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THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit is God



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce the children to the concept of Trinity.
- To help children understand that the Holy Spirit is God.
- To help children understand the attributes of God in the Holy Spirit.
- To help children understand the works of God in the Holy Spirit.



RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson.
- Ask the children to recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

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 ..."

Materials Needed:

- One bottle of clear water
- Three glasses



INTRODUCTION

(As you ask the students the following questions, be the first to raise your hand to encourage their own participation.)

How many of us have ever done something wrong?

How many of us felt sorry about it?

How many of us were tempted to do something wrong but did not do it?

How many of us have ever been brave when we could have been afraid?

How many of us need help making the right decisions?

If you answered 'yes' to any of those questions, you may have had a little help from the Holy Spirit. You may be wondering how you received help from the Holy Spirit.



TEACHING CONTENT

Ask:

Who is the Holy Spirit?

(Let the children answer. If the children answer "Holy Spirit is God," then skip the question below.)

Is the Holy Spirit God?

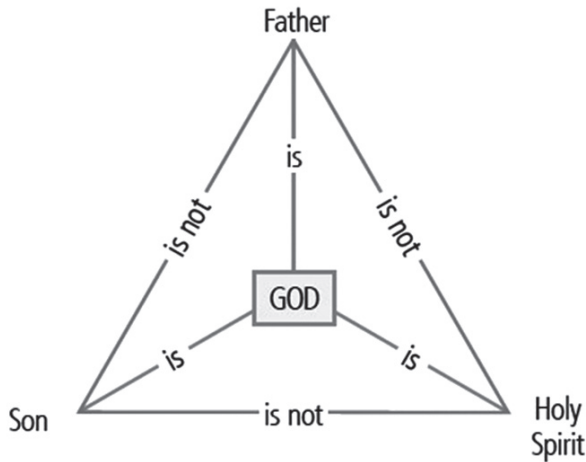
Explain:

The Holy Spirit is God. He is definitely not just a "force" or "power" of God, but He is God. We believe in one God, this truth is established in Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."

We also believe that this one God expressed Himself in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. People have called this Trinity—three in unity. We do not find the word Trinity in the Bible but find the word Godhead.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit are fully God because each one of them fully possesses the nature of God. Yet, each Person of the Trinity is different in role and relationship with respect to the others. The Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father and the Father is not the Holy Spirit.

(As you explain the diagram given below ask the children to look at diagram given in their workbook). This diagram clearly explains Trinity to us.



Completely understanding the Trinity is beyond our little human minds. Just for you to understand, I will do a small demonstration using water.



ATTENTION GETTER

Place or hold before the children a large bottle of water and ask the children to describe what water is like—it is clear, wet, liquid, cool and refreshing. If the children do not mention it, you can point out that water has three parts as well—two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. Pour the water from the bottle into three clear glasses. Ask the children if the water changed when separated into separate containers. The water is still the same substance whether you separate it into many

containers or pour it all into one. Explain that you can separate God into the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit to help you understand Him better, but God is the same whether you are looking at one part of Him or all of Him.

E.g.,: I am a daughter/son to my parents, a sister/brother to my sisters/brothers, a mother/father to my children, I am a wife/husband to my partner and so on. I am just one person of the same nature and characteristics but I have different roles and hence different names. Similarly, God is One but because of His different roles, He has made Himself known in three different persons.

As Christians, we accept the Trinity by faith because certain aspects of God are beyond our understanding.

It is important that we understand who the Holy Spirit is and are able to see from Scripture why we believe what we do about Him. From the Bible, let us establish the following three points:

- I. The Holy Spirit Is God
- II. The Attributes of God in the Holy Spirit
- III. The Works of God in the Holy Spirit

I. Holy Spirit Is God

A. The Holy Spirit is Mentioned on Equal Level With God

We will look at three references in the Bible where all three persons of the Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are mentioned. This will help us establish the truth that all three are one though they have different roles. In these references we'll also see that the Holy Spirit is mentioned on equal level with God. (*Assign different children to read aloud the verses given below*).

- In **Matthew 28:19**, Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as God when He told His disciples to go and make disciples by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
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 ..."
- In 2 Corinthians 13:14 and 1 Peter 1:2, both the writers refer to the Holy Spirit in this same manner. They specifically list all three persons of the

Trinity or Godhead.

2 Corinthians 13:14: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

1 Peter 1:2: “Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”

These verses show that the Holy Spirit is God, equal with God and yet separate from the Father and Son.

B. The Holy Spirit and God are One

A few verses in the Old Testament that refer to God when in the New Testament are ascribed to the Holy Spirit, which means they are one God. *(After reading each verse, ask the children who spoke or whose voice was heard. Thus show them that the voice of the Lord and Holy Spirit are one).*

Isaiah 6:8-10: “Then I heard, the **voice of the Lord saying**, ‘Whom shall I send?’ ... He said, ‘Go and tell this people: Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

This verse refers to God speaking. The same verse is mentioned in Acts 28:25-27 but says that the Holy Spirit said it.

Acts 28:25-27: “... Paul had made this final statement: **‘The Holy Spirit spoke** the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: ‘Go to this people and say, You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving...’”

Let us read Psalm 95:7-11

Psalm 95:7-9: “... **Today, if you hear His voice**, do not harden your hearts as you did at Meribah, as you did that day at Massah in the desert ...”

This verse speaks of hearing God’s voice. The same verse mentioned in Hebrews 3:7-9 refers to the Holy Spirit speaking.

Hebrews 3:7-9: “So, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried Me and for forty years saw what I did.’”

Hence we see from these verses that God and the Holy Spirit are one.

II. Attributes of God in the Holy Spirit

An attribute is a quality or characteristic natural in a person. The attributes of God are those qualities or characteristics that belong to Him. The Bible ascribes many attributes to the Holy Spirit; all of them ascribe Him as God. Let us look at four attributes of God and see if they are ascribed to the Holy Spirit as well.

(Assign different children to read aloud the verses given below.)

A. God Is Eternal

The word eternal means "everlasting, having no beginning and no end." God has no beginning and no end. He has always been and He will always be forever.

Hebrews 9:14 – speaks of “the eternal Spirit.”

“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

Thus, showing us that just as God is eternal the Holy Spirit is also eternal. Hence He is God.

B. God Is Omniscient

1 Corinthians 2:10-11– says the things of God are known only by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit’s wisdom is infinite.

“... but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

The Spirit therefore knows all things, and is able to teach us all things.

C. God Is Omnipresent

Psalms 139:7-8 – David says the Holy Spirit is everywhere.

“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.”

This verse reveals that it is through His Spirit that God makes Himself present everywhere at the same time. No matter where we may go, God is there by His Spirit—invisible, but we cannot escape from His presence.

D. God is Omnipotent

The works that God does by His power, such as creation, are also ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

Read Aloud:

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

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

Omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience are attributes of God. The Holy Spirit has these attributes of God, hence He is God.

III. Works of God in the Holy Spirit

Many of the works of the Holy Spirit are those that can be performed only by God Himself. Such actions show that the Holy Spirit is God. (*Assign different children to read aloud the verses given below*).

A. The Spirit was Active in Creation

In the Bible, the act of creation is attributed to God. The Bible also makes it clear that the Holy Spirit was involved in creation; He is the Creator of the world.

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.”

This verse speaks of the Spirit moving on the face of the waters and being present during creation.

Genesis 1:26: “Then God said, Let us make man in our image, in our likeness ...” gives us a glimpse of the Trinity working in harmony to create man. ‘Let us make man in our image.’ The “Us” here is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

B. The Holy Spirit Inspired the Bible

The Bible makes it very clear that it was the Holy Spirit who revealed the truth to the writers of the Bible and who inspired them, so they wrote what He wanted them to write.

2 Peter 1:21: “For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

C. The Act of Begetting Christ

Jesus was born through the conception of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:36: “The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”

In this single verse, the power of the Spirit and the power of God (“The Most High”) are equal causes of the virgin birth of Christ.

Creating, inspiring the Bible and Begetting Jesus are the distinctive works of God. The Bible ascribes these works to the Holy Spirit which indicates that the Holy Spirit is God.

You will notice that we did not just rest on one verse, but instead we compared Scripture with Scripture. Our interpretation is based on the whole of Scripture and not just an isolated verse.



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.*

People find it easy to believe that the Father and Son are God; but why do you think most people have a problem believing that the Holy Spirit is God?

It is easy to believe about God the Father since we know about, and relate to, earthly fathers. Though our experience with our earthly fathers is not the best, still it is easy for us to understand God as our Father because of the existence of our earthly fathers.

God becoming man greatly helps us understand the second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ. We can understand who He is even though He is God.

We generally have more difficulty understanding the Holy Spirit because our idea of the spirit often relates to ghosts or angels, or the spirits of dead people.

Even though we do not think of the Spirit as a father figure, the way we do of the first person in the Godhead; yet the Holy Spirit is God and is an equal person in the Trinity.

Why is it important for us to study the Holy Spirit and know He is God?

Knowing Him as God helps us to give Him the reverence and respect as we would give God the Father and God the Son—Jesus. Treating the Holy Spirit as anything less than God in our response to His leading in our lives, or us worshiping Him will grieve Him and is sin. If we do not know what the works of the Holy Spirit is in our lives, we will never be able to receive His help and all that He is willing to give us and do through us.

Why did God, who is One, express Himself in three persons to mankind?

We have One God in three persons because God had different jobs He wanted to do. God had three different roles that He had to accomplish, so He expressed Himself to mankind in three persons—The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Each one of them functions uniquely and perfectly.

What is the role of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

Role of God the Father—He is the Covenant-maker and the Sustainer. He is the supreme authority and He is responsible for planning all that took place at creation and redemption (salvation) of mankind from sin. The Father chose the Son to be the One who would come as our Savior and die for our sins. He also chose the Holy Spirit as One who would come and live in us, and help us.

Role of God the Son—Jesus carried out the Father’s plan of salvation; He became man in order to take on our sins and gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. He accomplished God’s plan of redemption and saved us from eternal death and hell. He is The Word, Mediator (who is now in heaven praying on behalf of us to the

Father), Savior and the One who made known to us the Father and His Kingdom by becoming man.

Role of God the Holy Spirit—The Spirit came as the prophets foretold, to anoint and empower the Son for the work that He was sent for, by the Father, to accomplish. The Spirit enabled and empowered the Son to preach the good news and perform the miracles.

After Jesus died, rose again and went back to the Father, He sent us a gift promised by the Father—the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and empowered them to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead and cast out demons. The Holy Spirit convicts unbelievers of their sin and need for a Savior, He works in all who trust Jesus, to make them like Him.

Real Life Example:

Maybe you are still confused about the Trinity. Take a few minutes to read the experience of Bob as narrated by a pastor. This may help you.

“Thirty years ago a friend came to see me with a problem. He was a member of the church where I was a minister. I will call him Bob. He had been disappointed in the choice of a career and was uncertain about what he should do. Something was missing in his life. We soon got on to talking about the Gospel and our relationship with God. He admitted that he wasn’t too sure about that.

Shortly after, in company with another mature Christian, we had a further discussion. Bob said that he would like to make a commitment of his life to Jesus. However, he didn’t feel that he understood enough to make that commitment yet. We showed him a passage from the New Testament, I Corinthians 2:9-12, where Paul explains that only the Holy Spirit knows the mind of God. There are many things God cannot reveal to us until we actually receive the Spirit into our lives. Therefore, if we wait till we ‘understand it all’ we will never do anything about it. Bob thought about that for a while and then deliberately got on his knees. He said, ‘Would somebody pray with me?’ We were happy to do that and Bob committed his life to Jesus, asking him to forgive his sins and asked the Holy Spirit to come into his life.

Over the next few days Bob's wife realized that he had found something real, and a week later she made the same commitment. Over the past 30 years, they have both had a very useful ministry in service to God and others, both at home and overseas. They have also raised a lovely Christian family.

Now I am quite sure that Bob would tell you, if you asked him, that he still doesn't understand all about God. However, I am equally sure that he would tell you that life has been very satisfying, despite its problems, and that his understanding of God has grown with his personal experience of Him.

In any human relationship, if you really want to know someone and understand what makes them irritated or angry, you must first commit yourself to them. You must also allow them to share their lives with you. So it is with God. But once you have surrendered your life to Him, things will begin to happen. You will become aware of the Holy Spirit at work in your life, doing things the Bible says He will do. Your love for Jesus will grow—the One who suffered for you and who now represents you in heaven. Your trust in the promises of your heavenly Father will grow as you search them out in His book, as will your desire to please Him. In short, the Trinity will begin to make sense, even if you don't understand it all. It will also make much more sense than anything else!

The New Testament gives us all we need to know in order to experience God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to grow through our lives in our enjoyment and understanding of our relationship with them."



APPLICATION

How wonderful to know that this Great God who planned for our salvation even before the foundations of the earth, chose to come down to the earth to take our sins upon Himself. He made the full, sufficient sacrifice for our sins. He then chose to live in us forever as it says in:

1 Corinthians 3:16: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

1 Corinthians 6:19: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

2 Corinthians 6:16: “What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘**I will live with them** and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.’ ”

What is your response to all that God has done?

Are you willing to accept this God and make Him the Lord of your life? He wants to live in you, be part of your life, and show Himself strong on your behalf.

As for those of us who accepted the Lord as Savior but failed to acknowledge the presence and working of God the Holy Spirit in our lives, let’s ask Him to forgive us for not acknowledging His presence and work in our life. Also, let’s make up our minds today and decide right now to develop a friendship with the Holy Spirit by speaking to Him everyday.

Note to the Facilitator:

As for those of them who have not accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior, you can lead them in praying the salvation prayer and welcoming the Holy Spirit into their lives. As for those who accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior, but have not acknowledged the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, you can lead them in a prayer of forgiveness.

Say:

Each day of this week, thank God for His plan of salvation. Thank Jesus for fulfilling the plan of salvation so that you and I can be free from the bondage of sin and receive eternal life. Thank the Holy Spirit for living in you so He can make you like God.

Also get familiar with the Holy Spirit by speaking to Him and acknowledging His presence in your life (*mention a few ways the children can get familiar with the Holy Spirit*).

Come next week and share how you were able to get familiar with the Holy Spirit.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Personality of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To help children understand that the Holy Spirit is a person.
- To introduce them to the acts performed by the Holy Spirit.
- To explain to them the ways we can grieve the Holy Spirit.



SCRIPTURE PORTION

John 16:5-16



RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson.
- Ask them to recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

John 14:26 (NKJV): " But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Materials Needed:

- One pen
- One bin
- Newspaper balls
- Draw an outline of your hand on four different sheets of paper. On each hand write:
 - Teacher
 - Helps us to Share the Gospel With Others
 - Guides
 - Intercedes for us
- Laptop (to play video)



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learnt that the Holy Spirit has the attributes (characteristics) of God, and that the works of the Holy Spirit are those that are performed by God Himself. Thus the Holy Spirit is not just a “force” or “power” of God, but is God.

Many people believe that the Holy Spirit is a force or power of God because “ruach” the Hebrew word for Spirit (mentioned in the Old Testament, which was written in Hebrew) also means breath, and “pneuma,” the Greek word for Spirit (mentioned in the New Testament, which was written in Greek), also means wind or air. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and relates to us as a person.

In our lesson today, we will learn that the Holy Spirit is a person and relates to us as a person.



ATTENTION GETTER

Material Required:

- One pen
- One bin

- Paper balls
- Laptop (to play video)

Instructions:

Place the bin in one end of the room. Scatter paper balls on the floor. Ask one child to volunteer. Hand over a pen to him/her and tell them that you will blindfold them and they must avoid stepping on the paper balls which resemble bombs and they have to walk to the other end of the room and drop the pen in the bin. Just before you blindfold the child, say ...

Say:

To avoid a bomb blast, I want someone to guide the blindfolded person to the other end and accomplish the mission. Ask for a volunteer. Instruct the Guide (volunteer) to guide the blindfolded child how to take each individual step and avoid each danger/obstacle. Instruct the blindfolded person to get help from the Guide and listen to their instructions. This will save them from blowing themselves up by stepping on the bomb and also help them accomplish the mission.

(After the blindfolded child reaches the end of the room along with the guide and drops the pen in the bin, ask the below questions and let the children answer.)

Ask:

Do you think the blindfolded person could have done the entire activity on their own?

Did it help to have the Guide help the blindfolded person and tell them which way to go?

If the blindfolded person did not have the Guide's help, could he/she have finished the job? Why?

