



THE
**HOLY
SPIRIT**
AND ME

4-WEEK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE



**Jesus loves me
and gives the
Holy Spirit to
help me.**



And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5 NIV



**And hope maketh not
ashamed; because the
love of God is shed
abroad in our hearts by
the Holy Ghost which is
given unto us.**

Romans 5:5 KJV



And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5 ESV



“The Holy Spirit and Me” is all about the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit can be difficult to understand, but He provides the spiritual power available to all believers. Jesus frequently taught the importance of knowing God through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This 4-week curriculum series will help elementary-aged children understand and experience the Holy Spirit daily.

Big Idea: Because Jesus loves me, He sends the Holy Spirit to help me.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5

- Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit’s Presence is a Gift. Luke 11:11-13
- Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Helps Me. John 14:16-17
- Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit Teaches Me Truth. John 16:13-14
- Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit Empowers Me. Acts 1:8

Credits: This series was written by Elizabeth James. The editors were Samuel O’Neal and Andrew Toy.

Source Files: You are viewing the complete 4-week curriculum as a print-ready PDF document, if you need access to the graphic files directly use this link -

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0lm8k1rr2jdekzb/AAAF2EcJn-92PHYjtXHd3Ylva?dl=0>



Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit's Presence is a Gift. Luke 11:11-13

Summary: The Holy Spirit can be difficult for us to understand, but He provides the spiritual power available to all believers.

Jesus described the Holy Spirit to His followers: He said that the Holy Spirit's presence is a gift. Then, through Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, He made this gift available to everyone who has faith in Him, and when we do, the Holy Spirit then lives in us!

Gospel Connection: The Holy Spirit's presence is a gift we receive when we follow Jesus. Kids can recognize the Holy Spirit's presence in their lives and appreciate how Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection make this gift possible.

Big Idea: Because Jesus loves me, He sends the Holy Spirit to help me.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5 **Additional Passages and Stories:** Joel 2:28-29; John 2:38-39; 6:37-39; 16:7; Acts 2:16-18; Romans 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14

Memory Verse Activity:

Hand Motions

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: None

Instructions:

- Utilize hand motions to help the kids learn the memory verse. Consider adapting sign language, or use the suggested movements provided as they correspond to your preferred translation:

Hope (*take hands to heart and then push out from the body*)

Does not (*put up pointer finger and then move finger back and forth*)

Shame/Disappointment (*thumbs down, sad face*)

God (*point up toward the ceiling*)

Pour (*pretend to pour a pitcher*)

Love (*make a heart shape with your hands and hold it in front of your chest*)

Holy Spirit (*take hands down to sides, then sweep up and to your chest, mimicking how the Holy Spirit will come to live in us*)

Given (*place hands, palms up, before you, then shove forward as if presenting a gift*)

Us (*use both thumbs to point to self*)

- After teaching the hand motions to the kids, repeat the verse several times using the motions.

Lesson Illustration

Vacuum Packed?

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: large comforter or duvet; medium-sized box; sturdy plastic trash bag; vacuum cleaner with hose attachment

Instructions:

- Before the lesson, practice this demonstration. Make sure the comforter doesn't fit into the box, but that it can be vacuumed down small enough to fit well.
- During the lesson, display the large comforter or duvet and the medium-sized box.
- Select a volunteer and challenge him to fit the entire blanket into the box.
- When the blanket won't fit, reveal the plastic trash bag and vacuum with hose attachment.
- Help the kid stuff the blanket into the trash bag and use the vacuum hose to suck out the air. Then twist and tie off the end of the bag and place the entire thing into the box.

LEADER: At first, it didn't seem like there was any way that giant blanket would have fit into that box, but when we sucked out all the air, the comforter took up less space, and fit. In a way, that helps us think about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. How can someone that big, wonderful, mighty, and perfect live inside us? I'll give you a clue, it doesn't actually have anything to do with shrinking or vacuuming.

Transition to **Large Group Teaching**.

Large Group Teaching:

Suggested Time: 15–20 minutes

LEADER: Today we are going to start learning more about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity. Who can name the other two People in the Trinity? [*Allow for responses.*] That's right! God the Father and Jesus the Son. That means that the Holy Spirit is fully God, yet distinct from God the Father and God the Son. Most people have a general understanding of who the Father and the Son are, and even their titles help us understand how they relate to one another.

The Holy Spirit isn't always easy to understand.

When Jesus was alive on earth, He talked a lot about the Holy Spirit. One of the ways He talked about the Holy Spirit to His followers was by describing His presence as a gift. Over and over, He told them that He would give and send them the Holy Spirit once He was gone.

Here is one of those examples:

READ: Luke 11:11-13

LEADER: In this passage, Jesus talked specifically about giving gifts. He used parents as an example and pointed out how they give food to their kids when they ask for it. When their kids ask for a fish, will the parents give their kids a snake instead? [*Allow for responses*] No!

Jesus told His followers that God the Father will not do that to His children, either. When His children ask Him for something they need, God will give it to them. But Jesus is not talking about giving them a new toy or pair of shoes. The gift they need is the presence of the Holy Spirit!

But why is that? Why is the Holy Spirit's presence such a good gift?

Listen to what the Bible tells us:

The Holy Spirit and Me – Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit's Presence is a Gift. Luke 11:11-13

READ: Romans 5:5

LEADER: The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with God's love! Being filled with God's love changes everything in our lives. We will talk more about the ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us over the next four weeks. But for now we will simply say that having the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives will transform us.

