Who is the Holy Spirit?

Setup:

This week we pull into our last stop on our journey through the Trinity, and camp out on the Holy Spirit. Tonight, you will unpack the truth that the Holy Spirit is God, and that He reveals truth to the world.

Just like God the Father, and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit has distinct roles that we can learn about from Scripture. Roles such as: Author of Scripture...the Spirit is what inspired, breathed the Word of God into men to write the words we have!

He is a Guide. Just as He guided men to write the words of God He guides us to understand those same words. Basically, He helps us make sense out of the truth written in the Bible.

It isn't just the truth in the Bible that the Spirit guides us in, but literally all truth. He is like the truth detector that gives light to the ways we should go, act, and live.

I'm so excited for you to dive into this in your groups tonight. Let me pray for you before you go.

Parent Que:

This week we dove back into the Trinity, kicking off the last leg of this journey with a 3-week study on the Holy Spirit. This week we looked at "who" the Holy Spirit is and uncovered the answers of Him being one with God as well as a guide that convicts the world of sin. Your student was challenged to tune into the voice of the Holy Spirit and come back next week with an example of how they heard Him speak, and how they responded. It's our desire to lead students into a deeper understanding of listening, discerning and responding to the voice of God in their life.

Key Scriptures:

Psalm 139:7-8 Acts 5:3-4 Genesis 1:2 Mark 1:10-11 John 16:7-8

God the Father is love. He is the source and master designer of the plan of salvation. It is the Father that sent His Son to fulfill His plan for the redemption of humanity. In obedience to the Father,

Jesus took on the form of flesh and died on the cross that through His blood the world might be saved from sin. Jesus bridged the gap between the Father and mankind and is a high priest and mediator for His people.

He is the savior of the world and the head of the church.

The Holy Spirit, sent from the Father, convicts, teaches, leads,

and comforts. He sanctifies and dwells in the hearts of God's people.

The Spirit empowers and enables people to live according to the will of the Father











Who is the Holy Spirit?

What comes to mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?



Hopefully we will be able to hit the answers along this journey, but you might want to jot the questions down and we can circle back around to any that go unanswered at the conclusion of this 3-week study.

One with God

Read Psalm 139:7-8

- What character quality learned about the Holy Spirit in these verses?
- How can we connect this to God?

Read Acts 5:3-4

• How do we see the Holy Spirit and God as the same person in these verses?

Just as we learned that God has no beginning and ending, the same is true of the Holy Spirit. He has always been in existence as God. He is even mentioned at the event of creation.

Read Genesis 1:2

Where was the Spirit?

We also read of the Holy Spirit with the Son and the Father in this next passage.

Read Mark 1:10-11

• Describe how each person of the Trinity is seen when Jesus is baptized?

Are you beginning to see there are distinct roles of each person of the Trinity, yet recognize they are still ONE GOD?

Let's look at these next 2 verses where Jesus talks to his disciples before His death.

Read John 16:7-8

In these verses Jesus is explaining something better is coming for the disciples. If He doesn't leave the disciples, then this "something better", whom Jesus refers to as the "Advocate", won't come. The Greek word for "Advocate" is *Paraclete* which means Helper, Comforter, Encourager and Counselor. All of these names are descriptive of the Holy Spirit.

• What does Jesus say this "Advocate" will do?

Everyone has a "God consciousness," whether or not they admit it. The Spirit applies the truths of God to minds of men to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners. Responding to that conviction brings men to salvation.

- gotquestions.org "What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?"

• Why do you think Jesus told the disciples it would be better for them to have the "Advocate" rather than Jesus Himself?



The Holy Spirit is God and has always been present as God. He has a distinct role within the Godhead, being sent by God the Father as a Counselor, to convict people of sin, revealing their need for salvation.

Application

The Holy Spirit convicts people of sin. Some people will call it a conscience, but it's more than that. What many don't realize is that what they refer to as a conscience is really the work of the Holy Spirit.

• Do you think we need the Holy Spirit to help us? Why?