Who was it that told all of you about the job and how it was all going to happen? That's right—me! You needed the Teacher to tell you those things to start and finish the job.

In the activity you just did, you got to see just how the Holy Spirit works in our lives, day to day, as our teacher, guide, revealer and mover if we ask Him for His

help. All of these personal acts that are ascribed to a person, the Holy Spirit too does them.



TEACHING CONTENT

How does the Holy Spirit relate to us as a person?

To find the answer, let us all open our Bibles and quietly read from John 16:5-16. *(When the children have finished reading the passage, ask them the following questions and let them answer).*

Ask:

Who did Jesus say He would send after He goes to heaven?
Holy Spirit

What pronoun did Jesus use when He spoke about the Holy Spirit?
He

In the passage that you read, what are some of the human acts that the Holy Spirit too performs?

The Holy Spirit guides, speaks, hears, tells, makes the truth known to people and convicts people of sin.

What does this prove?

If the Holy Spirit were not a person, then He would be mentioned as an 'it,' and the actions done by a person would not be ascribed to the Holy Spirit. Hence, we see that the Holy Spirit relates to us as a person.

In John 16:5-16, Jesus told His disciples that He would soon be going back to the Father. When the disciples heard this, they were very sad. But they were encouraged when He told them that it is for their good that He is going back to the Father. When He goes to the Father, He will send them a helper—the Holy Spirit.

- New King James Version 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

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

In the passage we just read, we saw that the Holy Spirit convicts people of sin, righteousness and judgment. The Holy Spirit convicts an unbeliever of their sin of unbelief and the need for salvation.

The Holy Spirit causes them to see themselves in relation to the righteousness of Jesus—who being man lived a sinless life. This will cause them to repent of their sin and accept Jesus.

The Holy Spirit causes people to see the sins of which they are guilty, and helps them understand that the judgment for their sins has been already taken by Jesus who died on the Cross for their sins. In this way, the Holy Spirit shows an unbeliever the need for a Savior.

When they hear the gospel, the Holy Spirit, through God's Word, makes known the truth that Jesus was raised from the dead, making it a reality in the heart of the person. 1 Corinthians 12:3 says, "... no one says, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."

When the person accepts Jesus as their Savior, they are 'Regenerated' or 'born-again.' This miraculous 'Regenerative' work of the Holy Spirit removes a person from spiritual death and gives the person a new life and a new spirit, making them a part of God's family.

Ok, now, everyone look at your hands. Your hands are helping hands, aren't they? Just like we help around with our hands, the Holy Spirit helps us too.

The different translations of the word "helper," gives us a more complete picture of the work of the Holy Spirit in us. He is our Helper, Advocate, Counselor, and Comforter.

Helper = He empowers us with a desire to overcome sin, and a desire to be more like Christ

Advocate = He reminds us that we are children of God, God is for us and nothing can separate us from His love. We have the assurance of eternal life and the power to overcome the devil.

Counselor = He is our teacher and guides us on 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 time of need.

Let us find out more about how the Holy Spirit helps us.

ACTIVITY

Preparation:

Draw an outline of your hand on four different sheets of paper. On each hand write:

- 1- Teacher
- 2- Helps us Share the Gospel With Others
- 3- Guides
- 4- Intercedes for us

If you have more than four children in your class, you can repeat the points accordingly. Hide the sheets in different places in the room before the class begins.

Say:

There are several hands hidden around this room. There is one sheet for each child. I need each of you to find one sheet of paper and bring it to me. You have one minute to find them all. Ready, go!

(Allow the children one minute to find all the hands. Count down the last few seconds. When all the pages are found, have the children hold them in front, so the other children can see what is written on the sheet.)

Say:

These pages have the words that describe how the Holy Spirit helps us. Each sheet is numbered from 1-4. I want you to sit in the order of the numbers on your sheet. When I call out 'Helping Hand 1,' those who have sheet with number 1 must read out what is written on the sheet.

Helping Hand 1: Holy Spirit is Our Teacher

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit will guide them into **all** truth. Though Jesus gave this promise to the disciples, the Holy Spirit does a similar work with each believer who expects it of Him, and looks to Him to do it.

All of us have teachers who teach us, but they are not always beside us. Also since they are human, they are limited in their knowledge. We have a divine teacher who is always with us, to teach us. How privileged we are!

The Spirit will guide the one He teaches into **all** the truth. Not in a day, nor in a week, nor in a year, but step by step. What is the truth that the Holy Spirit teaches us? He teaches us which are the wrong teachings and wrong beliefs and what is the truth. The Holy Spirit also teaches us the truth from God's Word, the Bible, and helps us understand the truth.

Read Aloud:

1 Corinthians 2:9-14: "However, as it is written: 'no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him—but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us ... The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned.'"

The Holy Spirit, the author of divine revelation of the written word of God, He is also the interpreter of what He has revealed. How much more interesting and helpful it is when we have the author of the Bible within us, to help us understand the Bible when we read it.

The verses in 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 says that we cannot understand all the revelations and truth in God's Word with our minds and human wisdom. We can understand these spiritual truths only when we have the Spirit of God to help us and teach us.

The Holy Spirit helps us understand what the different Scripture verses mean, and how they can apply to the different parts of our lives.

Before you begin reading the Bible each day, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading and reveal God's truth to you. Then, reading the Bible will not be boring. The reason why most people find it boring is because they are trying to understand God's Word through their own human wisdom. When they don't understand it, they find it boring.

This verse also tells us that God has plans that are good and best for us. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals God's plans for us.

Helping Hand 2: The Holy Spirit Helps Us to Share the Gospel With Others

The Holy Spirit not only reveals and interprets the truth from God's Word to us; He also enables and empowers us to share the truth of the Gospel with others. Remember, that when you are sharing the gospel with your friend, you are not alone; the Holy Spirit is with you. He will not only tell you what to speak, but He may also reveal the life of the person to you, so that you can start helping them at the point of their need.

Next time you want to share the Gospel with someone, quietly pray in your heart, "Holy Spirit, help me to reveal the truth about Jesus to this person."

Helping Hand 3: Holy Spirit Guides Us

Read Aloud:

Romans 8:14: "... those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

God has a perfect plan for our lives. The Holy Spirit leads us step-by-step into fulfilling God's perfect plan and destiny for our lives. So we never have to walk and live in the dark, not knowing what to do in the present or future. The Holy Spirit knows exactly what steps we need to take, and helps us when we face difficulties and problems, that discourage us from reaching the goals and plans that God has for our lives.

We can always ask the Holy Spirit and receive directions on various details for our lives. E.g.,: Right friends to choose, how to study, which college to join, which course to choose etc. The Holy Spirit also guides us to discern whether a teaching is right or wrong.

Helping Hand 4: The Holy Spirit Intercedes for Us

Compared to God, we human beings are very limited in our knowledge. We do not even know what is going to happen the next moment, let alone the next day. Most often, we know what we want but don't exactly know all of our needs; we do not know what people are planning to do against us. But the Holy Spirit knows everything. And He will help us to pray accurately and effectively. The Holy Spirit will help us pray according to God's will for our lives.

When we pray for someone else, we don't exactly know what the root of the problem is. When we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, He not only shows us what the problem is, but also give us answers regarding the problem.

Romans 8:26: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

This verse tells us that the Holy Spirit prays on our behalf, placing our needs before the Father.

(Review each helping hand again. The children should have learnt it all by now.)

So we see that the Holy Spirit does all the acts of a person. When we accept Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit comes and indwells in us, and when we allow Him only then will He teach, guide, intercede and help us.

There are a few acts performed 'towards' the Holy Spirit that would seem strange if He did not possess a true personality:

The Spirit Can Be Lied to

Just like we lie to our parents, we can lie to God and the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:3: “Then Peter said, ‘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?’”

The Spirit Can Be Resisted

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, we can resist Him by continuing to sin and not repent or change our sinful behavior.

Acts 7:51: “You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!”

The Spirit Can Be Blasphemed Against

Blaspheme means speaking evil or negative things about the Holy Spirit. Matthew 12:31 says, that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is sin which cannot be forgiven. “And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.”

Video Presentation

Video: Dr. Cho Yonggi: London Church Growth Seminar

Duration: 11 minutes

We just learnt of all the personal acts done by the Holy Spirit. Some of you may be wondering if these are true. How does the Holy Spirit really help us? Let us listen to a sermon by Pastor Paul Yonggi Cho in which he shares his experience with the Holy Spirit.

Paul Yonggi Cho was a Buddhist who suffered with Tuberculosis. A girl used to visit him regularly and tell him about Jesus. One day, she knelt down to pray for him and began to weep. He was deeply touched and told her, “Don’t cry ... I know now about your Christian love. Since I am dying, I will become a Christian for you.” She gave him her own Bible and told him, “If you read it faithfully, you will find the words of life.” At the age of 17, Paul Yonggi Cho converted to Christianity. He had a series of spiritual experiences including the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In May 1958, Cho held his first worship service in the home of his friend. The church began with one lady and her three children. The church grew rapidly and recorded an attendance of half a million people in 2012.

Let us listen to a part of the message which he gave in London. In this message, he talks about his experience with the Holy Spirit. This will help us understand what we have been discussing so far.

(Play the video.)

Note to the Facilitator:

Given below is the same message in print form. The children may not be able to catch Paul's accent. So, pause at regular intervals and share what he spoke from the message given below.

Paul Yonggi Cho's Message:

"When I had 3,000 members in my church I wanted to see church growth. I prayed very much but the church growth was slow. On a cold winter day, after conducting a prayer meeting in the morning, I was sitting on the corner of a bench and was pouring out my heart before the Lord and I fell into a trance. In the trance, I was in the presence of God and the glory of the Lord filled the place.

Then the voice of the Lord came into my heart, 'My son you want to see church growth?' 'Yes father.' God said, 'Answer my question.' 'Father, please ask me.' 'Suppose the Israelites had to go to the wilderness to catch quail, how much quail do you think they might have caught? I said, 'In the wilderness there is not much quail and it was hard to catch quail with their bare hands and those who caught a dozen may even die of a sun stroke. God said, 'When I send my wind and brought the quail, how many quail they would have caught with their hands?' I said, 'The quail were falling like dust upon their tent.' 'Do you think I can do anything now a days?' asked God. 'Yes of course you can do anything.' 'You are using all of your human strength. You are pushing and pulling to have church growth, and you have come to the end of your struggle. Why don't you depend on the Holy Spirit? When I send the wind of the Holy Spirit, sinners will fall upon your church like dust.' I said, 'God do that, do that please.' Then God said, 'Have communion and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.'

I came out of my trance and I ran to my office, and looked into my Bible at 2 Corinthians 13:14: "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” I looked in the Greek lexicon and the word ‘konia’ means fellowship and partnership.

That day, I found tremendous revelation from the Lord. Till that time I did not treat the Holy Spirit as a real person. I was taking the Holy Spirit as an influence of God, not treating Him as a person. I was being careless. I was using the Holy Spirit instead of being used by the Holy Spirit. So I knelt down before the Holy Spirit and prayed, ‘Holy Spirit, I confess my sin of neglecting You, I had mistaken Your personality, You are a real person, greater person than my own self, wife, children and family. So, from today I am accepting You as a real person from heaven. I recognize You, welcome You and depend upon You. Holy Spirit, let us go together.’

A great sensation came upon him. Till that time I always thought I was in charge of church growth but I turned over all my burden to the Holy Spirit. He is my Lord and I am His laborer and so I began looking to the Holy Spirit. He is my Comforter, In Greek it means ‘one who is being called alongside from God to help us.’ So the Holy Spirit has been with me to help me for such a long time but I did not recognize Him as a person. If you recognize Him as a person, you should treat Him as a person.

The Holy Spirit is a person, He is with you and within you. He is an awesome God, so you should very carefully treat Him as a real person. From that time till now when I wake up in the morning, I say, ‘Good Morning Holy Spirit, I love you, I appreciate you, I recognize you. God the Father is working through you and God the Son Jesus Christ is working through you. We, together, let us have a great time winning souls for Jesus Christ. Let us go together.’

Since that time, when I started having fellowship with the Holy Spirit, a new dimension of power began to come upon my life and when I stand on the pulpit, I feel the presence and power of God stronger than before.

Soon the 3000 barrier in my church was broken and my church grew to 6,000, 8,000 and 10,000. Having fellowship with the Holy Spirit is so important. The Holy Spirit is the senior partner and we are the junior partners. We are not orphans for the Holy Spirit is with us and within us. He is within the Body of Christ—the Church. But for a long time, He has been mistreated and neglected, and for this reason He was grieved and He could not work. We put institution in place of the Holy Spirit and human wisdom in place of His wisdom, and so we don’t see the miracle of God

in this generation. When you have the presence of the Holy Spirit, you have the continuity of the working of Jesus Christ every day.

Many people come to my church and experience the presence of Jesus Christ not because of me but because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.”



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.*

Why does God choose to dwell with us and in us?

From the beginning, it has been God’s desire to dwell with people and have fellowship with them. He regularly met with Adam and Eve in the garden. Later, He gave Moses the plans for the Tabernacle, and His glory rested in the Holy Place in the center of His people. When Solomon built a temple, He filled it with his glory. Then, in the fullness of time, God became man and dwelt among us. When Jesus went back to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit is the means by which God dwells in and among His people. Thus making it possible for believers to be in constant communion with God.

What is the meaning of ‘New Life’ which is the result of the Regenerative work of the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation?

New life brings a new nature. The new nature does not remove or eradicate the old nature. So the person who is born again, is not made perfect; but he has the power to say ‘No’ to the old nature of sin, and has the capacity to please Christ and grow into the image of Christ. This new nature will bear fruit—the Fruit of the Spirit.

What should be our response to the Holy Spirit indwelling us as our Helper?

We should first yield our lives to God. Secondly, we must refuse to yield to the old nature of sin and thirdly, we should glorify God in our bodies by doing those things that please Him.

In the video we just saw, Paul Yonggi Cho talks of how he fell into a trance when he poured out his heart to God. What was the key message he heard from God?

The Lord wanted Him to fellowship and depend on the Holy Spirit. He was brought to understand that the Holy Spirit was not just an influence but a real person. He is more real, and a greater person, than one's own self, wife, children or family.

When Pastor Paul Yonggi Cho received a revelation of the Holy Spirit being a real person and began fellowshiping with Him, how did things change and why?

When Pastor Paul learnt that the Holy Spirit is a real person who is with Him and within Him, he started fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit. That's when a new dimension of power began to come upon his life and ministry. When he stood in the pulpit to preach He felt the presence and power of God stronger than before.

Earlier, he thought he was in charge of church growth; but later he turned over his entire burden to the Holy Spirit. He began looking to the Holy Spirit as comforter, helper and as the one who comes alongside him. Soon the 3000 barrier in his church was broken and his church grew to 6,000, 8,000 and 10,000.

From what we learnt today, who do you think the Holy Spirit is and what is He sent to do in your life?

The Holy Spirit is God and relates to us as a person. The Holy Spirit is sent to be our:

- Teacher
- Guide
- Helper
- Counselor
- Advocate
- Intercessor

When we fellowship daily with the Holy Spirit these are the blessings that He will bring in our life: He'll teach us, counsel us, help us, defend us, strengthen us and always be there for us. As we recognize Him as your helper, strengthener, partner, counselor, intercessor, comforter and advocate, He will encourage His ministry in our life and strengthen our fellowship with Him.

Based on the lessons we learnt today and the video we watched, how do you think we can cultivate daily fellowship with the Holy Spirit?

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit involves sharing our lives with Him. We must let him influence and direct our thoughts, motives, feelings, attitudes and decisions. We should seek His counsel and wisdom in our future plans, hopes, passions, visions and choices. The choice of courses we need to take in school, choice of career and profession, the details of our relationships and friendships, etc.

Intimacy with the Holy Spirit: We grow in intimacy with the Holy Spirit when we commit ourselves to reading the Bible and praying everyday.

Develop sensitivity to the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is sensitive and He will never force Himself on us. We need to spend time in His presence to know what grieves or pleases Him.

Cultivate fellowship with the Spirit through conversation: Greet the Holy Spirit each morning. Ask Him questions. Invite Him to help you constantly as you face your challenges. Freely share your joys and sorrows with Him. Build a habit of referring decisions to Him. At first, it may look awkward as you seem to hear no reply. You will learn His language and as He communicates, you will grow gradually into understanding what He is saying.