Jesus talked about that, too:

READ: John 6:37-39

LEADER: Jesus told His followers that if they are thirsty, they can come and drink from Him. If they do—if they have faith in Jesus and follow Him—then He will give them the presence of the Holy Spirit, which will cause their hearts to overflow with rivers of living water.

Now, remember: In the first part of Jesus' illustration, the people were thirsty. Yet, after drinking from Jesus, they would be transformed—no longer thirsty but now overflowing with living water for others, too. They could only do that because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

That's because when we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit then will live *in* us!

READ: Ephesians 1:13-14

LEADER: Until Jesus returns, He gives us the Holy Spirit, who lives in us as a promise that Jesus *will* return. Even though Jesus has not returned yet, He has not left us alone. Because we have the Holy Spirit!

While the Holy Spirit was present throughout all of the Bible, we see that it was only after Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended to heaven that the gift of the Holy Spirit was always available to all who had faith in Jesus.

Before then, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit would "come upon" a person—usually a judge, prophet, priest, or leader—and would give them extraordinary power,

wisdom, or insight to speak God's word or to help God's people. However, the Spirit did not stay with those people forever; He would stay for a while, then leave again.

That all changed after Jesus ascended..

READ: John 16:7; Joel 2:28-29

LEADER: We know that this "pouring out" happened at Pentecost after Jesus ascended. The Holy Spirit came on Jesus' disciples and filled them with power. In fact, He even gave them the ability to speak and understand one another, despite being from different countries and speaking different languages!

READ: Acts 2:16-18

LEADER: From that time forward, whoever has faith in Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit's presence as a gift; He lives inside all believers!

READ: Acts 2:38-39

LEADER: Take note: These verses do not say that we have to be perfect or that we have to do everything right to receive the Holy Spirit in our lives. Everyone who repents of sin and turns to Jesus will be saved, and being saved means you have the Holy Spirit in you!

It really *is* that simple. Like we talked about in the first verses that we read in this lesson, our God is a loving and generous Father who gives us good gifts. The Holy Spirit living with us is an amazing gift, because He helps us remember the truth of the Bible and obey God.

Small Group Discussion and Prayer:

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Discuss the following questions. Choose questions most appropriate for your group's age and attention level.

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- What are some ways Jesus described the Holy Spirit?
- What happened when Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?

Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer.

Dear God,
Thank you that you are a good Father
Who gives us good gifts.
Thank you that Jesus, His sacrifice and resurrection
Make it possible for us to receive
The presence of the Holy Spirit as one of those gifts.
Thank you that when we have faith in Jesus,
The Holy Spirit comes to live in us!
In Jesus' name, Amen!

Application Game

Find the Gifts

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Supplies: About a dozen small, wrapped gift boxes (or, alternatively, gift box-shapes made from cardboard, construction paper or wood)

Instructions:

- Before the lesson, hide the gifts around the room.
- Consider recruiting older kids to help hide the gifts for the younger kids.
- Challenge the kids to find all the gifts.
- Provide any necessary rules about where the gifts are hidden or where they should not go to look for the gifts. Remind the children how they should behave during the game.
- Consider telling the kids they are “cold” if they are not near a hidden gift or “hot” when they are getting close.
- Play as time allows.
- Consider filling one of the gift boxes with a snack for the kids to enjoy afterward.

LEADER: You all did a great job looking for and finding the gifts. This reminds us that Jesus described the presence of the Holy Spirit as a gift. But the incredible thing is that, unlike in this game where we had to search and look to try to find the gift; If we have faith in Jesus, then the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us! We never have to look for Him, because He is always with us.

Application Craft

Thank You Card

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Supplies: Construction paper; markers

Instructions:

- Instruct kids to fold their construction paper in half along the longer edge, also known as “hamburger style,” to create a card.
- Encourage kids to write a thank-you card to Jesus for sending the Holy Spirit to live in believers.
- On the front of the card, kids can draw a picture of Jesus presenting a gift or decorate the rest of the card as they wish.

LEADER: Whenever you get a gift, it is polite to send a thank you note to the person who gave the gift. Jesus told his followers that He had to die, rise from the grave, and go back to heaven so that the Holy Spirit would come. When we have faith in Jesus, He sends the Holy Spirit to live in each one of us. That’s a great reason to thank Jesus!