Now that you have a better understanding of how the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Listen this week for His voice to guide you and come next week ready to share your experience.

Catch up/ Journal/ Pray

What does it mean if the Holy Spirit lives in me?

Setup:

Last week we talked about how the Holy Spirit was a gift given to live inside believers. God living in us is no small thing! Because He is in us it is a deposit He gives us to guarantee that one day we will spend eternity with Him. Now, with God living inside us to guide us, what do you think happens when we sin, does the Holy Spirit leave?

No, the Holy Spirit does not leave, but the presence of sin in our life holds the Holy Spirit back. We can quiet His voice and lessen His opportunities to show Himself to others through us when we allow sin to creep in and stay. Sin becomes an obstacle for the Holy Spirit to work fully in and through us.

Tonight, we will take a deeper look at this as well as some time to talk about what it means to be "in step with the Spirit" and "full of the Spirit".

Let me pray for you.

Parent Que:

This week we asked students to think through what their sin nature craves and how that battles against what the Spirit wants. We looked at some opposites of the fruit of the Spirit which are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Your students were challenged to examine their own life to see if the opposites are more present, and if so to seek getting in step with Spirit's control in their life. We also touched on the aspect of spiritual gifts and the reality that the Spirit has gifted them even now to help and serve others for His greater glory. Take some time to pray for your student to desire to serve God with the gifts He has given. Encourage those things in them, for it is how He has made them, with purpose, to bring others to know and love Him. What could be a better investment of their time and energy?

Key Scriptures:

Ephesians 4:30

Galatians 5:16-26

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In obedience to the Father,

Jesus took on the form of flesh and died

on the cross that through His blood the world might be saved from sin. Jesus bridged the gap between the Father and mankind and is a high priest and mediator for His people.

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What does it mean if the Holy Spirit lives in me?

Have you ever have a friend say or do something really hurtful to you? How did you respond?

Maybe it was you who hurt a friend,



whether it was intentional or not did it effect your friendship? for a little while or long while?

If comfortable, would someone be willing to share their story?

It's the same way with the Spirit. We can hurt the Holy in a way that effects our relationship.

Read Ephesians 4:30

• How do you think we can bring sorrow on the Holy Spirit?

Like discussed last week, you can't hear the voice of the Holy Spirit if you haven't surrendered your life to the authority of God by accepting the gift of salvation, but also if you aren't walking in relationship with Him. Once again, it's like a relationship with a close friend. Can you know what they are thinking or feeling if you don't spend time hanging out with them; both talking *and* listening?

In step with the Spirit

Read Galatians 5:16-17

- If the Spirit is guiding our life what won't we be doing?
- As a 7th grader, what are some things that you would say your sin nature craves?
 (Make a short list together.)
- These verses teach us that to being controlled by the Spirit is opposite of the sin nature. Go through that list that you made and record what the opposite would be.

Fruit of the Spirit

Read Galatians 5:22-23

- If the Holy Spirit is working in us, what do we produce? (Make a list again)
- Now, what are the opposites of the fruit?

When we see the opposites of the fruits of the Spirit showing up in our life, that should indicate to us that we are not in step with the Spirit.

Gifts of the Spirit

Read 1 Corinthians 12:7

Why are spiritual gifts given to us?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:11

- Who gives the gifts?
- How do you serve or help others?
- Is there something more you could be doing?

Many of you might wonder how you can know how God has gifted you. Often, it is the things you find yourself super passionate about, or the things people they tell you they see in you. At the end of this year we will take a test on our spiritual gifts and discuss how we can use them to help others and bring God glory, but in the meantime, look for ways to do what you are good at to bring praise to God!



We can hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in us when we allow sin to reign. When we stay in step with the Spirit we produce His fruit, and we can serve others in the ways He has gifted us to.

Application

Think about living full of the Spirit. Are there places that He is hindered right now because your sin nature is getting in the way? How can you focus more on being in step with Him and producing some Holy Spirit fruit in the world around you?

Catch up/ Journal/ Pray