Partner with the Holy Spirit: Invite Him to be your senior partner in everything (work, study, sport etc.). The Holy Spirit is the senior partner and we are the junior partner.

Strengthen your fellowship with the Holy Spirit every day; learn to listen to what He says to you and yield your spirit, soul and body to Him. Let Him work through you, talk through you and function through you. He wants you to enjoy rich fellowship with Him every day.

What are some of the ways we can grieve or hurt the Holy Spirit? Look up the references below to find the answer.

Ephesians 4:30 – We can grieve the Spirit, by desiring the things of the world and flesh. By behaving contrary to the Spirit filled nature—reacting in anger, holding on to hate, bitterness and unforgiveness, etc.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 – We can quench the Spirit and put out the fire of the Spirit by refusing to pray and not using the gifts of the Spirit and flowing in the anointing of the Spirit.

Hebrews 10:29 – We can insult the Spirit by continuing to deliberately sin, even after we are born again and know the truth.

Acts 7:51 – Resisting the Spirit by doing things according to our own desires and will. Wilful disobedience after we receive clear and definite guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Psalms 106:33 – Rebelling against the Spirit by refusing to do what God’s Spirit expressly commands.



APPLICATION

Aren’t you excited to know that the one who dwells in you is willing and able to help you in each and every detail of your life? How wonderful to know that God just does not dwell in us to fellowship with us but to also help us in every area of our lives so He can make us like Him. The Holy Spirit will teach, direct, guide and lead us only when we allow Him to work in us and when we fellowship with Him.

In your studies/sports – If you are in the midst of studying and preparing for a test, His wisdom will flow through you. The Holy Spirit will be your senior partner, giving you the knowledge and expertise you need to succeed.

Difficult decisions – Once you involve the Holy Spirit and share with Him your situation, you will sense Him intervening in any decision that you are about to make, through the absence or presence of His peace.

Temptations/trials – He will warn you and talk you out of things/actions/thoughts which are not pleasing to the Lord. When you yield yourself to Him and His counsel, you will receive supernatural power to say “No” to the things of the world and the devil, that draw you away from God.

Understand the Word – When you study your Bible, the Holy Spirit will teach you and help you understand God’s Word. Reading your Bible will no longer become an exercise or duty but you will enjoy reading the Bible.

Weaknesses and bad habits – He will give you the strength to overcome them.

Fears – No matter where you are, He is with you. Even in the midst of your fears, while you are alone in your room, He is there with you. The moment you begin to be aware of His presence and cultivate His presence, all your fears, anxieties and worries will leave.

As you cultivate this fellowship with the Holy Spirit, in the midst of everything that you do, learn to depend on Him.

In your workbook, write down the areas in your life where you need the help of the Holy Spirit. Come prepared next week to share how you experienced the Holy Spirit as your teacher, guide, helper, counselor and intercessor.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the children to the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
- Children will learn that the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament was 'selective.'



RECAP

- Do a recap of last week's lesson.
- Ask the children to recite last week's Memory Verse.



MEMORY VERSE

Ephesians 3:20: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us."

Materials Needed:

- 3 x 5 piece of paper (one for each child)
- Half sheets of paper
- White crayons

- Pencils
- Laptop (to play video)

Note to the Facilitator:

In today's lesson, there are many incidents from the Old Testament that are mentioned. As preparation for your class, read the incidents and briefly narrate them as a story. This will make the class interesting for the children.



ATTENTION GETTER

Give each child half a sheet of paper, a white crayon and pencil. Ask each of your children to write 'Holy Spirit,' on the paper with their white crayon. Then have them lightly rub over the drawing or words with their pencils. See how the image "appears."

Share with them that although they can't see the Holy Spirit they can know He is with them!

Ask:

How do we know that the Holy Spirit is with us? Jesus promised His disciples in John 14:16 that after He goes back to the Father, He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit who would be with them forever. Not just with a few believers for some time, but with **all** believers **forever**.

John 14:16: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever ..."

Why did Jesus say He will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be with them forever?

From the beginning of creation, throughout the period of the Old Testament, and up until the death and resurrection of Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit was 'selective.' 'Selective' means that the Holy Spirit did not come upon all the people of Israel but on just a few people to

guide, direct and encourage them to do a specific task that God wanted them to do and for a limited period of time.

In contrast to this, Jesus promised His disciples that after He goes back to the Father, He would ask the Father to send them the Holy Spirit who would be with **all** believers **forever**.



TEACHING CONTENT

Many Christians, think that only after Jesus went back to the Father, the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost and has been active ever since. Is this true? No! We learnt in lesson 1 that the Holy Spirit has been at work on this planet ever since the beginning of Creation. Look at the Book of Genesis and you can see that for yourself. In the first few verses in the Bible, in Genesis 1:1-3, we find: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 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. And God said, 'Let there be light: and there was light.'"

Think about that! The Holy Spirit was hovering, waiting to create. Then the moment God spoke the Word, "Let there be Light!" the Spirit sprung into action and brought this universe into being. That is how the Bible introduces us to the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit was active doing the will of the Father throughout the Old Testament days. However, His work was very selective.

Let us look at a few examples of the selective work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

I. Holy Spirit in a Few People

Joseph

We are all familiar with the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. We know about how his father Jacob loved him more than any of his other sons, and how Joseph's brothers hated him and were jealous of him.

How his brothers sold him as a slave in Egypt. What many may not know is that the Spirit played a role in Joseph's life. Take a look at this scene in the life of Joseph when he was taken out of prison, to meet Pharaoh and interpret the dream that Pharaoh had.

Read Aloud:

Genesis 41:15, 16: "Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.' 'I cannot do it,' Joseph replied to Pharaoh, 'but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.'"

Joseph is about to give an interpretation of Pharaoh's dream but he is taking no credit for the interpretation. He gives the glory to God. After giving Pharaoh the interpretation and providing a plan for the future, Pharaoh said this ...

Read Aloud:

Genesis 41:38: "... 'Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?'"

The Holy Spirit gave Joseph wisdom that confounded the so-called wise men of his day. He not only interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, but gave a plan to solve the problem. God who enabled Joseph to interpret the dreams also gave Him the wisdom to provide a solution. What God imparted into Joseph's life made Him "discerning and wise." This is an example of the Spirit of wisdom at work.

Daniel

As we have just seen with Joseph, the Holy Spirit also gave Daniel the ability to interpret dreams and to prophesy. When King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that the wise men and magicians in his kingdom find out the dream he had and interpret it, they were puzzled. How could anyone possibly know the dream that someone else has had! But Daniel, although just a young man, knew that the God in heaven, the God of the Bible, "reveals deep and hidden things." So Daniel prayed along with his friends. God, in answer to their prayer, revealed to Daniel the dream and the interpretation of the dream.

King Nebuchadnezzar said this to Daniel:

Read Aloud:

Daniel 5:13-14: "I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too difficult for you."

Even the king recognized that the Spirit of God was in Daniel, giving Him intelligence and wisdom to interpret mysteries.

Joshua

The Spirit of God enabled the Israelite leaders to lead the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. One such person was Joshua.

Read Aloud:

Numbers 27:18: "So the Lord said to Moses, 'Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him.'"

Deuteronomy 34:9: "Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses."

This verse tells us that Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom and leadership, because of which:

- God chose him to be the next leader of Israel.
- After the death of Moses, people acknowledged him as their leader.
- He was one of Israel's greatest leaders.

II. The Holy Spirit Came Upon a Few Individuals

Is there any difference between the Spirit's being in men and the Spirit 'coming upon' men?

There is no significant difference except that the idea of "coming upon" seems to imply the temporary character of the Spirit's relationship to people in the Old Testament. "Coming upon" means the Holy Spirit came upon them for a short period of time by which they were empowered to fulfill a specific God-given assignment.

A. The Spirit Came Upon Israel's Judges and Gave Them the Ability to Free the Israelites From their Enemies

The Israelites angered God when they continued to worship idols; therefore God gave them into the hands of their enemies. When the Israelites went to war against their enemies, God did not fight their battles; as a result the Israelites lost these battles. However, when their enemies treated them harshly, they cried out to God for mercy, from among them God raised up a Judge. The Judge and a small army of inexperienced Israelite soldiers were able to defeat armies stronger and larger in number compared to them because the Holy Spirit empowered them. God Himself fought the battle for the Israelites. Hence the Israelites were able to overcome their enemies. When the Judge died, the people returned back to their evil ways. This was like a cyclic thing that happened for many years. There were twelve Judges that God raised to overcome their enemies.

B. The Holy Spirit Came Upon a Few Kings, to Help them Fulfill their Role as a Leader

We will look at an example of one king:

King Saul

Saul was the first King of Israel. When the Prophet Samuel first informed Saul of God's plan to appoint him as king over Israel, Saul felt he was not capable enough to become king.

So Saul received a special anointing from God. The prophet Samuel, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said to Saul, "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 had 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, the Spirit of Yahweh came upon Saul much like He did on the Judges, and Saul delivered the Israelites from Nahash and the Ammonites.

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. The Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him. The Spirit leaving Saul coincided with David being anointed as King and the Spirit coming upon Him.

III. The Holy Spirit Reveals God's Will Through a Few Prophets and Priests

A. The Spirit of Yahweh Comes Upon Jahaziel and He Speaks an Encouraging Prophecy to King Jehoshaphat

When King Jehoshaphat heard that three Kings were coming to fight against him, he called all the people and they assembled in the temple. With fasting and prayer, they enquired from the Lord what to do. The Spirit of Yahweh came upon Jahaziel, and he told them ...

Read Aloud:

2 Chronicles 20:15-17: "... 'Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.'"

King Jehoshaphat and the people were greatly encouraged when they received guidance from God.

B. The Spirit of God Came Upon Zechariah to Preach Against the Sins of the People

When King Joash was seven years old, he became King under the influence of Jehoiada the priest. King Joash ordered the people to repair the temple that King Solomon had built. This work was successfully completed. When Jehoiada the priest died, Joash began listening to godless advisors. Despite the warnings of prophets, he abandoned the temple of the Lord and worshipped idols, and so did the people.

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Zechariah, son of Jehoiada the priest and he prophesied against Joash, and Joash had him killed.

Read Aloud:

2 Chronicles 24:20: “Then the Spirit of God came on Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood before the people and said, “This is what God says: ‘Why do you disobey the LORD’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has forsaken you.’”

IV. Holy Spirit Revealed and Inspired the Prophets With God’s Message

By far the most important work of the Holy Spirit was the gift of revelation and inspiration. God used men (prophets) to reveal His will and His Word to the Israelites. These men were inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to clearly speak the ‘Word of the Lord.’ The message that God gave the prophets was communicated by the Holy Spirit, and it usually dealt with either some need or sin that the Israelites were involved in, or messages that foretold events that would happen in the future.

Read Aloud:

Nehemiah 9:30: “For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit, you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples.”

Zechariah 7:11-12: “But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or to the words that the LORD Almighty had sent by His Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the LORD Almighty was very angry.”

Explain:

In both these passages we see that God communicated His message to the nation of Israel through the prophets. Though the nation rebelled against them, the Prophets were nevertheless the mouthpieces of God. When men disobeyed the Word of God, they were regarded as having not only resisted God, but His Spirit as well.

The Holy Spirit enabled the person receiving revelation to write it down accurately so that we could have the Old Testament. When prophets spoke or wrote under the influence and control of the Holy Spirit, they could rightly say, "This is what the Lord says." An example of this can be seen in Ezekiel 11:5, where the prophet Ezekiel says:

Read Aloud:

Ezekiel 11:5: "Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon me, and He told me to say: 'This is what the LORD says: That is what you are saying, O house of Israel, but I know what is going through your mind.'"

We see that the Spirit of God instructed, provided and cared for the Israelites. However, we do not have clear revelation of the Spirit's ministry outside of Israel. No other nation enjoyed His general presence among them as Israel did. From what is recorded in the Bible for us, the ministry of the Holy Spirit was only to Israel and individuals in Israel.

Thus we see that the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament was:

Limited in Extent

Only the nation of Israel experienced the work of the Holy Spirit. Even within the Nation, only a few people enjoyed the enabling ministry of the Spirit.

Limited in their Duration

The Holy Spirit came upon a few men to enable and empower them to fulfill a particular assignment God had set for them. In some cases, like King Saul, the Holy Spirit withdrew from him because of his sin of disobedience.

Limited in their Effect

Even though all Israel benefited from the Spirit's ministry, the Spirit did not indwell all individuals within the nation of Israel.



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.*

God revealed to Joseph and Daniel the meaning of the dream. Does the Holy Spirit reveal things concerning our lives even today? To find the answer, read John 16:13-15.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of revelation. When we ask and depend on Him, He will reveal things to us. When we read the Bible, He reveals truth about ourselves from God's Word—that we are His children, we can do all things through Christ and Satan has no power or authority over our lives.

He reveals God's plans and purposes to us—which college to join, which course to take, which company to work in, where to settle, who to marry and so on. He also will reveal what God is doing in our lives and why.

What does God reveal to us?

Our God is a revealer of secrets and He can reveal secrets to you. He can reveal information to you about things in the past, present or future. The information that God reveals to you could bring direction, encouragement and correction into your life. It could be information that affects you personally or someone else. As in the example of Joseph and Daniel, it could be information about what God is going to do in the future.

God may reveal the sins in someone's life, so as to help you bring correction and lead them to repentance, e.g., Prophet Zechariah who gave God's message to King Joash. God may also provide the solution to a problem, to encourage someone, e.g., God used Jahaziel to encourage King Jehoshaphat.

God can also reveal the thoughts, evil plans and schemes of other people who try to harm you. God reveals it to you so as to protect you.

Video Presentation

Video: The Holy Spirit—His Presence and His Power

Duration: 2 minutes and 48 seconds

In the video we saw, what did the Holy Spirit reveal to Evelyn?

Evelyn received a strong impression from the Holy Spirit to invest money in a certain stock. Contrary to her financial adviser's recommendation she did so, and saw over a 100% return on her investment.

Does the Holy Spirit reveal things to all those who are born-again?

Yes! The Spirit desires to reveal things to all those who are born-again; but we need to desire the revelation that the Spirit of God can bring into our lives. You need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the Father's heart concerning specific issues that you are facing—your studies, friends, sickness, fears, and so on.

Also, ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you and prepare you for things in the future, things that the Father has prepared for you. Open your life to the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of revelation.

The Holy Spirit revealed God's truth to the Prophets and men of old, because of which we have the Old and New Testaments. Now since we have the Bible, has the Holy Spirit stopped revealing God's Word to us?

The Bible—the written Word of God, was given by revelation to the prophets, through the Spirit of God working in them. The Spirit of God working in the prophets gave them revelation and insight into the secret things of God. These were recorded to help us. Today, when we read the Bible, we need to understand these revelations and the secret things of God. The Holy Spirit helps us understand and see the wonderful things that have been recorded in the Bible.

When King Saul disobeyed God, the Holy Spirit left him. So when we sin, does the Holy Spirit leave us too? To find the answer, read John 14:16 and Romans 8:9.

The Holy Spirit will never leave a believer. This is revealed in many different passages in the New Testament. For example, Romans 8:9 tells us, "... if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ." This verse very

clearly states that if someone does not have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, then that person is not saved. Therefore, if the Holy Spirit were to leave a believer, that person would have lost the saving relationship with Christ. Yet, this is not what the Bible teaches about the eternal security of Christians.

Another verse that speaks to the permanence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence in the life of believers is John 14:16. Here Jesus states that the Father will give another Helper "to be with you forever."

In the Old Testament and up to the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Spirit used to come upon a person and leave when the task was completed. When the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit began permanently indwelling believers (Acts 2). The permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of God's promise to always be with us and never forsake us.

Since we can never lose our salvation, must we continue sinning?

No! We learnt last Sunday that if we continue sinning, we will grieve the Holy Spirit. While our relationship with God is secure in Christ, unconfessed sin in our lives can hinder our fellowship with God and effectively quench the Holy Spirit's working in our lives. That is why it is so important to confess our sins, because God is "faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). So, while the Holy Spirit will never leave us, the benefits and joy of His presence can in fact depart from us.

The Israelites experienced the power of the Holy Spirit. Can we experience His power today?