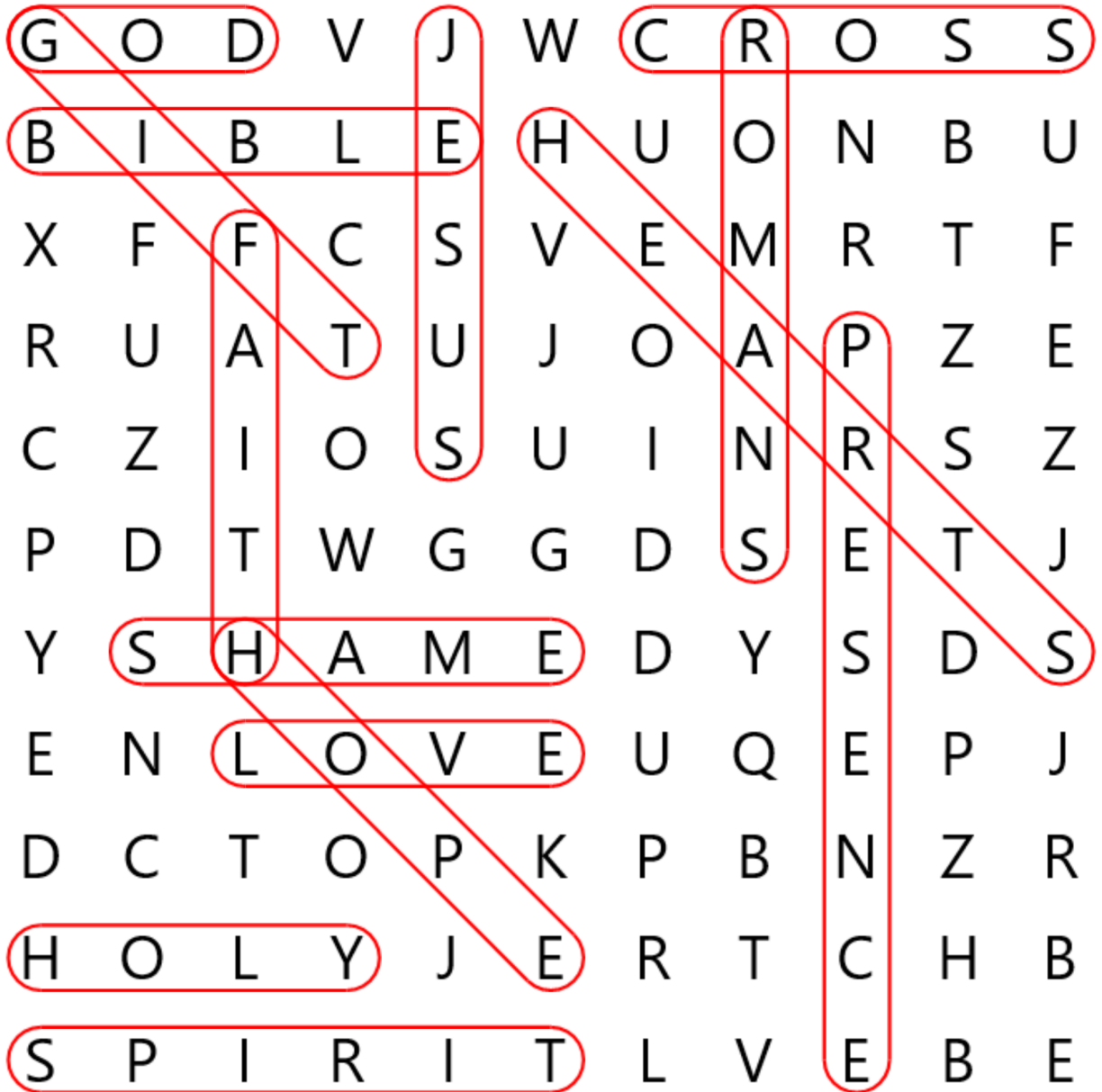
Bible Word Search

BIBLE - CROSS - FAITH - GIFT - GOD - HEARTS - HOLY

HOPE - JESUS - LOVE - PRESENCE - ROMANS - SHAME - SPIRIT

G	O	D	V	J	W	C	R	O	S	S
B	I	B	L	E	H	U	O	N	B	U
X	F	F	C	S	V	E	M	R	T	F
R	U	A	T	U	J	O	A	P	Z	E
C	Z	I	O	S	U	I	N	R	S	Z
P	D	T	W	G	G	D	S	E	T	J
Y	S	H	A	M	E	D	Y	S	D	S
E	N	L	O	V	E	U	Q	E	P	J
D	C	T	O	P	K	P	B	N	Z	R
H	O	L	Y	J	E	R	T	C	H	B
S	P	I	R	I	T	L	V	E	B	E

Word Search Answers





The Holy Spirit and Me - Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit's Presence is a Gift. Luke 11:11-13

A Note for Parents

The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood by believers. He isn't just a force, or a power source; He is a person of the trinity, like the Father and the Son. Jesus frequently taught the importance of knowing God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus described the Holy Spirit to His followers: He said that the Holy Spirit's presence is a gift. Through His death, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus made the way for the Holy Spirit to live inside us. If we have faith, God the Holy Spirit lives in us!

As we go through these lessons, spend some time talking about each principle at home. Some possible suggestions for conversation or activity include:

- Why is the Holy Spirit's presence such a good gift?
- What is the Holy Spirit's presence a promise of?
- How was the Holy Spirit's presence different before Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection?
- Who can receive the Holy Spirit in their lives?
- Discuss with your child how having the Holy Spirit live in you has affected your own life and how He has been a "gift" to you.

Review and discuss the lessons with your children regularly. You might already have a dedicated prayer or Bible time in your home. If so, great! If not, let's start one. It doesn't have to be formal. You can speak about God's truth on the way to activities or around the dinner table. Remember that training a child is a constant task, but it is also the most significant and rewarding one we can undertake.



Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Helps Me. John 14:16–17

Summary: The Holy Spirit can be difficult for us to understand, but He provides the spiritual power available to all believers.

Jesus often called the Holy Spirit by the name “Helper.” There are many ways that the Holy Spirit helps us when we are struggling. The Spirit also grows the fruit of the Spirit in our lives making us more like Jesus as we mature.

Gospel Connection: The Holy Spirit always points us toward Jesus. The Spirit creates faith in our hearts as we first believe in Christ as Savior, and then helps us as we grow in our faith.

