Ananias to Saul's (who was later called Paul) house to baptise Him with the Holy Spirit. When Ananias laid his hands on Saul, he was baptised with the Holy Spirit.

**Do people receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit only when someone lays their hands on them, and prays for them, as we read in Acts 8 and in Saul's case?**

No, because at Pentecost (Acts 2) all of them were baptised in the Holy Spirit without anyone laying hands on them.

**True Story that happened in Champa (Chattisgarh):**

In the village of Champa in Chattisgarh, many Hindus were accepting the Lord. But Priya, a Hindu girl, decided that she would never become a Christian. Her family was going through a lot of problems. Her father who was very sick did not have a job, so they did not have the money to eat three meals a day. Other family members were sick, her mother was demon-possessed and, Priya never had joy and peace in her life.

One day God touched her and she accepted Jesus into her life. Two months after she accepted Jesus, she was praying one night. At around 11:00 pm she started worshipping God, and as she worshipped God, she felt her tongue twist, and she started speaking in tongues. For the next three days, whenever she opened her mouth to speak or answer her mother and sisters, she found herself speaking in tongues. Her mother thought an evil spirit had come upon Priya. She ran to the Pastor's house and told him what had happened to Priya. The Pastor told her not to worry because she was baptised in the Holy Spirit and was speaking in tongues.

In Priya's case, no one laid hands on her. She had this desire in her heart and prayed that she would be baptised in the Spirit, and God answered her prayer. Like Priya, many others were baptised in the Holy Spirit when they were praying all alone in their house or elsewhere.

**Does the Baptism of the Holy Spirit happen only after a person is baptised in water?**

No! All those who received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost were not baptised in water. Even Saul (who was later called Paul) was not baptised in water. He received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid his hands on him.

**Does it mean that everyone who asks for this gift will receive it right away?**

They may not, if they have fear in their hearts, do not have a correct understanding of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or if they have not acknowledged the Holy Spirit as God. The Holy Spirit is not limited to always working in exactly the same way that He has in the past. He is God. So He may choose to work in fresh and new ways.

**Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit always accompanied by speaking in tongues?**

According to the Bible, Baptism of the Holy Spirit is always accompanied by speaking in tongues.

**Is speaking in tongues the one and only sign of being baptised in the Spirit?**

Speaking in tongues is only the first evidence that a person has been filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus told the disciples in Acts 1:8 that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and they would be His witnesses.

So, using the power to witness, showing the fruit of the Spirit and praying powerfully are other evidences that a Christian has been filled with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in unknown tongues is not a sign that a believer has achieved the highest level in his Christian faith. It is, instead, the sign of a beginning—the beginning of God the Holy Spirit empowering the believer to do His work.



**APPLICATION**

Have you been baptised in the Holy Spirit? If you have not, begin praying from today and ask God to fill you with His power. I hope you have been talking to the Holy Spirit everyday. If there is any fear in your heart about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can talk to your teacher.

Remember, the Holy Spirit who is in you will help you. So speak to Him and ask Him to take away your fear and baptize you, so you can boldly witness to your friends about Jesus, extend God's healing to those who need it, and God's freedom to those who are bound by demons. Also begin by sharing Jesus with your friends and praying for the sick. Believe that you will see a miracle happen and God will do it for you.

When you are praying this week, the Holy Spirit may baptize you. Experience His working in your life and thank Him. If not, come prepared next week and we will pray for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Children's Church.

Come next week and share your experience of how God worked powerfully when you witnessed about Jesus to your friends, and when you prayed for those who were sick.



**CLOSE WITH PRAYER**