One of the works of the Holy Spirit as presented in Isaiah 11:1, 2 is "the Spirit of power." This reveals the Holy Spirit as One who is full of might, power, force and strength. It reveals the Spirit of God as One who is able to do great things. He is the Spirit of power. He is able to make things happen. Today, the Holy Spirit is still at work as the Spirit of power. He has not lost any of His power, for He does not change. The Spirit of God extends His power upon people, places and things. In other words, people (individuals and groups), places (whole geographic regions—cities, villages, a meeting place) and natural, material things (pieces of cloth, the weather and so on) can be influenced, changed and affected by the power of the

Spirit of God. For example, the Spirit of God can move upon a person's physical body and in an instant remove all sicknesses and diseases, whatever they may be. In an instant, by the power of the Holy Spirit, tumors can be removed, organs can be created, old organs replaced with new ones, the blood system cleansed, every trace of disease made to completely disappear and so on.

The Spirit of God can move upon a gathering of people, whether a few or many thousands and touch many, simultaneously doing miracles in their lives. He can move upon an entire village or city causing repentance and turning towards the Lord Jesus, releasing mighty demonstrations of His presence through miracles and healings. The Spirit of God may cause His power to reside in material things such as a piece of cloth/garment. This cloth/garment, for a certain period of time, becomes a conveyer/container of the Spirit's power. This power can flow out and affect other things—for instance, sick people can be healed when they come into contact with those things.



APPLICATION

If you are born-again, the Holy Spirit indwells in you. He has the same awesome power, the same astounding ability to work miracles, to comprehend and plan in infinite detail everything that has ever been ... everything that now is ... and everything that ever will be regarding your life. What is more, when you run into something you cannot handle and you call on Him for help, He is not far away. He is right there inside you! He is ready to supply you with whatever you need.

One of the reasons God has given you the Holy Spirit is that He intended for you to walk into a place and bring the power of God on the scene—the same power that enabled the Judges, Joshua and King Saul to defeat their enemies.

Can you imagine all that God could do in this earth if we'd just surrender our lives to Him and allow His power to work in our lives?

Paul said, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Maybe you have been waiting for God to do something in your life or in the lives of those around you. Maybe you have been saying, "I know God is able to change this

situation, help me in my studies etc. I wonder why He doesn't do it?" If so, let us read that last phrase again. It says He is able to do above what we can ask or think according to the power that works in us!

I encourage you today to start building your faith in that power. Look at yourself in the mirror and say, "The Spirit of God is living in me today and I expect Him to do wise, wonderful, amazing and miraculous things through me!" Instead of thinking on your problems and what you don't have and what you can't achieve, believe in the power and sufficiency of the Greater One who lives and walks within you every moment of every day.

When you begin to realize what a dynamite team you two really are, you will blast off into ... exceedingly above all that you can ask or think ... and the devil will never be able to catch or stop you.

In your workbook write down the areas in your life where you need the Holy Spirit to empower you.

ACTIVITY

Have the children think about something they are facing at home or school, or with their studies or with friends—something that is too big, too scary, or too hard for them to do alone. Have them write that down on the 3 x 5 piece of paper. They can share it if they wish to, or they can keep it private. Talk briefly about how the Holy Spirit can help them with their problems or situations, giving them the power to overcome and face them, and also help them find a solution to these problems. What would they like the Holy Spirit to do for them? Have them write that response on the other side of their card. Remind them that through the week, when they are faced with something that is too hard for them, they can look at the card, and remember they have a Helper beside them always and forever!

Come back next week to share how the Holy Spirit helped you, and talk about the areas in which you experienced His power.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
- Children will learn about the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.
- Children will learn that the Fruit of the Spirit is manifestation of the Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit.



MEMORY VERSE

Ezekiel 36:26-27: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

Materials Needed:

- A large dry sponge
- A glass bowl of clean water marked Holy Spirit
- A dish with colored liquid-like grape juice or coke
- Laptop (to play video)



RECAP

- Recite last week's Memory Verse.
- Do a small recap of last week's lesson by asking the questions below:

Last week, we discussed the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. How was the work of the Holy Spirit limited in the Old Testament? (*Let the children respond*).

It was limited in extent, duration and effect.

How was it limited in Extent, Duration and Effect? (*Let the children respond*).

Only the nation of Israel experienced the work of the Holy Spirit. Even in Israel, the Holy Spirit enabled and empowered only a few people to complete their God-given assignment.



INTRODUCTION

We learnt last week that the work in the Old Testament was selective. Similarly in the New Testament, until the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit worked only in a few people. Today, we'll learn about the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament, and see the fulfillment of the promise Jesus made to the disciples regarding the permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. The Work of the Holy Spirit Till the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

A. Work of the Holy Spirit in a Select Few Before the Birth of Jesus

The Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that the baby to be born to her would be conceived by the Holy Spirit. The same fact was made known

to Joseph as well (Matthew 1:20). God becoming man was possible through the creative miracle in Mary's womb by the Spirit of God.

When Mary went to tell Elizabeth, her relative, about what the angel told her, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and told Mary, "Blessed is the child you will bear" (Luke 1:41,42).

When John the Baptist was born, the Holy Spirit came upon his father, Zechariah, and he prophesied about John's future ministry and the coming of the Messiah.

B. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life and Ministry of Jesus

When John the Baptist baptised Jesus in the river Jordan, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus like a dove. Soon after that Jesus was led by the Spirit to the desert where He was tempted by the devil (Luke 4:1). The Bible says in Luke 4:14 that after the temptation, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit.

From Galilee He went to Nazareth, and on the Sabbath He went to the synagogue, and was handed over the scroll of Isaiah. Jesus found the verses where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18). After Jesus finished reading, He rolled up the scroll, and said, "Today the Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." This confirmed that Jesus preached and did miracles by the power of the Spirit.

John 3:34, says that Jesus was given the Holy Spirit without measure. Hebrews 9:14 and 1 Peter 3:18 say that Jesus offered Himself for our sins through the Holy Spirit, and was raised from the dead by the Spirit.

Thus we see the Holy Spirit was active in the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus.

II. The Work of the Holy Spirit After Jesus Ascended to Heaven

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples who were all huddled in a room out of fear for the Jews. Jesus said to them:

Read Aloud:

John 20:21-22: "'Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.' And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

When Jesus said 'Receive the Holy Spirit,' He was referring to receiving the Holy Spirit as a born-again experience. The disciples could not have been born again until Jesus paid the price for sin by dying on the cross. Thus Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit indwelling with them and in them (John 14:16) was fulfilled. What happens as a result of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?

**ATTENTION GETTER****The "Soaking" or "Indwelling"****Materials Required:**

- A large dry sponge
- A glass bowl of clean water, marked Holy Spirit
- A dish with colored liquid-like grape juice or coke

(Hold up a dry sponge.)

Say:

This sponge represents our lives. We can either be dry without the Holy Spirit or our lives can be soaked up with other things.

Ask:

What are some negative things we may be soaking ourselves up with?
(Let the children respond).

Ideas may include things like: negativity from others, anger or frustration, bad language, bad attitudes and ideas from TV, movies, music, etc.

Say:

I am going to put the sponge into this bowl of water that represents the Holy Spirit. *(Soak the sponge till it is full and soaking. Then place the*

sponge in a dish that has a colored liquid-like grape juice or coke). Point out that if a sponge is already filled with clean water, it won't soak up other things. Likewise, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and the things of God, then we won't soak up what's bad.

In lesson 2 we learnt a few things that the Holy Spirit does as a result of His indwelling presences in us. *(Do a small recap to refresh the memory of the children).* Can you tell me what the Holy Spirit does?

A. Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit in a Believer's and Disciple's Life

- Holy Spirit draws an unsaved sinner to Jesus.
- Holy Spirit convicts both unbelievers and believers their sin of unbelief and the need for salvation.
- The Holy Spirit helps a person sees their sinfulness and the price God paid for their sins and causes them to repent of their sin and accept Jesus into their lives.
- The Holy Spirit regenerates – make our human spirits new.
- Holy Spirit draws us close to God. Once a person accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they have a desire to know more about Jesus and God the Father. The Holy Spirit Himself will help them draw closer to both Jesus and the Father. He helps them have a personal relationship with them.
- Holy Spirit helps us to pray and intercedes for us.
- Holy Spirit guide us into all truth
- Holy Spirit teaches us all things

Let's look at a few more things as a result of the Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

i. The Holy Spirit Indwelling in Us is the Seal of God's Ownership

When we accept Jesus into our lives, the person is sealed by the Holy Spirit as one who is saved and cleared of all sin before God and claims them as His possession.

Read Aloud:

2 Corinthians 1:22: "... set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

The word ‘seal’ is used in several important ways:

- a. A seal authenticates a document and proves its genuineness (e.g., seal of an official on a document)
- b. It is a mark of ownership (e.g., seals on products—name a few products)
- c. It is a mark of security (e.g., medicine bottles)

What do we mean when we say that God seals a person?

- a. God is saying, ‘Let everyone know that this person belongs to me.’
- b. For the person who has accepted Jesus, this is a guarantee of eternal life. We will spend eternity in heaven with God.

ii. The Holy Spirit Sanctifies and Strengthens Us

The Holy Spirit is our sanctifier, which means He helps us become holy. Actually, the word “sanctify” means to set apart. A two-fold action occurs when the Holy Spirit sanctifies. First, He sets us apart from sin. In this action, He works in our hearts to motivate us to repent of and turn from sin. This happens when we read God’s Word and spend time in prayer. The Holy Spirit helps us overcome our sinful nature and habits, and make us more like Jesus.

In the second action, the Holy Spirit sets us apart to God—to seek Him and His righteousness; to do His work and build His Kingdom on earth.

The Holy Spirit’s presence in us enables and strengthens us to live and obey God’s Word. As we read in Ezekiel 36:26-27.

Read Aloud:

Ezekiel 36:26-27 says, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws.”

iii. The Holy Spirit Testifies of Jesus

Jesus spoke of another role of the Holy Spirit as He indwells in us—the Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus and glorifies Him.

Read Aloud:

John 15:26: “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, He will testify about Me.”

John 14:26: “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

John 16:14: “He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you.”

The Holy Spirit will make Jesus and the things of God known to us. He will remind us of everything Jesus taught us and all the promises from God’s Word which will encourage us:

- When we are sick, discouraged, afraid, or facing a problem.
- When we are praying for someone else who is sick or in need.
- When we have to encourage someone who is going through a painful and difficult situation.

The Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ in our attitudes and behavior. He helps us to glorify Jesus in our school, home, neighborhood and workplace.

B. The Indwelling Presence and Work of the Holy Spirit is Seen Externally Through the Fruit of the Spirit

Children, where in the Bible is the Fruit of the Spirit found? (*Let the children respond*).

Galatians 5:22-23

Read Aloud:

(Let the children read one verse each.)

Galatians 5:16-25: “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish

ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

In these verses, Paul is saying that if we, as believers, live to please the desires of our flesh, our lives will show forth the deeds of the flesh. If we yield to the Spirit, and allow Him to work in our lives and do things that please Him, our lives will show forth the Fruit of the Spirit.

What does Paul mean by “Walk by the Spirit?” It means doing what we do each day, by the Spirit ... it is living our lives from the time we wake up in the morning until we go to bed at night, by enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

When we let the Holy Spirit control our lives:

a. The Fruit of the Spirit will be Visible

When we look at a fruit, we know whether it’s good or bad. Likewise, people will know that God dwells in us when the Fruit of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control is evident in our lives and in our actions.

b. The Fruit of the Spirit will be Recognizable

The Fruit always reflects the character of the tree that is bearing it. So also, the Fruit that comes from a life controlled by the Holy Spirit will reflect the character of Jesus Christ.

c. Others will Desire to Bear the Fruit of the Spirit

Fruit is always borne for the benefit of others. The seed in a fruit is able to reproduce a plant and bear fruit. Similarly, when the Fruit of the Spirit is evident in our actions, attitudes and behavior others will not only enjoy it, but will desire to be like us. Hence, they would to accept Jesus or will grow spiritually in their walk with God.

As an example of the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life, let us look at the lives of Peter and the other disciples.

What were the disciples like (including Peter) before they were 'born-again?' To answer this question, let us look at a few Scripture passages.

Note to the Facilitator:

Divide the children into groups of two. Ask them to read the passages and write down in their workbooks, in one line, the attitude or reaction of Peter and other disciples.

Group I

Matthew 26:32-35—Peter told Jesus that even if everyone disowns Him and even if he has to die with Jesus, he would never disown Him. The disciples also said the same thing.

Group II

Matthew 26:36-46— Instead of praying, Peter and the other disciples were sleeping.

Group III

John 18:7-11—When the soldiers came to the Garden of Gethsemane to capture Jesus, Peter was very angry and reacted violently. He cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant.

Group IV

John 18:15-18—Peter and another disciple were the only ones who followed Jesus to the High Priest's courtyard. Peter denies Jesus the first time.

John 18:25-27—Peter denies Jesus the second and third time.

Group V

Luke 24:36-39—Disciples were afraid, frightened, troubled and doubted if it was Jesus who had risen or if it was His ghost.

Note to the Facilitator:

After they have finished reading and writing down their findings, let each group share their findings briefly with the rest of the groups. After each group finishes sharing, ask the children the following questions and let them answer.

Ask:

When Jesus was arrested where were all the other disciples?

Matthew 26:56 says when Jesus was arrested in the garden to Gethsemane the disciples fled. They feared that they too would be arrested and killed.

Why did Peter deny Jesus?

He was afraid that he would be imprisoned or killed.

So we see that Peter and the disciples feared for their lives, they were afraid and hence they disowned Jesus. They were confused, deeply anxious and frightened about their future, and their emotional exhaustion made them sleepy.

But we see a change in them after they were born-again and the Spirit indwelt them. They were no longer troubled, afraid or sad. Luke's account lets us know of the change:

Read Aloud:

Luke 24:51-53: "While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God."

Where there had been sadness, now there was great joy (a fruit of the Spirit). Where there was fear and confusion, now there was peace (a fruit of the Spirit) and continual praise and blessing of God. They obeyed Jesus' instructions to return to Jerusalem.

In Acts 1:12-14 we read that the disciples were all together and were constantly praying.

Read Aloud:

Acts 1:14: "They all joined together constantly in prayer ..."

Acts 4:23-24; 31: "On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God ..."

The indwelling presences of the Holy Spirit resulted in the changed lives of the disciples and the Fruit of the Spirit seen in their actions and attitudes.



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.*

Video Presentation

Video: What does it mean to be filled?

Duration: 4 minutes and 48 seconds

Is it possible to live the life that God wants us to live without the Holy Spirit?

It is certainly impossible to live the life that God wants for us without the Holy Spirit indwelling in us.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 says: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

When the Spirit indwells us, He causes us to live the life God wants us to live.

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?

To be filled with the Spirit is to be fully yielded to the Spirit of God, so that everything we say, think and do is under His influence, guidance and leading. When we are filled with the Spirit we manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our attitude, thinking and behaviour.

Why are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control called the Fruit of the Spirit?

By our own strength and effort we cannot be more loving, patient, kind etc. It is only through the work and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives that we can bear fruit.

Some people say they are born-again, but their lives don't show the Fruit of the Spirit. Why?

After a person is born-again, they must choose either to follow their own fleshly desires or follow what the Spirit desires. There is a constant battle happening within us, with the flesh wanting us to do one thing while the Spirit asks us to do another. In the end, we obey either our fleshly nature or the Spirit-filled nature, and the one that we obey prevails. So if we want our spiritual nature to win the battle, so that we are continually obeying God, we must choose to do what the Spirit tells us. When we are constantly obeying what the Spirit wants us to do, we begin to bear the Fruit of the Spirit which becomes evident in our lives.

What should we do when we feel an urge to do things that are unkind or bad?

Whenever we feel tempted to do something that is unkind, unloving, mean or bad, we need to kill the idea or crucify the desire for it. We do not have the power to do this on our own. Jesus provided this strength for us through His death on the Cross. Titus 2:11,12 says, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men." It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age ..." Since we have the Holy Spirit of God living in us we should walk with God, allowing His Spirit to help us.

In Galatians 5:16-25, what are the three images of the Spirit's work in our lives?

The three images of the Spirit's work in our lives: "walking by the Spirit" in verse 16, "being led by the Spirit" in verse 18, and bearing "the fruit of the Spirit" in verse 22.

What is the meaning of the three images of the Spirit's work in our lives?

"Walking by the Spirit" - The Holy Spirit produces in us a desire for God's way that is stronger than our fleshly desires, and thus He causes us to walk in God's statutes. This is what God said He would do in Ezekiel 36:26, 27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

This means that “walking by the Spirit” is not something we do in order to get the Spirit’s help, but rather, just as the phrase implies, it is something we do by the enablement of the Spirit.