Big Idea: Because Jesus loves me, He sends the Holy Spirit to help me.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5

Additional Passages and Stories: John 14:16–17; 16:8–9; Romans 8:26; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16a,22–23

Memory Verse Activity:

Hand Motions Song

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: none

Instructions:

- Set the memory verse to a familiar tune, such as “Mary Had a Little Lamb or Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”
- Teach the song to the kids, and sing it while using the hand motions developed in week one of this series.
- You may challenge the kids to come up with their own songs using other familiar melodies.

Lesson Illustration

Bedsread Comforter

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Bedsread comforter; dry erase board or chalk board; dry erase markers or chalk

Instructions:

- Show the comforter to kids. Ask them to describe it. Write their answers on the board.
- Then ask the kids to describe what it's used for. Record these answers as well.
- Ask the kids to describe situations where they would use the comforter.

LEADER: As you can see, a comforter like this blanket can help us in different ways and make it easier for us to sleep well at night. In the Bible, Jesus uses a word that can be translated to "Comforter" to describe the Holy Spirit. That same word can also be translated to mean "Helper." Let's learn more about why Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as a Comforter and Helper in our lives.

Transition to **Large Group Teaching.**

The Holy Spirit and Me – Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Helps Me. John 14:16–17

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Large Group Teaching:

Suggested Time: 15–20 minutes

LEADER: Today we are going to continue learning more about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity. Who can tell me the other two in the Trinity? *[Allow for responses.]* God the Father and Jesus the Son are the other two. That means that the Holy Spirit is fully God, yet what He does and how He interacts with us is distinctly different from that of God the Father and Jesus the Son. Those are the kinds of things we will continue learning about today!

Last week, we discussed one way that Jesus described the Holy Spirit. Does anyone remember what that was? *[Allow for responses.]*

That's right! He described the Holy Spirit and His presence in our lives as a "gift."

This week, we are going to look at another way that Jesus described the Holy Spirit. See if you can figure out what it is while I read these verses:

READ: John 14:16–17

LEADER: Did anyone hear the word that Jesus used to describe the Holy Spirit in those verses? *[Allow for responses.]*

Different versions of the Bible will translate this differently: Some will say, "Helper." Some will say, "Advocate." Some will say, "Comforter." But each of those words is translating the same word from the Greek.

Jesus and His disciples ate their Passover dinner together on the night He was arrested. He told them what was going to happen to Him—that He was going to be arrested and put on a cross. As His followers, that news probably made them very scared! That's when Jesus told them about the Holy Spirit. Jesus reminded them that they didn't need to be scared because the Father would give them the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, Comforter, and Advocate.

But how does the Holy Spirit help and comfort His people? Listen to how Paul explains one way the Holy Spirit helps us:

READ: Romans 8:26

LEADER: According to that verse, when does the Spirit help us? He helps us when we are weak or sick. That's important, because isn't that when we need help the most? When we are struggling or having a hard time? Of course!

And how does that verse say the Holy Spirit will help us during those times? It says that the Holy Spirit will intercede for us with groanings too deep for words. He will enter into our suffering with us and help us plead to God for the help we need!

He also helps us in another key way: The Holy Spirit helps us look more like Christ. Listen to how this verse describes that process:

READ: 2 Corinthians 3:18

LEADER: I want us to focus on a few key points in this verse: First, it points out that we are being changed, or transformed. What does it say we are being changed or transformed *into*? We are being transformed to look more like our Lord, Jesus Christ. And how does that verse say that this process happens? By the Holy Spirit.

One way that the Holy Spirit comes alongside and helps us is to make us more like Jesus. But, you might wonder, "What does that mean? What does that look like?"

Here's a list of examples that you might already be familiar with:

READ: Galatians 5:16a, 22-23

LEADER: The Holy Spirit will help transform us, as followers of Jesus, to reflect these characteristics, all of which Jesus perfectly showed. The Holy Spirit will transform us and change us to become more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more patient, more kind, more good, more faithful, more gentle, and to have more self-control. As He works each of those characteristics out in our hearts, we will be changed and transformed to better reflect Jesus.

But the Holy Spirit doesn't just help us reflect more good characteristics in our lives. He also helps us stop doing the things in our lives that do *not* reflect Jesus. Jesus told His disciples about this. Listen to what He told them, when He was talking about the Holy Spirit, whom God would send:

READ: John 16:8

LEADER: Jesus told His followers that when the Holy Spirit came, He would convict or reprove people about sin, righteousness, and judgment. This means, for those people who follow Jesus and have the Holy Spirit living in them, He helps us understand when we are sinning, giving our hearts the ability to feel when we aren't thinking, speaking, or behaving in a way that honors God.

READ: John 16:9

LEADER: Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would warn His people about unbelief, which is the foundation for sin. When we sin, there is some element of unbelief in our hearts about Jesus, His love for us, or something else.

So, while it might sound scary that the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin and unbelief, it is actually a good thing! Because then we have the opportunity to stop and ask for God's forgiveness. When we do, then the Holy Spirit can help transform us and enable us to follow Jesus even more closely! So, even when the Holy Spirit points out our sin to us, he's actually helping us! He's helping transform us to look more like Jesus.

That is because the Holy Spirit is our Helper and Comforter: He helps us in our weaknesses and when we are struggling. He helps us become more like Jesus. He helps us by cultivating the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. And He also helps us when He convicts us of sin and unbelief. In all these ways, the Holy Spirit always points us toward Jesus and helps us become more like Him. The Holy Spirit helps us!