“Being led by the Spirit” – The Holy Spirit awakens within us a strong desire to live in holiness and righteousness. “Being led by the Spirit” stresses the Spirit’s initiative and enablement. “Walking by the Spirit” stresses our resulting behavior. The Spirit leads us by creating desires to obey God, and we walk by fulfilling those desires in action.

The “fruit of the Spirit” is what appears in our lives when we “walk by the Spirit.”

Paul contrasts the “works of the flesh” with the “fruit of the Spirit.” Why does he not contrast these with the “works of the Spirit?”

Paul wants the Christians to know that what the Spirit produces in us is not by our work or our effort; rather it is His fruit. The action and behavior produced by the flesh is the result of the “works of the flesh.”

How do we walk in the Spirit?

Firstly, by setting our minds on the things of the Spirit and living in accordance to God’s ways. We know God’s ways when we read His Word. Secondly, desiring to do obey God and doing His will. Thirdly, praying for the Holy Spirit to give us the strength to put to death the desires of the flesh.

The more we obey and pray, the more we walk in the Spirit and bear the fruit of the Spirit.



APPLICATION

Just like the Holy Spirit empowered and transformed the disciples the same Holy Spirit will empower us to live holy and righteous lives. Just as we were able to see the difference in the lives of the disciples as a result of indwelling presence the Holy Spirit, similarly people will know the Spirit of God is in us when they see the fruit of the Spirit manifested in our attitudes and actions.

God desires and is willing to produce the fruit in our lives, but we do have a part to play. Our attitude and our actions affect how the Holy Spirit works in us. We can quench His power and influence when we continue to fulfill the desires of the flesh, or we can share in His work of sanctification when we choose to obey His commands and pray for strength, to put to death the desires of the flesh. The more we obey God and pray, the more we walk in the Spirit and bear the Fruit of the Spirit.

Are you willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life? If so, let us pray, and ask God to help us obey His Word and strength to put to death the desires of the flesh. (*Lead the children in prayer*).

What steps are you going to take to be filled with the Holy Spirit so He can produce His fruit in your life?

Begin this week by:

- Obeying God
- Praying for strength to put to death the desires of the flesh
- When you feel like choosing the deeds of the flesh, kill those thoughts
- Pray for God to manifest in your life the Fruit of the Spirit.

Note to the Facilitator:

Before the children leave, ask them to take a look at the Take Home Activity in their student workbook. Encourage them to read the passages given from Acts chapters 2, 3 and 4.

Say:

Every day this week, read the following scripture passages to see how the believers were in-filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. We'll discuss about this next week.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Infilling Power of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn the significance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Children will learn that speaking in tongues and gifts of the Spirit are an outward manifestation of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Doubts, fears and misconceptions regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit will be cleared from the minds of the children.



RECAP

- Recite the Memory Verse for last week.
- Do a small recap of last week's lesson.



MEMORY VERSE

Joel 2:28-29: "I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out My Spirit in those days."

Materials Needed:

- Clear glass tumbler
- Bottle with mixture of equal quantities of water and white vinegar
- Baking soda
- A tray to keep the glass tumbler
- Laptop (to play video)

Note to the Facilitator:

In this lesson, we will be looking at a few incidents in Acts chapters 2, 3 and 4. As part of last week's Take Home Activity the children were asked to read the passages mentioned in today's lesson. While teaching the lesson, do a small quiz to refresh their memory and summarize the incidents, so that the children who did not read would be helped.

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we learnt of the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life as a result of His Indwelling Presence in us. This we saw was the fulfillment of Jesus' Promise to His disciples that the Holy Spirit would dwell in them forever (John 14:17).

After Jesus' death and resurrection, He made another promise to His disciples that is recorded for us in Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:5, 8.

Read Aloud:

Let us read Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5, 8

Luke 24:49: "I am going to send you what My Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Acts 1:5: "For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

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."

We also learnt that Jesus breathed on His disciples and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' This was when the disciples had a born-again experience and received the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. If the disciples received the Holy Spirit, then why did Jesus ask His disciples to stay in Jerusalem to be clothed/baptised with the power of the Spirit? In our lesson today, we will learn the answer to this question.



ATTENTION GETTER

Materials Needed:

- Clear glass tumbler
- Bottle with mixture of equal quantities of water and white vinegar
- Baking soda
- A tray to keep the glass tumbler

(Hold up the empty glass so the children can see.)

Say:

Like this empty glass, our lives are empty without Jesus. *(Place the empty glass on a tray and pour the mixture of water and vinegar into the empty glass. Make sure the glass is filled to the brim. As you pour the mixture say):* When we ask Jesus into our hearts, He pours out His life into us. The Holy Spirit comes and dwells in us, and as we obey the Holy Spirit, we become more and more like Jesus. However, there is even more that Jesus wants to give us. *(Stir baking soda into the glass so that it bubbles over).*

Jesus wants us to have the POWER to tell others about Him, to do even greater works than what He did when He lived on earth. Jesus knew it would take the same power and anointing of the Holy Spirit that was upon Him, so He baptises us with the Holy Spirit. Just like adding this powder to this solution in the glass gave it the energy and power to overflow, similarly, when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, the same power that was in Jesus comes upon us. Yes, the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead comes on us.



TEACHING CONTENT

I. The Infilling Power of the Holy Spirit

When the disciples were baptised with the Holy Spirit the same power that was upon Jesus came upon the Church on the Day of Pentecost.

This work of the Holy Spirit, which we call the 'Baptism', is an infilling of spiritual power. This power is given to us for a specific reason - to fulfill the mission of God on earth. 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).

The Greek word 'dunamis,' translated power, means 'ability' and 'might.' When you receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you receive the ability of God to do His work on the earth. The Spirit indwelling us helps us become Christ-like and causes us to bear fruit (Fruit of the Spirit) in our own personal lives. The Infilling Power of the Spirit (Baptism of the Spirit) is for us believers, so that we may enter into all the fullness of God and serve Him.

Let's read from Acts 2:1-13 to see how the disciples were baptised and what happened after that.

Note to the Facilitator:

Ask a few questions to refresh their memory and then summarize the incident given below.

Acts 2:1-13

Summary: On the day of Pentecost, when all the disciples and other believers were gathered in one place suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the house. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that came and rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. The God-fearing Jews that had

gathered there were stunned and amazed because though the disciples and others who were in the room were Galileans they heard them speaking in other languages that were unknown to them. Each of them was declaring the wonders of God. Amazed they asked one another, 'What does this mean?' Some, however, made fun of them and said, 'They have had too much wine.'

What happened when they were baptised in the Holy Spirit? They began speaking in other tongues – other languages as the Spirit enabled them.

One way we know the Holy Spirit indwells us is when we manifest the Fruit of the Spirit in our actions and attitudes. Similarly, when we are filled with the power of the Spirit we begin "speaking in tongues" and manifesting the nine gifts of the Spirit. Speaking in tongues is the first visible evidence of being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

When we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, He empowers us to be His witness. Last week, we looked at the life of Peter and other believers, and saw how the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit transformed them. Today, we'll continue to study their lives to see how the Baptism of the Holy Spirit empowered them to boldly witness and perform miracles, just like Jesus did.

II. Empowering Work of the Holy Spirit

A. Peter Boldly Shared the Gospel at Every Small Opportunity

Peter used every small opportunity to share the gospel about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let me show you this from three instances.

- **First Instance**

On the day of Pentecost, when the Jews in Jerusalem heard the noise in the upper room, they all gathered to see what was happening. They made fun of the disciple's who were speaking in tongues, saying that they were drunk because they had too much wine.

On hearing this Peter stood up and explained to them what was happening there. He shared the gospel with the crowd and pleaded with them to repent and accept Jesus. That day about three thousand accepted Jesus and were baptised.

- **Second Instance (Summary of the Story in Acts chapter 3)**

(Ask a few questions to refresh their memory and then summarize the incident below.)

We read in Acts chapter 3 when Peter and John were visiting the temple during the time of prayer, a man crippled from birth was carried to the temple gate called Beautiful. When the crippled beggar asked Peter and John for money, they told him to walk in the name of Jesus Christ. Peter took hold of the man's right hand and helped him up. The beggar jumped to his feet and began to walk, jump and praise God. When people saw this they were all astonished and came running to Peter and John. Peter used the look of astonishment on their faces to share the gospel with the crowd that had gathered. Those who heard, believed in Jesus, and the number of believers grew to about five thousand.

- **Third Instance (Summary of the Story in Acts chapter 4)**

(Ask a few questions to refresh their memory and then summarize the incident below.)

When Peter and John had healed the crippled beggar and preached the Word of God to the crowd, the Priests and the captain of the temple guard put Peter and John in prison. Next day, the High Priest had Peter and John brought before them, and asked them by what power or name they were doing this.

Read Aloud:

Acts 4:8-13: "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ... 'It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed ... Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.'"

The same Peter who denied Jesus before a servant girl because of the fear of being captured and killed, now boldly declared that he was doing all things in the name of Jesus Christ whom they had crucified. He was no longer afraid of being put in jail

or being brought before the High Priest and other authorities. When the High priest and those in authority saw the courage of Peter and John, and realized that these men were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished.

From these three incidents we see that Peter used every small opportunity to preach the gospel. And the word of God went out in such power that thousands accepted Jesus into their lives.

B. The Other Disciples Shared the Word of God Boldly

Not only Peter, but the other disciples too, shared the Word of God boldly. After Peter and John were released from prison they went back to their own people, and Acts 4:31 says, "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." In Acts 8:1, 4 we read that a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria ... those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. The new believers who were scattered because of the persecution, continued to preach the good news wherever they went.

C. The Disciples Performed Miracles

The disciples not only preached and witnessed about Jesus boldly, they also did many miracles just as Jesus had done. We already saw how Peter healed the crippled beggar. In Acts 9:32 – 43 we read, when Peter went to visit the saints in Lydda he saw a paralytic man, Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years. Peter told him 'Jesus heals you. Get up and take care of your mat.' Immediately he got up, and all who witnessed this turned to the Lord.

In Joppa, a disciple Tabitha, who did good and helped the poor, fell sick and died. When the disciples in Joppa heard that Peter was in Lydda (which was close to Joppa) they sent two men and urged him to come at once. When Peter came to the room where Tabitha's body was kept, he got down on his knees and prayed. Then he said 'Tabitha, get up,' and she opened her eyes and sat up. Peter took her by the hand and helped her to her feet, presenting her alive to the other believers.

Not only did Peter perform miracles, but Acts 5:12 says that the other Apostles also performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. Acts 5:15 says

that people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. And crowds gathered from towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Paul who had a born-again experience on the road to Damascus, and who was baptised with the Holy Spirit, did extraordinary miracles by the power of God. Even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him, when taken to the sick, led to people being healed and being delivered of evil spirits.

D The Holy Spirit Revealed

The Holy Spirit also revealed secrets and truths from God's Word to the disciples. We just learnt that when the High Priests and authorities heard Peter and John speak, they realized these were unschooled and ordinary men. In Peter's messages in Acts 2, 3 and 4 we see that he quoted Old Testament prophecies. We have the Bible with us, and it's so easy for us to find the prophecies and read them from our Bible. But in Peter's day, scripture was not in print or easily accessible. So it was probably the Holy Spirit who directly revealed the truths about Jesus and the Old Testament prophecies to Peter and the other disciples.

The Holy Spirit also revealed the secret sins of the couple, Ananias and Sapphira. We read about this incident in Acts 5:1-11.

Summary: A couple - Ananias and Sapphira - sold their property (land) and wanted to give the money to the church. After selling the property, they decided not to give the whole amount, but kept some of the money for themselves. However Ananias pretended with Peter that he was giving the entire amount. 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?' When Ananias heard this he fell down dead. Three hours later, his wife Sapphira, who did not know what had happened, came to the meeting place. Peter asked her the same question he had asked her husband '... tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?' She too answered 'Yes'. The moment she lied, she too fell down and died. The men, who buried her husband, buried her as well.

How did Peter know that Ananias and Sapphira had lied?
The Holy Spirit had revealed it to him.

So, we see the fulfillment of all that Jesus said taking place at Pentecost and thereafter. The apostles and others received power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they witnessed and performed miracles just as Jesus had done.



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 Holy Spirit indwelt the disciples when they were born again. Then why did Jesus ask His disciples to stay in Jerusalem to be clothed/baptised with the power of the Spirit?

When a person is born-again, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells in them and they receive a measure of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the person, helps, comforts, guides, intercedes for the person, teaches, counsels and causes them to bear fruit in their life.

However there is a greater measure of the Holy Spirit that we can experience when we are baptised with the Holy Spirit. As we have learnt, we receive boldness to share the gospel, power to preach and do miracles just like Jesus did, and also have access to the nine gifts of the Spirit. Ephesians 3:19 says that we will one day be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:20 says that God's unlimited ability to work in our lives is according to the power working within us. We receive this power only when we are baptised in the Spirit and continue in fellowship with God every day.

What does the baptism of the Holy Spirit bring to our lives?

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit brings God's power into our lives and causes us to live power-assisted lives. When we get filled with the Holy Spirit, He comes not only to help us but also to help other people. Acts 1:8 tells us that we will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. The purpose of this power is to help us minister to others.

As we 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. Why did the Holy Spirit come and rest on them like tongues of fire?

The Holy Spirit is Spirit (invisible) and does not have a body, for the disciples to see the Holy Spirit coming on them; He took a bodily form like tongues of fire. Both the wind and the fire that day were representations or symbols of power.

Video Presentation

Video: Holy Spirit baptizing prisoners in a prison

Duration: 3mins and 30 seconds

Let's watch a video of the Holy Spirit touching the lives of convicts (prisoners) in a maximum security prison. After watching the video we'll answer a few questions.

Are there any criteria to receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Yes! The person should repent of their sins and ask Jesus to be Lord of their lives. They should be 'born again.' In all the instances in the book of Acts, including that of the disciples and the convicts in the video we just watched, the people were baptised with the Holy Spirit only after they were born-again.

Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for all born again believers or only a few selected ones whom God favors?

It is for all born again believers. We see in this video that everyone in the chapel who accepted Jesus into their lives were baptised with the Holy Spirit. That is the only qualification.

Should we fast, pray and cry out to God to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? To find the answer read Luke 11:9-13.

No! Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift of God. He gives it freely to all who ask Him.

Can a person be baptised soon after they are born-again, or should they wait for a few days, just as the disciples did? Read Acts 10:44 – 46 to find the answer.

There is no fixed time period or method by which a person will be baptised in the Holy Spirit. The moment the convicts repented of their sins and asked for forgiveness, they were baptised with the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, the disciples were baptised on the day of Pentecost, about 50 days after they had been born-again. In Acts 10:44-46 we read that the people who had gathered in Cornelius' house were baptised with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues while they were still listening to Peter's gospel message. These people received salvation and were baptised with the Holy Spirit almost simultaneously.

Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit for Children? Read Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:38-29

When God spoke through the prophet Joel about the coming outpouring of His Holy Spirit, He specifically included children. Joel 2:28-29: "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."

God promises that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit is for everyone: sons, daughters, old men, young men, and women. On the day of Pentecost, when Peter stood before the confused crowd of Jews he connected Joel's prophecy to what had happened and said this promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call. (Acts 2:38-39).

Peter's words served as a reminder that the promise of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is available, and would continue to be available, to the listeners, their children. Clearly God never intended for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be available only to those over a certain age. There is no age limit given in Scripture for receiving it. Any child who has received Christ as Savior can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Read the experience of the following children and say who were baptised in the Spirit and who were not.

Every night, Anita prayed asking God to baptize her in the Holy Spirit. One night when she was praying she felt her tongue twist and began to speak in tongues.

Was Anita baptised in the Spirit – Yes / No

If Yes! State the reason for your answer.

She prayed every night asking God to baptize her with the Holy Spirit and God answered her. Even though she was not in church, and no pastor laid hands on her to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, yet she received the baptism of Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. From this we learn that Baptism of the Holy Spirit does not happen only at church or at prayer meetings, or only when a pastor prays for the people or lays hands on them to baptise in the Spirit. It can even happen when all of us are by ourselves in our rooms or elsewhere.

Ajay, Sanjay and Vijay were standing up in front along with other children, at Children’s Church praying to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. After the service all three of them shared their experience with one other:

Ajay said ‘When Pastor was praying, I felt a burning sensation in my body and my hands and feet became burning hot. Suddenly I started muttering and speaking in a funny language.’

Did Ajay receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit – Yes / No

Give your reason.

The funny language that Ajay said he was muttering was what we call “speaking in tongues.” This is the outward sign that he was baptised in the Spirit.

Sanjay said he felt as though some strong power had struck him, and almost fell down. He too felt funny words come out of his mouth.

Did Sanjay receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit – Yes / No

Give your reason.

Sanjay too was baptised in the Holy Spirit because he too began speaking in tongues which he calls “funny words” coming out of his mouth.

Vijay said he did not experience anything. But he did start muttering and speaking words which he found strange and could not understand.

Did Vijay receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit – Yes / No

Give your reason.

Even though Vijay did not experience any manifestations of supernatural power or burning, he too was baptised in the Holy Spirit just like the other two, because he too spoke in tongues. From Vijay's experience it is clear that we should not always look for feelings or something spectacular to happen, to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. It's not feelings but faith in God that makes us experience His move in our lives.

Tina attended the Holy Spirit baptism service for the second time, and pastor prayed for her to be baptised in the Spirit; this time she jumped, danced and shouted.

Did Tina receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit – Yes / No

Give your reason.

No! She was not baptised in the Spirit because she did not speak in tongues. Tina was not less prayerful when compared to the others, nor were they more holy or good compared to Tina. Remember, we learnt that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift and not a reward we receive for being more prayerful or holy. Maybe Tina was not baptised because she had a lot of fear about what she would experience, or she did not have much knowledge about the Holy Spirit. Maybe she tried reasoning out how it should be done and tried receiving the Holy Spirit in her own strength, rather than simply accept it with simple childlike faith.

**APPLICATION**

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's gift to all who believe in the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus wants all of us to not just be like Him but also do what He did. He wants us to be baptised in the Spirit so we can receive power to be his witnesses and perform the miracles He did.

If you are not baptised in the Spirit, ask God for it. When you ask, have simple faith and prepare yourself to receive it. It may happen this week when you are praying at home or it may be during the Holy Spirit Baptism service at Children's Church.

Ask God for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- Because you want the power and boldness to preach the good news, so people don't go to hell but receive eternal life.
- So you can deliver people from Satan's bondage of sickness, pain, depression, discouragement, fear and suicide.
- So people can live in the fullness that God has for them, and not under the bondage and strongholds of the devil.

Remember:

- Don't fear and doubt.
- Don't try to think and reason how to do it; just ask and have faith and you will receive it.
- Don't ask so that others will think you're holy and spiritually superior to others when you begin speaking in tongues.

Are you already baptised in the Holy Spirit, but still lack the boldness to speak about Jesus, to stand up for the right values and speak up for what is right? Do you lack the boldness to use your talents (singing, playing instruments, praying etc.) for his Kingdom?

Do you lack the boldness to pray for the sick, depressed, and the hopeless and fearful?

If so, tell God you're sorry for not using the power that He has filled you with; and ask the Holy Spirit to help you use the power that He has given you. Ask for a fresh filling (anointing) of the Holy Spirit each day.

In your workbook write down areas where you need the Holy Spirit to make me bold so you can witness about Jesus to others.

Come back next week to share testimonies of how you were able to use the power of God.

Note to the Facilitator:

Here are some things you will need to tell the children, preparing their hearts to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

How to Receive the Holy Spirit

- Believe that you will be filled with the Spirit and receive it by faith. Be very positive when you talk to your kids. Say, “You will be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that if you ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, He will give Him to you.”
- Lead your kids in a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill and empower them.
- When they pray tell them that the Holy Spirit will put in their hearts the words (the heavenly language) tell them to speak it out.
- The Holy Spirit is not going to grab their tongue and make them speak. They have to speak out the words that the Holy Spirit puts in their heart. Acts 2:4 says, “All of them were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them.” The Holy Spirit gave the words, but the disciples had to do the speaking.

Note to the Facilitator:

Before the children leave, ask them to take a look at the Take Home Activity in their student workbook. Encourage them to read the passages given.

Say:

Every day this week, read the scripture passages which talk about the infilling power of the Holy Spirit we’ll discuss these passages next week.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Speaking in Tongues



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn that Speaking in tongues was God's plan, because it was foretold by the Prophets in the Old Testament.
- Speaking in tongues is the first outward sign that a person is baptised in the Spirit.
- Speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues are two of the nine gifts of the Spirit.
- Children will learn the benefits of speaking in tongues.



MEMORY VERSE

Romans 8:26: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

Note to the Facilitator:

The lesson today has five incidents from the Book of Acts which the children were asked (as Take Home Activity) to read every day of the week. As part of your preparation, read the incidents given in the Bible

and during class-time conduct a small quiz to refresh the children's memory. After the quiz, summarize the passage so it may benefit children who have not read. This will make your class more interesting. Spend very little time talking about the incidents. Focus more on explaining the benefits of speaking in tongues.

Material Needed:

- 1 old pair of boys tennis shoes
- 5 other pairs of shoes
- A large bucket or container



RECAP

- Ask the children to recite last week's Memory Verse.
- Do a small recap of last week's lesson.

You can wrap up the Recap time by asking the questions below:

In all the incidents recorded in the Bible regarding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, what was the first outward visible sign that they had received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Speaking in Tongues

What is the other manifestation that a person is baptised in the Holy Spirit? (*Let the children answer*).

Gifts of the Spirit.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we studied about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We learnt that speaking in tongues is the first outward evidence for a person who is baptised in the Spirit.

What do speaking in tongues mean?

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural gift of God. It's speaking in an unknown language, in a language that the person does not know or has not learned; but God knows and understands.

The Holy Spirit releases the words into our spirit, and from our spirit, these words flow out through our vocal organs. We speak these out by faith and as an act of our will. While there are other uses for speaking in tongues, the primary purpose of praying in tongues is for us to speak to God and not to men. So this language is sometimes called a prayer language or heavenly language.



ATTENTION GETTER

Materials Required:

- 1 old pair of boys tennis shoes
- 5 other pairs of shoes
- A large bucket or container

Preparation:

- Cut the tongues out of an old pair of boy's shoes.



- Keep the "cut out tongues" near you where the kids cannot see them.
- Put the tongue-less pair of shoes in the bucket along with other pairs of shoes.

Instructions:

- Ask those wearing shoes to take them off and put them in the bucket.
- Those wearing sandals can keep theirs aside and use the extra pairs of shoes already in the bucket.
- Make sure that there's a pair of shoes for each person. The tongue-less pair of shoes should be the only extra pair.
- Set this up as a relay game. Have the bucket on one side of the room and the children standing on the other side.

- The contestants have to run to the bucket, find a pair of shoes, put them on, tie the shoe laces, and run back to the starting line.

After playing the game say:

(Pick up the “tongue-less” pair of shoes). Did you notice that nobody put on this pair of shoes? What is wrong with these shoes? That is right. They don’t have any tongues. *(Pull out the hidden tongues).* These shoes remind me of the Holy Spirit and tongues. *(Hold up the shoe in one hand and a tongue in your other hand).* The shoe *(hold up the shoe)* is not the tongue *(hold up the tongue)* and the tongue is not the shoe, but they go hand in hand. The shoe is incomplete without the tongue.

Some people get confused about the Holy Spirit and tongues. The Holy Spirit is not tongues, and tongues is not the Holy Spirit, but they go hand in hand. Speaking in tongues is only the first evidence that a person has been baptised in the Spirit. It’s not a sign that a believer has achieved the highest level in his Christian faith. It is rather the sign of a new beginning—a beginning in which the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to do His work.



TEACHING CONTENT

In our lesson today, we’ll learn that:

- Speaking in tongues is God’s plan, because it was foretold by Him through the Prophets in the Old Testament.
- In the book of Acts, in all the 5 recorded incidents, all those who were Baptised in the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues.
- Speaking in tongues is a gift of the Spirit
- Benefits of speaking in tongues

I. Speaking in Tongues Foretold

God had chosen tongues as the sign of the New Covenant; and He announced this through the prophets in the Old Testament. Through Zephaniah (3:9 KJV) God promised, “For then will I turn to the people

a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent." Through Isaiah, He said, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people ..." (Isaiah 28:11).

The nation of Israel had failed to heed God's message which He gave through its own prophets. So the Lord told them that at a future time they would hear His message through tongues (languages) other than their own.

We see this sign, which God had announced many years earlier, finally coming true on Pentecost when the 120 people gathered in a room were baptised in the Spirit and spoke in tongues.

II. Speaking in Tongues as an Outward Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Of the five references in the book of Acts, three of the references specifically show that speaking in tongues is the evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The other two incidents do not specifically mention that the believers spoke with other tongues, but infer that speaking in tongues was the initial evidence.

First, we'll look at the three incidents where the people who were baptised spoke in tongues.

First Incident: On Pentecost

Where in the Bible is the first recorded event about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? *(Let the children answer).*

In Acts chapter 2

Can you tell me what happened on the day of Pentecost? *(Let the children answer).* We have been talking about this the last few weeks and I'm sure you all can narrate it just as it's in the Bible.

(Do a small quiz on Acts 2:1-13 after the children answer, give a brief summary.)

Why did the other Jews in Jerusalem gather near the room and why were they looking astonished?

They heard the sound of the violent wind blowing and the 120 people speaking in tongues. The 120 people were filled with power and were maybe speaking very loudly. Those who gathered looked astonished because they realized that though the men were Galileans they were speaking in various languages not their own. Those gathered were able to understand that the 120 were declaring the wonders of God because they were speaking in their own native language.

There are three things we can learn from what happened on Pentecost:

1. All the 120 gathered in the room were baptised in the Holy Spirit.
2. All of them spoke in a language as the Spirit enabled them. It was a language they did not know or learn.
3. When they spoke in tongues the others Jews who had gathered were able to understand. Though what was spoken was unknown to those who spoke it; it was not unknown to those who had gathered outside.

Even today, we have people who speak in tongues that are unknown to them but known to other believers. I'll give you an example, Kenneth E. Hagin has a ministry spanned more than 50 years. In his book 'Holy Spirit and His gifts' he says that during his public meetings he has spoken in different tongues on different occasions. He has spoken in number of different languages that he never learned – Hebrew and Chinese. Some of them present in the meeting understood what he said. If he was asked to speak these languages, he won't be able to say a word. He says "So, in that sense, the tongues were unknown to me, but they weren't unknown to everyone, and they are certainly never unknown to God."

Second Incident: Cornelius House

Summary: The Spirit asked Peter to go downstairs and go along with the men who had come to invite him. The men gave Peter the invitation to come to Caesarea to speak with Cornelius. Peter accepted the invitation and went along with the men. Peter had the opportunity to share the gospel with a large group of Gentiles who had gathered in Cornelius' home. As Peter was sharing the gospel message to them, they were baptised in the Holy Spirit. How do we know this? The Bible says in Acts 10:44-46 that the Jewish believers who had gone with Peter were astonished that the Gentiles had received the gift the Holy Spirit; they **heard** them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Acts 10:44 – 46

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”

Third Incident: Ephesus

Summary: When Paul came to Ephesus, he met 12 believers who were not baptised in the Holy Spirit. When Paul laid hands on them the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Here we see that not only did they speak in tongues but they also manifested one of the gifts of the Spirit – Prophecy.

Let’s now look at two incidents where the people were baptised in the Holy Spirit, but there’s no direct mention of their speaking in tongues. However, speaking in tongues is clearly implied in these passages.

First Incident: Samaria

Summary: When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that people in Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers, that they may be baptised in the Holy Spirit. Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simeon (the sorcerer who was baptised in water after Philip preached the Gospel) saw that people were baptised with the Holy Spirit when Peter and John laid hands on them, he too wanted the ability to do this. He offered money to Peter and John to receive this ability.

How did Simeon know that the believers, whom Peter and John prayed for, received the Holy Spirit? The only way he could have known was when he heard them speaking in tongues.

Second Incident: Saul

Summary: In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord told him in a vision to go to the house of Judas on Straight Street, and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, who was praying. In a vision Saul had seen a man named Ananias come

and place his hands on him, to restore his sight. In obedience, Ananias went and laid his hands on Saul. Saul received his eye sight and was baptised in the Spirit. There is no mention that he spoke in tongues. Paul (who was called Saul) says in 1 Corinthians 14:18 "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."

Surely Saul did not speak in tongues before Ananias laid his hands on Him because Saul did not believe in Jesus and was persecuting the Christians. When he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christians there, he had an encounter with Jesus. After that Ananias met Saul and laid hands on him, so that Saul was baptised in the Holy Spirit.

III. Speaking in Tongues as a Gift of the Spirit

Is speaking in tongues only an initial outward evidence that we have been baptised in the Holy Spirit? No! There is more to it than just being an outward evidence.

In 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 we have a list of the different gifts of the Spirit. As I mentioned earlier, these gifts are a manifestation (means the Holy Spirit expressing Himself through us to glorify Jesus) an outward visible sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. One of the gifts of the Spirit is speaking in tongues and interpretation of that tongue in a church gathering.

Read Aloud:

1 Corinthians 12:8-10: "To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."

A few people who are baptised in the Holy Spirit are given the gift of delivering a message in tongues to the church. This is different from the tongues which we use on a daily basis after being Spirit-baptised.

All of us who are baptised in the Spirit can speak in tongues. We can use this gift during our personal prayer time, during prayer meetings and during worship time for

our own personal spiritual growth. At these times we are not manifesting the gift mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12.

On the other hand, the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 are meant to be used for the spiritual growth of the church. So the person, to whom God has given this special gift of tongues during a church gathering, will receive a prompting from God to speak it out loud. The person will speak in a perfect language that God has put deep down in their spirit, though the person may not understand the message even as they are speaking it out. This message in tongues needs to be interpreted because God is speaking it to the church. So then God gives the interpretation either directly to the person who spoke out the message in tongues, or to another person who is listening.

What is the “different kinds of tongues” mentioned in the verse we just read?

The different kinds of tongues are:

- Tongues as a sign for unbelievers so that they believe in Jesus
- Tongues as a personal prayer language
- Tongues for interpretation
- Tongues for deep intercession
- The gift of tongues – for spiritual growth of the church

Tongues are used in different ways depending on which ministry it is being used for. Even though there are different kind of tongues, the one source is the Holy Spirit.

IV. Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

Communicate God’s Message to Unbelievers

As we saw that on Pentecost, when the disciples began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance, a few Jews made fun of them saying ‘They have had too much wine.’ When Peter heard this he preached to the crowd. At the end of the message about three thousand people accepted Jesus and were baptised. The 120 people speaking in tongues led to about three thousand people hearing the gospel message and being baptised.

When Peter preached the gospel to the people gathered in Cornelius' house, all of them were baptised in the Spirit and spoke in tongues. Peter told the stunned disciples, "... they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have" (Acts 10:47). In this case we see that speaking in tongues was used to confirm to the Jews that the Gentiles were worthy of salvation and should therefore receive the Gospel as well.

Speak Mysteries to God

When we pray in tongues, we speak mysteries. Mysteries are things unknown to the human mind, but known to the Spirit of God. These could be things that have happened in the past, happenings in the present, or things that will happen in the future which we know nothing about as yet. There could be things about us or about someone else that need to be prayed about, but our mind is not aware of these things. When we pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit knows all things and releases a prayer (intercession) through us, for that very thing.

For instance, in the coming weeks, a person that I know may face something very important, but I'll probably have no idea about this. However, when I pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit can lift up a prayer through me for that person's need, something I have no knowledge of, and often I may not even be aware of having prayed for that need. But the 'job' is done!

First, we pray these mysteries so that God's will or purpose can be done here on earth, as it is in heaven. God has purposed things for us and we pray them here on earth by the help of the Holy Spirit when we pray in tongues. Second, we pray these mysteries, so that these can be revealed to us by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10). Our spirit gains understanding of the wisdom, plans, purposes and deep things of God.

Example: Last month, God woke me up around 3:45am on a Monday morning and asked me to pray. So I began praying in English and after a while I began praying in tongues. After a few minutes my prayers became intense and I found myself groaning in the Spirit. I realized I was praying for my family, but I did not know what I was specifically praying for. Later that morning, my dad and sister met with an accident; my sister was injured but it was not very serious, my father escaped untouched.

Later that day, I realized why God woke me up early that morning to pray. He wanted me to pray for safety and protection of my dad and sister. What a good God we have! If God prompts you anywhere, at any time, to pray in tongues, just do it in obedience and faith, and you'll receive the blessings for doing it.