Small Group Discussion and Prayer:

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Discuss the following questions. Choose questions that are most appropriate for your group's age and attention level.

- Last week we learned that Jesus described the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives as a gift. How did He describe the Holy Spirit in what we learned today?
- What are some of the ways the Holy Spirit helps us in our lives?
- What are two ways that the Holy Spirit helps us become more like Christ?
- What word does the Bible use to describe this process in 2 Corinthians 3:18?
- How is it helpful when the Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin?

Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer. You may also read the prayer below.

Dear God,

Thank you that we can have the Holy Spirit
In our hearts when we have faith in Jesus.

Thank you that you give Him to us as a
Comforter, Helper, and Advocate.

Thank you for all the ways that He helps us.

We pray that we would pay attention to how He helps us
As He transforms us to become more like Jesus!

In Jesus' name, Amen!

Application Activity

Ways of Helping Charades

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Small pieces of paper; pen; bag; timer

Instructions:

- In advance, use the pen to write on each piece of paper one activity a kid could do to be a helper.
 - Some ideas include: mowing the yard, washing dishes, washing a car, checking the mail, watering plants, babysitting, vacuuming, walking a dog, washing windows, cleaning the toilet, or taking out the trash.
- Place all the slips of paper in the bag.
- Instruct the kids that they will select one slip of paper and act it out for the class without making any noises. The other kids will try to guess the activity.
- Set a timer for how long the kids have to guess the correct activity.
- Once the kids guess the action or when the timer runs out, the next kid will go and the process will repeat until all kids have had a turn.

LEADER: You all did a great job acting out a lot of different ways you could be helpful! That makes us think of the Holy Spirit and the very important ways He helps us as Christians. But it's not by taking out the trash or washing our windows. It's by transforming us and helping us become more like Jesus!

Application Craft

Bedsread Comforter Thank-You Card

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Construction paper; markers

Instructions:

- Instruct the kids to decorate one side of the construction paper to look like a bedsread comforter. They can decorate it with patterns or grid the paper and fill in various sections with different patterns (which will have the appearance of a quilt).
- Next, fold the paper in half.
- On the inside of the card, the kids will write a Thank You message to the Holy Spirit for helping them. It can be as simple as, “Dear Holy Spirit, Thank you for being a Helper and Comforter in my life!” Older kids may choose to include specific instances when they have experienced the Holy Spirit as a Helper in their lives or in the lives of loved ones.

LEADER: The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity, along with God the Father and Jesus the Son. That means that He is fully God, yet what He does and how He interacts with us is distinctly different from that of God the Father and Jesus the Son. One of the ways He interacts with us is as a “Helper,” “Comforter,” or “Advocate.” He helps us when we are struggling, He pleads to God on our behalf, and helps transform us to become more like Jesus. That is why we created these cards to remind us to be thankful for all the ways He helps us.

Bible Word Search

BIBLE - COMFORT - FAITH - FRUIT - GOD - HEARTS - HELPER

HOLY - HOPE - JESUS - JOY - LOVE - SPIRIT - TRINITY

G	B	I	B	L	E	Y	G	K	J	D
C	O	M	F	O	R	T	Q	J	O	Y
R	P	D	C	V	F	Q	L	E	S	M
H	O	L	H	E	A	R	T	S	P	L
R	Y	S	E	O	M	F	R	U	I	T
P	J	L	L	F	P	A	I	S	R	L
F	R	N	P	A	R	E	N	E	I	R
S	R	R	E	I	N	E	I	K	T	B
I	F	S	R	T	Q	G	T	R	M	C
W	S	P	N	H	O	L	Y	Y	O	W
C	J	X	Y	J	R	K	Z	C	K	A

Word Search Answers

G B I B L E Y G K J D
C O M F O R T Q J O Y
R P D C V F Q L E S M
H O L H E A R T S P L
R Y S E O M F R U I T
P J L L F P A I S R L
F R N P A R E N E I R
S R R E I N E I K T B
I F S R T Q G T R M C
W S P N H O L Y Y O W
C J X Y J R K Z C K A



The Holy Spirit and Me - Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Helps Me. John 14:16-17

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A Note for Parents

The Holy Spirit is a mystery to many kids, so they miss out on the spiritual power available to all believers. Jesus frequently taught the importance of knowing God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus often called the Holy Spirit by the name “Helper.” There are many ways that the Holy Spirit helps us when we are struggling. The Spirit also grows the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, making us more like Jesus as we mature.

As we go through these lessons, spend some time talking about each principle at home. Some possible suggestions for conversation or activity include:

- What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us?
- What are two ways that the Holy Spirit helps us become more like Christ?
- What does it mean to be convicted of sin?
- Share with your kid one way you have experienced the Holy Spirit in your own life as a “Helper,” “Comforter,” or “Advocate.”

Review and discuss the lessons with your children regularly. You might already have a dedicated prayer or Bible time in your home. If so, great! If not, perhaps it is the time to start one. It doesn't have to be formal. You can speak about God's truth on the way to activities or around the dinner table. Remember that training a child is a constant task, but it is also the most significant and rewarding one we can undertake.



Lesson 3: The Holy Spirit Teaches Me Truth. John 16:13-14

Summary: The Holy Spirit can be difficult for us to understand, but He provides the spiritual power available to all believers.

The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth. He helps us understand the Bible, reminds us what Jesus told us through the Bible; and guides us to glorify God by obeying Jesus.