Helps Us to Pray According to God's Will

Romans 8:26, 27: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

We learnt that the Holy Spirit is our intercessor; He helps us pray according to the perfect will of God—to pray for things as they should be prayed for. When the Spirit directs us to pray, our prayers are no longer selfish prayers.

When we are praying in the Spirit – in tongues – our natural minds know nothing of what we are saying. But God who looks into our hearts understands everything that is being expressed in this intercession. All that we say in the prayer is according to the will of God.

A true life example: Two days before some meetings, Kenneth Hagin went to the home of Norvel, his friend, to rest. During his stay, his wife called to inform that a pastor-friend had suffered a major heart attack and would probably not survive. On hearing this, Kenneth and Norvel fell on their knees and prayed. First, they broke the power of the devil over the pastor's body. Second, they asked God to heal him. And third, they prayed in tongues. After some time Kenneth started groaning in the spirit, in his prayer. After his prayer he was able to assure Norvel that God had told him that they had prayed correctly, and that the pastor would not die.

Helps Us Overcome the Weaknesses of the Flesh

The verse we just read says that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. The word 'help' means "to take a hold of together with you against your weaknesses." So the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses because we do not know what we should pray for, as we ought to. Example, if we have a weakness in us that we do

not know how to overcome, we can pray in tongues. As we continue to do this, the Holy Spirit will help us conquer it.

A true life example: A minister's 12 year old daughter lost her temper and was talking very rudely and hatefully to her mother. A visiting evangelist overheard and when the girl looked up and saw him, knowing that he witnessed her tantrum she was embarrassed and broke into tears. The evangelist asked her if she was filled with the Spirit. When she replied that she was, he reminded her that the Holy Spirit was in her.

They prayed together and she asked the Lord's forgiveness. While praying she began to worship God in tongues. When they were finished praying, the evangelist said to her, "There is one secret that will help you curb your temper. **If you will pray and worship God every day in tongues, it will help you to be conscious of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.** If you will remember that He is in you; you won't act that way." Some years later when that evangelist returned to preach at that church, the pastor's daughter told him, "I have never forgotten what you said. Every day for the past few years I have prayed and worshipped God in tongues, and I never lost my temper again."

Helps Us Praise God

We can praise and worship God by singing songs and spiritual hymns in a known language. There are times when people would like to totally express the feelings in their heart to God but are unable to express it in their own language. This is when we can praise God in tongues.

An example of this is when the people gathered in Cornelius' house were baptised in the Spirit and spoke in tongues. The Jews, who had gathered, there heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Acts 10:46: "For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."

Edifies Us

1 Corinthians 14:4 says: "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."

We see that speaking in tongues is not for mental or physical edification, but for spiritual edification.

1 Corinthians 14:14 says, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.”

1 Corinthians 14:2 says, “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”

One of the ways God has given for us to be strengthened in our spirits is through praying in tongues.

Brings the Wonderful Works of God

What kind of wonderful works of God? Healing and deliverance from strongholds, and bondages are the wonderful works of God.

The writer Norvel Hayes, in his book “Endued with Power”, narrates an incident when he had just finished speaking at a night service, God asked him to walk and pray in the Spirit while he was still on the stage. After praying for a long time, he suddenly felt God’s power come upon him. He heard a woman sobbing and weeping in the audience. The woman told him that her daughter, still in her twenties was working overseas as a missionary among tribal’s. She contracted a rare disease and was dying, there was no way to bring her back home.

The woman in the audience had learnt the tribal language of the people her daughter ministered to. It turned out that Norvel had been speaking in the same tribal language. She interpreted what Novel prayed. She said ‘you began to speak out the wonderful works of God and the healing power of God for my daughter. When the note of victory came, God’s healing power swept over there where she is, shot down through her body, and healed her. Glory be to God! Thank You, Jesus!

Smith Wigglesworth (called an apostle of faith) ministered under the power of the Holy Spirit and manifested the Gifts of the Spirit. It is said that about twenty people were raised from the dead when he prayed for them.

Kenneth Hagin too has ministered healing to many people through tongues and interpretation, and has seen people get up from their deathbeds healed. At times, through the gifts of tongues and interpretation, the Holy Spirit has manifested the secrets of men’s hearts, revealing the needs and desires of their hearts.

Helps Stir Up the Gifts of God Within Us

Paul told Timothy “For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands” (2 Timothy 1:6).

All of us believers have certain gifts placed in our lives by God. They are often hidden in us because we don’t use them. Paul told Timothy to stir up the gifts, to fan them aflame. What we have found by experience is that, by using the basic spiritual gift of praying in tongues, we can easily stir up the other gifts that God has placed in our lives. As we pray in tongues, we become more sensitive to the Spirit of God, and we are strengthened in our inner man. We are able to overcome fear and other restraints that hinder us from using the spiritual gifts.



APPLICATION

Maybe you are awestruck and saying, “Wow! I did not know there were so many benefits of speaking in tongues.” But God wants more than a ‘wow’ from you. He is waiting to hear you say “Holy Spirit I’m willing to be used by you. Fill me and use me to minister healing and deliverance to people who are bound by Satan.”

The Holy Spirit is waiting to use you. He can do His wonderful work in you if you desire to be baptised in the Spirit and speak in tongues. If you have already been baptised in the Holy Spirit, don’t just be happy that you have received it; begin to worship God and pray every day in tongues. Obey Him when He asks you to pray in the Spirit, wherever you may be and at whatever time. Have the faith that He can do His wonderful and powerful works even through you, just as He did in the early church, and through other great men of God.

All of them were used by Him because they longed for more of His presence and power, and were willing to obey Him by faith.

Are you longing for more of His presence and power in your life? Are you willing to obey Him? If you are, let’s pray and ask God for these things. *(Lead the children in prayer.)*

Say:

Don't stop asking God; pray every day. Today, it might be really hard to pray in tongues for 5 minutes. But if you start praying in tongues every day, your spirit man will become stronger. Next week, if you can pray in tongues for 10 minutes, in a month you will be able to pray in the spirit for 20 minutes.

When you are learning some new instrument or sport, after some time, your brain wants to give up because you are tired, or because it is taking a lot of your time or energy. So also when you are praying in tongues, your mind wants to give up because it doesn't understand what is happening. Your mind doesn't get any benefit from praying in tongues. But your spirit man gets built up. So don't give up but keep growing by praying in tongues.

Come back next week and share your experiences of praying in the Spirit this week.

**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.*

John the Baptist said in Mathew 3:11 that Jesus would baptise us with the Holy Spirit and fire. How are we baptised in fire?

We learnt that one of the benefits of speaking in tongues is that it helps us overcome the weaknesses of the flesh. At a personal level, "baptism by fire" burns up the desires and weaknesses of the flesh.

Based on 1 Corinthians 13:8 people say that tongues were important during the establishment of the early church. Now since the church is established, tongues have ceased or stopped. Do you think this is true?

Tongues will cease when we get to heaven and it will not happen during this church age. When we are in heaven there will be no need for tongues because we will be in the presence of God, and there won't be any need for mysteries or secrets that have to be revealed to us.

Based on 1 Corinthians 12:28–30 people say, that speaking in tongue are not necessary for all believers. Do you think this is true?

In this verse, Paul is not talking about the gifts of the Spirit, but about the specific ministry appointments (apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers etc.) of specific individuals to fulfill specific functions in the Body of Christ—the Church. Therefore these appointments are not for all believers.

All of us can teach the Word of God, but not all of us are appointed as Teachers or Pastors in the church. So also, all believers can speak in tongues, but not all of us are given ministry functions where we need to operate in different tongues.

Jesus promised in Mark 16:17 that the ability to speak with new tongues is for everyone who believes. Acts 2:17-18 says that God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. Baptism of the Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues is God's gift for all believers who desire it.

Can a person pray in tongues anywhere and at any time?

Just as we can pray and sing anywhere and at any time; so also we can pray and sing in the Spirit anytime and anywhere, as we desire.

Do tongues always have to be interpreted?

Just as we learnt, there are different “kinds” of tongues and not all “kinds” of tongues need to be interpreted. It is only when tongues is used to bring a message from God to an audience or to a church it has to be interpreted.

In our private prayer time, it is not necessary that everything we utter in tongues be clear to our understanding or be interpreted, because we are not talking to ourselves but to God. There may be times, if the Spirit of God wills it, that we will know what we are praying for in our private prayer, and God will give us the interpretation.

Based on 1 Corinthians 14:23, 27 people say that we cannot pray in tongues in church. What do you think?

Yes! We are free to pray in tongues in church or in a group setting, as long as we keep it between God and us without disturbing others. If there is an unbeliever or

someone who has not been to a church service, and does not understand what is going on, they will be confused.

If you are in a small group and everyone in the group knows about speaking in tongues, then you can be free to raise your voice when you are praying in tongues. Also, if a person has the gift of speaking in tongues, and God gives him a message for the church, then he can speak it out; but it should be interpreted. The emphasis of 1 Corinthians 14:23 is that we should be sensitive to those around us; it's not necessarily laying down rigid rules on whether or not we should or should not speak in tongues in the church.

In 1 Corinthians 14:14-16 Paul says he will pray with his spirit. What is the meaning of praying in the spirit?

In this verse Paul mentions different terms such as “pray in a tongue,” “pray with my spirit,” “sing with my spirit,” etc. All of these refer to the same expression ‘speaking in tongues.’ Praying in tongues is also referred to as “praying in the Spirit,” since our spirits are enabled by the Holy Spirit when we pray. In the New Testament, wherever Paul referred to “praying in the Spirit,” he always meant “praying in tongues.”

The term “praying in the Spirit” does not mean just praying with greater fervency or deeper emotion or with more energy—as some would explain it to be. To pray in the Spirit means to pray in tongues, although this may also be accompanied by intensity, passion, fervor, emotion, energy, unintelligible groaning, and so on.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gifts of the Holy Spirit



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To introduce the children to the nine gifts of the Spirit.
- The children will learn how the nine gifts of the Spirit operate in the church.



MEMORY VERSE

1 Corinthians 12:4,11: There are different kinds of Gifts, but the same Spirit. He gives them to each one, just as he determines.



RECAP

- As the children to recite last week's Memory Verse
- Do a small recap of last week lesson.

You can wrap up the Recap by asking the question below:

What are the two outward signs of being baptised in the Spirit?
Speaking in tongues and manifesting the gifts of the Spirit.

Material Needed:

- 1 large box

- 3 smaller boxes (that will fit in the large box)
- Wrapping paper
- Laptop (to play video)



ATTENTION GETTER

God's Gift Boxes

Material Required:

- 1 large box
- 3 smaller boxes (that will fit in the large box)
- Wrapping paper

Preparation:

In the 1st small box - Place a large piece of paper in the box that says "The Power to Know".

On three small pieces of paper write out the three gifts of the Spirit mentioned below and put them in the box.

Word of Knowledge

Word of Wisdom

Distinguishing between spirits

In the 2nd small box- place a large piece of paper that says "The Power to Do".

On three small pieces of paper write out the gifts of the Spirit mentioned below and put them in the box.

Gifts of Healing

Working of Miracles

Gift of Faith

In the 3rd small box- place a large piece of paper that says "The Power to Say".

On three small pieces of paper write out the gifts of the Spirit mentioned below and put them in the box.

Prophecy

Different kind of Tongues

Interpretation of Tongues

Wrap each box and place inside the larger box. Wrap the large box with the other three boxes placed inside it. Place the gift wrapped box on the table.

Say:

How many of you love getting presents? How many of you love giving presents? *(Let the children respond).*

All of us like to receive and give special gifts. The giving and getting of gifts produces different feelings for everyone; some may be happy, overjoyed or excited.

When you receive a gift, do you keep it wrapped in the gift box, or do you open to see what gift you have received? *(Let the children respond).*

We immediately open to see what gift we have received. Often we feel so good about a gift we've received that we want to share it with everyone. God loves to give us gifts as well, and He has given each of His children some very special gifts that He wants us to share with each other, and to use to help each other.

Do you know what gifts God has given us? I want all of you to open the gifts here and discover what God has for us. *(Have the children come and unwrap the big box and smaller boxes. As they unwrap the gifts, let them take out the papers. After the children have unwrapped the gift boxes ask them):*

Did you find any gift in the box? *(Let the children respond).*

No! All you found were strips of paper with some words on them.

(Ask the children to hold on to one strip of paper. If you have less than 12 children in your class some of them can hold on to two strips of paper.)

Why did we not find any gifts in these boxes? The gifts of the Spirit that we will be talking about today are gifts given to us by God, they don't come in a box or a package; they are called spiritual gifts and are given to us when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit. We'll look at how they gifts operate through people in the church.

Just as you were eager to open the gift box, you must also be eager to open up your lives to the Holy Spirit, so that these gifts may operate in your lives.



TEACHING CONTENT

Even as you hold the strips of paper, I want you to quietly read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, where the gifts of the Spirit are recorded for us.

(After the children have read the passage ask them):

How many gifts of the Spirit are there?

Nine

List the nine gifts of the Spirit. As we list the nine gifts of the Spirit, those holding the specified paper-strip can hold it up.

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Gift of faith
- Working of miracles
- Gifts of healings
- Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits
- Different kind of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

Who gives the gifts of the Spirit to believers?

The Holy Spirit gives each believer all the gifts, just as He determines or wills.

What's the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?

The gifts of the Spirit are given not just for personal, selfish reasons, but for the purpose of blessing and benefiting others—the church. V.7 “Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

What is the meaning of the manifestation of the gifts?

The gifts are an expression of the Spirit and when we operate in the gifts of the Spirit it is the Holy Spirit expressing Himself through us to glorify Jesus.

What is the main purpose of these gifts?

To instruct and edify the church

To convince unbelievers – Speaking in tongues, which we learnt about last week

Paul said that the “gifts” of the Spirit are not just for a believer to own and operate as they wish. They are gifts of the Holy Spirit, manifested through individual believers as the Spirit of God wills, in order to profit the whole local assembly or body of believers – the Church.

The nine gifts of the Spirit are very important to the church today because they are the weapons of our warfare against Satan.

The nine gifts can be divided as follows:

Three revelation gifts – Power to Know (gifts that reveal something)

Word of Wisdom

Word of Knowledge

Discerning of spirits

Three Power gifts – Power to Do (gifts that do something)

Gift of faith

Working of miracles

Gifts of healings

Three vocal gifts – Power to Say (gifts that say something)

Prophecy

Different kind of tongues

Interpretation of tongues

All the gifts, except different kind of tongues and interpretation of tongues, were also manifested in Old Testament times and in Jesus. All these gifts are supernatural gifts. That means these gifts can't be produced through our own ability or knowledge; they're given to us by God.

Let's examine what each gift does. We will look at examples from the Early Church as well as today. First, we'll look at the three gifts of revelation.

I. Revelation gifts – Power to Know

Word of Wisdom

The word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit concerning the divine purpose and plan of God regarding a person's life and ministry. It reveals what an individual or church should do, and how to proceed in God's will.

We should be careful not to call it a 'gift of wisdom'; rather it's a 'word of wisdom.' Why? First, because the Bible says so. Second, because we have learnt that God is Omniscient and all-knowing, we need to realize that He is revealing just a word or part of what He knows to us.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of the word of wisdom:

In the last class I narrated an incident from the book of Acts about a disciple called Ananias. Do you remember that incident? Let's see how much you remember.

Which place was Ananias from?

Damascus

What did God tell him in a vision?

Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, who is praying.

In the vision that Saul had, who and what did he see?

Saul saw Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.

When God asked Ananias to go and place his hands on Saul, he was frightened. He reminded God that Saul was the one who had been harming all the saints in Jerusalem, and that he had come to Damascus to arrest all who call on the name of Jesus.

In the vision Jesus told Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." (Acts 9:15). What Ananias

received was a word of wisdom, whereby God revealed His plan and purpose for Saul's life. If we read the book of Acts we see that this word of wisdom was fulfilled in Paul's life.

Saul was persecuting the early church by putting believers to death and imprisoning them. This Word of Wisdom to Ananias was a confirmation that Saul had a salvation experience, and God was going to use Him to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.

Word of Knowledge

The word of knowledge is a supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts—facts about people, places, or things. This gift reveals information from God that could not be known naturally. By naturally I mean our own intellectual knowledge; it is not knowledge that we have gained apart from the Holy Spirit.

It's also not having a deep knowledge of the Bible which comes through studying the Word of God. Yes! God helps us understand His Word; but this is not the same as the supernatural gift of the word of Knowledge.

It's also not the knowledge that we gain by walking close with God. As we walk closely with God, certainly our knowledge of Him increases; but this is different from the supernatural gift of the word of knowledge.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of the word of knowledge:

Let's look at the same example of Ananias. In the vision, the Lord told Ananias to go to the house of Judas on Straight Street, and ask for Saul from Tarsus, who was praying. Saul in a vision saw a man called Ananias come and lay hands on him to receive his sight.

Ananias with his natural knowledge could not have known that in a certain house on a certain street a man named Saul was praying at that moment. So also, Saul did not know who Ananias was. Both Saul and Ananias knew it only by the word of Knowledge.

Discerning of Spirits

"To discern" means to perceive by seeing or hearing in the realm of spirits. Discerning of Spirits gives us supernatural insight into the realm of spirits (this is

the spirit world which includes divine, satanic and human spirits).

Discerning of Spirits is not what we know through our discernment; nor is it the power to discern faults and characters in others.

When the discerning of the Spirit manifests in a believer:

- The Holy Spirit helps them see if an evil spirit is affecting a certain situation or is causing a person's behavior or sickness, so that they can pray and minister correctly.
- They may also discern the likeness of God, e.g., Moses whom God enabled to look into the spiritual realm. God hid Moses in the cleft of a rock, and covered the opening with His hand while his glory passed by. Then He removed His hand for a moment and allowed Moses to catch a glimpse of His back.

All through the Bible there are people who saw the likeness of God in visions. No one has seen the risen Christ, but through this supernatural gift of discerning of spirits, people have seen Jesus in the spirit realm.

- The discerning of spirits can also reveal to us cherubim, seraphim, archangels, or a host of God's angels. It could reveal Satan and his demons as well.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of discerning of spirits:

Once when Paul and Silas were going to the place of prayer, they met a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. By this she earned a lot of money for her owners. For many days this girl followed Paul shouting "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved" (Acts 16:17). Paul was so troubled that he finally turned to her and spoke directly to the spirit in her. He said "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" (Acts 16:18). Immediately the spirit left her.

II. Power gifts – Power to do

Let's look at the three power gifts.

Gift of Faith

Every believer already has in them a measure of Faith:

- Saving faith—faith which brings one to salvation.
- Faith which believes God for our needs to be met, which comes by hearing the Word.
- Faith that receives answers to prayer.

Before we were baptised in the Spirit, we all had the measure of faith to receive salvation, to have our needs met and our prayers answered.

The gift of faith is a gift of the Spirit to the believer, in order that he:

- Might receive miracles which are far beyond the capacity of ordinary faith.
- Raise the dead
- Cast out evil spirits – we can't deal with the devil in our own strength. God has given us His Word, His Power, His authority and the spiritual weapons necessary to defeat the power of satan, and one of these spiritual weapons is the gift of faith.
- Lay hands on people for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Pronounce blessings, which can miraculously and permanently change the entire course of one's life.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of faith:

Peter manifested the gift of faith when he boldly said to the beggar crippled from birth at the temple gate "... silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Acts 3:6). The crippled beggar jumped to his feet and began to walk. Many who were in the temple were astonished and Peter shared the gospel with them. He said, "By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him ..." (Acts 3:16).

Working of Miracles

There are many miracles that God has done and will continue to do in our lives. For example the spiritual birth of a "born again experience" is a miracle. There have also been times when God has answered our prayers with miracles. However none of these are the manifestation of the working of miracles. The "working of miracles"

mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12 specifically refers to a divine intervention in the ordinary course of nature. E.g.: Dividing of the Red Sea; Jesus feeding the 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes, etc.

Gifts of Healings

Why is this gift called the 'gifts of healings'? It's because there are many kinds of sicknesses and one gift wouldn't heal every kinds of disease. Not every healing that happens is a manifestation of the gift of healings. God has healed many people of their sickness and disease because they had faith and believed on His Word, and God did a miracle by healing them.

The "gift of healings" however is specifically given to a few individuals whom He chooses. Gifts of healings is a manifestation of Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:9), and it occurs first, when the person with the particular gift receives a word of wisdom or knowledge to know what the situation is and what to do about it. Second, he needs a manifestation of faith to bring to pass the healing. Third, he must represent Christ on earth and, via the power of God, bring the healing to pass as God supplies the energy for it.

It is important that see the difference between praying for someone and commanding a healing by revelation. Prayer is very important, and many verses tell us to pray. However, when it comes to helping God's people by manifesting the gifts of healings, it is vital to understand that does not mean praying for someone to be healed. Notice how Jesus healed a man with leprosy who came and knelt before Him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately he was cured of his leprosy" (Matthew 8:2, 3).

Jesus did not pray to God to heal the leper. He knew he had the power of God and He used it.

Example from the Early Church which illustrates the operation of the gift of healings:

Let's look at the same example we looked at earlier when Peter healed the beggar who was crippled from birth. When he received revelation that the man had faith to be healed, he said, "...what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of

Nazareth, walk.” (Acts 3:6). Peter knew he had power, and he freely gave it, just as he had seen Jesus do on so many occasions.

Notice that Peter did not pray. Once he knew the will of God by revelation, he commanded the healing. He did the same thing to Tabitha, who had died. He prayed for guidance, then turned to the dead body and commanded, “Tabitha, get up” and she got up. (Acts 9:40).

III Three vocal gifts – Power to Say

In lesson 6, we learnt about two vocal gifts—speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. Hence, in this session we’ll learn only about the gift of Prophecy.

Gift of Prophecy

Prophecy is men speaking forth the word of God through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The gift of prophecy is not revelation regarding the future. It is a direct message from God to a particular person or church for edification, exhortation and comfort.

Edification means to strengthen and build up.

Exhortation means an invitation to draw near to God.

Comfort means to lighten or lessen grief or trouble, to console and to cheer.



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.*

What is the use of the gifts of the Spirit?

The gifts are given to the believers to build the church or the body of Christ, and for evangelism.

After Paul listed the nine gifts of the Spirit he said, “... But eagerly desire the greater gifts.” So which do you think are the greater or best gifts?

There is no such thing as a ‘greater’ or ‘best gift’, because what we think of as the best gift may not be the best gift in a given circumstance.

e.g., when someone is sick they don't need the manifestation of a word of wisdom or prophecy; what they need are the gifts of healings, faith and the working of miracles.

Similarly, when someone is going through a difficult problem, they do not need the gifts of healing; for them the best gift would be a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge or a prophecy.

So the best gift is usually the one that is needed at a particular time. Therefore we must desire all the gifts to be made manifest in our lives.

Why don't we have more manifestations of spiritual gifts in the church today?

We are not meeting God's condition of desiring the right gifts. King's James Version says "But covet earnestly the best gifts."

The dictionary defines 'covet' as desiring earnestly. Paul is saying that we must earnestly desire the gifts of the Spirit to be manifested among us. Begin by praying earnestly for the fullness of the spiritual gifts to manifest in the church through the believers. It's not enough to pray just once and then stop, but we must pray continually for the manifestation of the spiritual gifts in the church.

Is there a difference between a word of wisdom and a word of knowledge?

Yes! The revelation in the word of knowledge is concerning something that has happened in the past. The word of wisdom always speaks of the future.

How do we receive the gift of Knowledge?

Through an inner voice

Through a vision when we are awake

Through a dream when asleep

Through other people operating in the gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues, or the gift of prophecy

How do we receive the gift of wisdom?

We may see something in the spirit around a person or place, or hear a word or phrase within us.

Why is the operation of the gift of discerning spirits important for us?

God does not want us to be ignorant of the gift of discerning of the spirits. He does not want us to be ignorant of the spirit of a person, especially when it involves people whom we are work with or have dealings with. This gift will help us know and discern the spirit that motivates a person, whether it's the truth or error. We cannot know a person's spirit until God shows this to us. If God does not want us to be involved with someone, the Holy Spirit will come upon us and warn us in our spirit.

God does not want us to be harmed or deceived by the lies of the devil. He wants us to know the truth, as it is the truth that sets us free from the Devil's power.

Do the gifts of the Spirit operate together or separately?

The gifts operate together. The word of wisdom and the word of knowledge operate closely together. The word of wisdom will often reveal to us how to apply knowledge revealed through a word of knowledge, or help us distinguish between spirits. When God wants us to act on a word of wisdom or prophecy, the gift of faith comes upon us to boldly act on what has been given to us by God. Even as this happens, we often see ourselves working a miracle or manifesting a healing.

Based on today's lesson, can you give an example from the early church where different gifts of the Spirit operated together?

In the incident in Acts 9: 10 – 19, God asked Ananias to go and minister to Saul.

Word of Knowledge – Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, who is praying.

Word of Wisdom – This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.

Gift of Faith – Ananias acts upon this revelation and goes and ministers to Saul.

Gifts of Healings – When Ananias placed his hands on Saul, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he was able to see again.

Gift of Working of Miracles – He was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Gift of Prophecy - God gave a word of prophecy to Ananias when he said, ‘This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.’ God comforted him by revealing that that Saul was not going to harm him or other believers, but that rather he had been chosen to share the gospel with the Gentiles.

How do the gifts of the Spirit operate in our lives?

Firstly, we speak in tongues when we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Then we pray for the gift of interpretation which is the second gift. Then we desire to prophesy, which is the third gift. Then we move into the second group of gifts - the gifts of revelation. Through these, God reveals to us many things, concerning needs in our own lives and the lives of those around us. Then we move into the power gifts, which are a releasing of God’s power to meet those needs.

How do we receive the gifts of the Spirit?

We receive the gifts of the Spirit when an anointed believer or minister who operates freely in the gifts of the Spirit, lays their hands on us and prays for us to be baptised in the Holy Spirit, and releases the gifts to operate freely in our life and ministry. However, even if there is no Pastor or anointed believer to pray for us, we can still earnestly desire the gifts the Holy Spirit and He will give them to us.

What is our role in the manifestation of the Spirit in our life?

We must expect the gifts to operate in our lives.

We must release them daily by faith, so that they manifest according to the need.

We must check our lives so that no false teaching or sin hinders the complete working of the Holy Spirit in us.

We must be sensitive to what God is telling us, and do what he tells us to do.

The gifts of the Spirit not only manifested in the early church, but are also manifesting in today’s church. Read the real life examples of the gifts of the Spirit in today’s church given below.

Word of Wisdom and Word of Knowledge:

In the last lesson I told you about Kenneth Hagin. In one of his books he gives an example of how a conditional word of wisdom was manifested through him. The Lord, through an audible voice, gave him both a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom.

Hagin had just finished visiting with a minister who had shown him a new building with a seating capacity of four thousand. When Kenneth got into his car to leave, the Spirit of God said to him, "Go tell the minister that he is going to die unless he judges himself on three things." He was asked to judge himself regarding his diet, as the minister was greatly overweight and used to practically eat anything he could get his hands on. Number two, the Lord said he must judge himself regarding money. Number three, he was to judge himself regarding love, as he wasn't walking in love toward fellow ministers.

Here was an example of both the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom, operating together. This word from the Lord spoke plainly about a present condition that existed in this minister's life. It also included a word of wisdom that the minister would die unless he judged himself. Though Kenneth conveyed this message to the minister, he did not change his ways and died just as God had said.

Discerning of spirits:

Kenneth's first manifestation of the gift of the discerning of spirits occurred in a meeting in Texas. A pastor told Kenneth about his niece who had cancer of the left lung. The doctors had wanted to operate on her, but she did not want to be operated upon. The cancer spread to her other lung as well, and then it was too late for an operation even if she had wanted one.

She was bed ridden and her body was wasting away to nothing although she was being fed six times a day. She was brought to church on Tuesday and Friday night of the first week of meetings. Kenneth prayed for her. They brought her again on Tuesday and Friday night of the second week, and Kenneth prayed for her again. On Tuesday night of the third week they brought her again, Kenneth laid hands on her and suddenly he felt everyone and everything else in the room seemed to disappear. He was enveloped in a cloud and all he could see was him and this young woman standing in a circle of light. Kenneth said he was seeing into the realm of the spirit.

He saw, a demon or an evil spirit hanging on to her body over her left lung. Kenneth knew it was the cause of her physical condition and that it had to be dealt with, so he commanded the demon to leave her in the name of Jesus. It fell off the woman's body to the floor and lay whimpering and whining like a whipped pup. He said, "I don't want to leave, but I know I have to if you tell me to." Hagen replied, "Not only must you leave her body, but you must also leave these premises." It ran down the aisle and out the door of the church, and the woman was healed.

This woman went to the doctor the very next day, all the tests proved negative and they told her that there was no more cancer.

Kenneth Hagin says, "The realm of the spirit is very real, although we cannot perceive it with our natural senses. God has provided the gift of discerning of spirits to give the Church supernatural insight into this spiritual realm as His Spirit wills."

Gift of Faith, Working of Miracles and Gifts of Healings:

Under Smith's Wigglesworth's ministry, at least three different people were raised from the dead, though there were probably more. One person who was raised from the dead was a man named Mr. Mitchell whom Wigglesworth personally knew.

One day when coming home from an open-air meeting, Wigglesworth learned that his wife, Polly, was at Mr. Mitchell's house. The day before when Wigglesworth had visited Mitchell, the sick man had been close to death. As Wigglesworth hurried to Mitchell's house, he heard screaming coming from the house. On the way into Mr. Mitchell's room, he passed Mrs. Mitchell, who was crying, "He's gone! He's gone!"

Smith went into the room, and saw that Mitchell had indeed gone. He could not understand why this was so, but he began to pray. Smith's wife said that it was of no use to pray as he was dead; but Smith continued praying. He says he got as far as he could with his own faith, and then God laid hold of him. He says it was such a laying hold that he could believe for anything. The faith of the Lord Jesus laid hold of him and a solid peace came into his heart and he shouted, "He lives! He lives! He lives! And he is living today." In this way God raised Mitchell back to life.

Video Presentation

Video: Children who used the gifts

Duration: 8 minutes

What were the experiences of the children who used their gifts of the Spirit? Can you too move and minister in the gifts of the Spirit?

1. They stepped out boldly and started praying for their parents at home and for their classmates in school.
2. They themselves heard from God, and learnt through dreams and visions.
3. God spoke to them and through them with others.
4. They started ministering in the Adult church without even anyone asking them to.

If God can do it for those kids, He can surely do it through all of you as well. We must step out in faith, and as we pray in the Spirit and hear from Him, we will begin to move and minister through the gifts of the Spirit.



APPLICATION

When God spoke through the prophet Joel about the coming outpouring of His Holy Spirit, He specifically included children.

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28-29 NIV).

God promises that this outpouring of the Holy Spirit is for everyone: sons, daughters, old men, young men, and women... Everyone!

How is it that we don't see more of it? It is because we don't have knowledge of the gifts and we don't eagerly desire them. Each one of us is keys to the supernatural. Do you believe God wants to pour out His Spirit on each one of you children? Many people may say to you, “The gifts of the Spirit are not for you now. Wait until you grow up and then you can experience the gifts.” But that is not what the Bible says. God promises to pour out His Spirit on everybody regardless of age, race, color or creed.

In the blanks given below mention the name of a child in your class.

How would it be if _____ intercedes in the Spirit for the unsaved children in his class at school? _____ lays hands on a woman and prays in the Spirit. The woman is healed. The Holy Spirit speaks through _____ challenging the other children to get closer to God. Many children begin to weep as the Holy Spirit brings conviction.

I believe that these things will happen and God is going to do a mighty work among you as we flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

But, one of the most important steps to flowing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit is to earnestly desire them. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:31, "But covet earnestly the best gifts." He repeated that thought in 1 Corinthians 14:1 when he said, "Desire spiritual gifts." You have to seek these gifts with all your heart (Jer. 29:13).

It's also very important to understand that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are always flowing. God doesn't turn them "on" and "off." We are the ones who are "on" or "off." The Lord is always ready to flow through us in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

It's just like praying in tongues. We don't have to wait for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to come on us to speak in tongues. We can pray in tongues at any time. It's not us turning on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is always on and giving us the ability to speak in tongues. Therefore, whenever we turn ourselves on, the gift of tongues is there to allow us to communicate with our heavenly Father. Praise the Lord! That's the way it is with all the gifts. We must learn to recognize and flow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They're not meant to be a blessing to us alone; the lives of other people may depend on them. We are carrying someone's miracle. So we mustn't let it stay inside.

Let's act on what we've learnt from God's Word.

Come back next week and share testimonies of the gifts of the Spirit that were manifested in your life.



CLOSE WITH PRAYER