Gospel Connection: The Holy Spirit convinces our hearts that Jesus is truly God. He consistently leads us to the truth and empowers us to be transformed by the truth. Apart from Jesus, we cannot know truth.

Big Idea: Because Jesus loves me, He sends the Holy Spirit to help me.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5

Additional Passages and Stories: John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10b-11, 12:3; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:17-18

Memory Verse Activity:

Individual Puzzles

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: One copy of the entire memory verse for each child

Instructions:

- Print out several copies of the memory verse.
- Then, cut around it so that it is one solid shape. (Circles, diamonds, and heart shapes will make the task easier for younger children.)
- Cut each memory verse shape into pieces the kids can fit back together. Keep the puzzles separated with ziplock bags.
- Give one puzzle (bag) to each kid.
- Ask the kids to put their memory verse together.
- When kids finish, encourage them to trade puzzles with a partner if time allows.

Lesson Illustration

Navigational Compass Truth

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Navigational compass

Instructions:

- Show the kids the navigational compass.
- Ask the kids what a compass does. *[Allow for responses.]*
- Invite them to look at the navigational compass, hold it, and try to use it throughout the room.

LEADER: The job of a compass is to always point toward true north. That means, even if we get lost or turned around, the compass will point north and we can use that to orient ourselves and find our way.

Similarly, the Holy Spirit will always point us in a specific direction, too. He will point us toward our spiritual True North: Jesus!

Today, we are going to learn more about how the Holy Spirit does that by teaching us truth.

Transition to **Large Group Teaching**.

Large Group Teaching:

Suggested Time: 15–20 minutes

LEADER: Today we are going to continue learning more about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity. Who can remember who the other two are? [*Allow for responses.*] God the Father and Jesus the Son. That means that He is fully God, yet what He does and how He interacts with us is distinctly different from that of God the Father and Jesus the Son.

Today, we will learn about how the Holy Spirit teaches us truth.

When Jesus was talking to His apostles about the Holy Spirit over dinner just an hour or so before He was betrayed and arrested, He said this.

READ: John 16:13–14

LEADER: Let's break down some of the different things Jesus told His disciples in this passage about the Holy Spirit.

First, He said that the Holy Spirit would be a guide. What would He guide us to? [*Allow for responses.*] Truth. In fact, the Bible says the Holy Spirit will guide us into "all truth."

Jesus also told them *how* the Holy Spirit would do that. He guides us to the truth because He speaks what God the Father tells Him to speak.

How does the Holy Spirit do that? [*Allow responses.*] Good thoughts. Let's see what the Bible says about that.

READ: 1 Corinthians 2:10b–11

LEADER: Because the Holy Spirit is God, He is even able to search God the Father and know what God the Father wants to tell us. Then, the Holy Spirit actually communicates that truth—and the depths of God—to us. Isn't that incredible?! To know that the Holy Spirit teaches us the depths of God Himself?

So what do you think God the Father would want to teach us about? I'm going to reread the first passage. See if you can guess what that is:

READ: John 16:13-14

LEADER: Do any of you have a guess about what the Holy Spirit will speak to us about? [*Allow for responses.*]

In this passage, Jesus tells us that when the Holy Spirit speaks to us, it will always glorify Jesus.

Now, let's look at a couple of the ways that the Holy Spirit will do that.

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:3

LEADER: Remember how we said that the Holy Spirit will always glorify Jesus? Well, this passage teaches us that the only way we can glorify Jesus is through the Holy Spirit! If we are glorifying Jesus, then that is because the Holy Spirit is helping us. We cannot make ourselves glorify Jesus. We cannot do enough good things to glorify Jesus. It is only by the Holy Spirit at work in our own hearts that we glorify Jesus!

Here's another way the Holy Spirit will also help us glorify Jesus:

READ: John 14:26

LEADER: This passage comes even earlier during dinner when Jesus was talking to His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. Jesus told His apostles that another way that the Holy Spirit would help them and glorify Jesus would be by reminding them about everything Jesus had already told them.

I want you to think about that for a moment. How easy is it to remember when your parents tell you to do something? Or when your teacher gives you instructions about how to do something in school? Usually, it is very easy to forget all those details. But Jesus told His apostles that they won't have to worry about that!

One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is that He will remind us about Jesus and about what Jesus has told us. But what if you haven't heard from Jesus?

This is why reading our Bible is so important! Even though Jesus ascended to heaven, but we can still hear from Him through the Bible. When we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit uses those stories and words and reminds us about Jesus.

What happens when the Holy Spirit talks to us about Jesus and teaches us the truth about Him? Paul wrote a letter to a church in a place called Ephesus and here's how he explained it to them:

READ: Ephesians 1:17-18

LEADER: In this letter, Paul described the Holy Spirit as a spirit of wisdom and revelation. We also learn that the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of our hearts. What do you think that means? [*Allow for responses.*]

It means that the Holy Spirit will help us understand things in a new light; We will be able to *understand* the hope that awaits us because of Jesus' sacrifice. The Holy Spirit enables us to experience the new life God has promised us.

The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth, especially the truth about Jesus. He communicates to us exactly what God the Father wants us to know. He reminds us what Jesus told us through the Bible. In doing so, He *always* glorifies Jesus. And it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can glorify Jesus, too! In all these ways, the Holy Spirit teaches us truth.

Small Group Discussion and Prayer:

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Discuss the following questions. Choose questions that are most appropriate for your group's age and attention level.

- What kinds of things will the Holy Spirit teach us?
- Who does the Holy Spirit glorify?
- Why does the Holy Spirit know everything about God?
- Why is it important for us to read the Bible and know what it tells us?
- What does it mean to have the "eyes of your heart" opened?

Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer. You may also read the prayer below.

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit
Who teaches us the truth about Jesus.
Thank you that He reminds us what
Jesus told us in the Bible
And that He helps us glorify Jesus.
We pray that we would listen to Him
And that we would hear the truths He teaches us
As He opens the eyes of our hearts.
In Jesus' name, Amen!

Application Activity

Simon Says Game

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Timer

Instructions:

- Pick one kid to be *It*.
- The other kids will stand shoulder to shoulder facing *It*.
- *It* will tell the kids to do an action, such as jump or lift their right arm. If *It* says, “Simon says,” before saying the action, then the kids must do the action. However if he does not say, “Simon says,” before saying the action, then the kids should *not* do the action.
- Set a timer for how long *It* will call the actions, then pick another kid to take a turn and follow the same instructions as above.
- Repeat as time allows.

LEADER: You did a great job listening to and following the instructions that were given! That makes me think of the Holy Spirit and how He perfectly perfectly speaks truths to us from God the Father. As He does, He glorifies Jesus and helps us learn to glorify Jesus, too!

Bonus Activity

Memory-Verse Heart Craft

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Supplies: Construction paper; tissue paper in various colors; glue; scissors; pen

Instructions:

- Before class, Print the memory verse onto small slips of paper, one per kid. Cut a heart out of the middle of pieces of construction paper, one for for each kid. For kids who are able, consider allowing them to cut out their own hearts and write the memory verse themselves.
- Distribute a construction paper heart to each kid.
- Provide each kid with a large sheet of white tissue paper.
- Help the kids to cut or tear other pieces of tissue paper and glue them onto the larger piece. Encourage them to use whichever colors they prefer.
- Once the large piece of tissue paper is covered with smaller pieces, glue it to the back of the heart-shaped construction paper. It should be glued so that the smaller pieces of tissue paper are visible through the heart cut-out.
- Pass out a copy of the memory verse to each kid, instructing them to glue it onto the front side of the construction paper.

LEADER: Your hearts look so beautiful! I love how the different colors make them come alive. That's like what the Holy Spirit does when He lives in our hearts and teaches us truth like we talked about today, including the truth about God's love that He pours into each and every one of our hearts when we have faith in Jesus!

Bible Word Search

BIBLE - FAITH - FATHER - GOD - HEARTS - HOLY - HOPE

JESUS - KNOW - LOVE - SPIRIT - TEACHING - TRUTH

E	Q	S	D	T	A	U	A	Y	G	T
A	U	P	J	E	S	U	S	L	K	N
O	B	I	T	A	Y	J	M	O	O	I
R	F	R	B	C	C	N	J	L	P	H
F	A	I	T	H	H	E	G	L	F	F
A	T	T	R	I	O	K	N	O	W	R
K	H	S	U	N	P	L	E	V	D	B
M	E	S	T	G	E	X	Y	E	H	I
S	R	A	H	E	A	R	T	S	O	B
U	U	Y	S	F	E	P	F	P	Q	L
H	L	Z	S	M	P	V	E	T	P	E

Word Search Answers

E	Q	S	D	T	A	U	A	Y	G	T
A	U	P	J	E	S	U	S	L	K	N
O	B	I	T	A	Y	J	M	O	O	I
R	F	R	B	C	C	N	J	L	P	H
F	A	I	T	H	H	E	G	L	F	F
A	T	T	R	I	O	K	N	O	W	R
K	H	S	U	N	P	L	E	V	D	B
M	E	S	T	G	E	X	Y	E	H	I
S	R	A	H	E	A	R	T	S	O	B
U	U	Y	S	F	E	P	F	P	Q	L
H	L	Z	S	M	P	V	E	T	P	E



A Note for Parents

The Holy Spirit is a mystery to many kids, so they miss out on the spiritual power available to all believers. Jesus frequently taught the importance of knowing God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit teaches us the truth. He helps us understand the Bible, reminds us what Jesus told us through the Bible; and guides us to glorify God by obeying Jesus.

As we go through these lessons, spend some time talking about each principle at home. Some possible suggestions for conversation or activity include:

- What kinds of things will the Holy Spirit teach us?
- From whom does the Holy Spirit's words come?
- Why is it important for us to study the Bible?
- Share with your kid one way that the Holy Spirit has taught you, such as a time He brought a Bible verse to mind at a critical moment or when He has encouraged you to glorify Jesus in a specific way.
- Pray with your kid about how the Holy Spirit might teach the truth to them.

Review and discuss the lessons with your children regularly. You might already have a dedicated prayer or Bible time in your home. If so, great! If not, perhaps it is time to start one. It doesn't have to be formal. You can speak about God's truth on the way to activities or around the dinner table. Remember that training a child is a constant task, but it is also the most significant and rewarding one we can undertake.



Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit Empowers Me. Acts 1:8

Summary: The Holy Spirit can be difficult for us to understand, but He provides the spiritual power available to all believers.

The Holy Spirit empowers us. He gives us courage to tell others about Jesus, he changes our hearts so we want to glorify God, and allows others to respond to the gospel and gain the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, too.

Gospel Connection: The Holy Spirit's goal is to glorify Jesus! This is why the Spirit gives us the power to share the good news with others.

Big Idea: Because Jesus loves me, He sends the Holy Spirit to help me.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5

Additional Passages and Stories: Matthew 10:19-20, 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Memory Verse Activity:

Memory Game

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: whiteboard, chalkboard or large pad of paper; a writing utensil (dry-erase marker, chalk, or broad-tipped marker)

Instructions:

- Write out the memory verse, omitting a few key words, replacing them with blanks.
- Invite the kids to read the verse aloud along with you, filling in the correct words in the blanks.
- Each time the kids successfully say the verse, erase a new word and play again.
- Play until kids are reciting the entire verse from memory.

Lesson Illustration

Drill Power

Suggested time: 5 minutes

Supplies: Thick piece of wood; 3 screws; screwdriver; power drill with screwdriver bit

Instructions:

- Before class, select 3 screws that are not longer than the thickness of your wood.
- Place the piece of wood on a table or work surface, and secure as needed.
- Invite two volunteers to the demonstration area. Give one kid a screw and the other a screw and screwdriver. Challenge the kids to drive their screws into the wood completely.
- After a few moments, reveal your drill and the third screw. Use the drill to screw the screw into the wood.

LEADER: Wow! The drill made the task of screwing the screw into the wood look so easy! But as you could see from the other attempts, it is really difficult to screw into wood, even with a screwdriver. What made it possible was the drill and the power it provided to screw the screw into the wood. That's like how the Holy Spirit works in our lives, too: He gives us power, which is what we are going to talk about today and, specifically, what that power is used for. Let's find out more!

Transition to **Large Group Teaching.**

The Holy Spirit and Me – Lesson 4: The Holy Spirit Empowers Me. Acts 1:8

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Large Group Teaching:

Suggested Time: 15–20 minutes

LEADER: Today we are going to continue learning more about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity, along with God the Father and Jesus the Son. That means that He is fully God, yet what He does and how He interacts with us is distinctly different from that of God the Father and Jesus the Son. Those are the kinds of things we will continue learning about today!

So far, we have learned about some different ways that Jesus described the Holy Spirit to his followers: One way is as a gift and as our helper and comforter. Last week, we looked at how the Holy Spirit teaches us truth. This week, we are going to learn how the Holy Spirit empowers us to live for God.

Listen to what Jesus told His followers right before He ascended up into heaven following His resurrection:

READ: Acts 1:8

LEADER: Jesus said that when His followers received the Holy Spirit, they would also receive *what?* [Allow for responses.] Power! But He was not talking about power to do anything they wanted. It was a very *specific* kind of power.

The Holy Spirit always acts and speaks in order to glorify *who?* [Allow for responses.] Jesus! In the same way, the Holy Spirit empowers us to glorify Jesus.

That is why Jesus said that the power they would receive from the Holy Spirit would make them witnesses. A witness is anyone who can explain what they experienced. A witness for Jesus can tell everyone in all the world about Him. That kind of power glorifies Jesus!

READ: Matthew 28:18–20

LEADER: Jesus told His followers that they needed to go teach people from all over the world about Him and become His followers, too.

Then, right before Jesus ascended to heaven, He explained how they would be able to fulfill this Great Commission: by the power of the Holy Spirit. They would need that power, too, because teaching people about Jesus isn't always an easy task!

Jesus knew that. Which is why, earlier in His ministry, He told His apostles about a specific way that the Holy Spirit would empower them as they went out and ministered to people.

Early in Jesus' ministry on earth, He selected disciples and sent them out to preach and minister to the Israelites. He gave them instructions about what to do, because He was not going to be with them. He told them that some people would reject the truth about the kingdom of God being near.

READ: Matthew 10:19-20

LEADER: Despite the negative reaction some people would have, Jesus told them, they shouldn't be nervous about what to say. *Why?* [*Allow responses.*] Because the Holy Spirit would speak *through* them!

Jesus told His followers that the Holy Spirit would empower them to glorify Jesus by giving them the words from the Father who would then speak through them. That sounds pretty powerful if you ask me!

And here's the thing: The Great Commission was not just for those first apostles. It is still relevant for us, today. Jesus still commands us to tell people all around the world about Himself! So we *need* that power, too!

Paul also wrote more about the Holy Spirit's power and what it can look like in our lives in this letter to one of the early churches:

READ: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

LEADER: Paul explained that the Spirit would show Himself in our lives and then listed off various ways that the Holy Spirit would do that. We generally refer to this list as the “gifts of the Spirit.” And the very first thing Paul told his readers about these gifts was to explain what the gifts would be used for. Did anyone catch what that reason was? [*Allow for responses.*]

These gifts are given to help and benefit everyone. Some versions say, “to profit all” and some say, “for the common good.” Either way, it’s clear that these gifts are meant to glorify Jesus and benefit the Kingdom of God.

Then Paul listed what some of these gifts are, from wisdom, to faith, to healing, and more. We will not dwell on these different gifts, because what I want you to see is that there are lots of ways that the Spirit empowers us. No matter what it is, though, they are to help, encourage or uplift others—and, in doing so, bring glory to Jesus!

The last point that Paul made in this section was that the Holy Spirit distributes these various gifts to different people according to His own will. It isn’t up to us to decide which gifts we receive. The Holy Spirit knows what we need and will then give those specific gifts to us so that we can use them to help others and glorify Jesus.

In these ways, we have learned that the Holy Spirit empowers us in lots of different ways: He empowers us as we tell others about Jesus and participate in the Great Commission that Jesus gave to His followers. The Holy Spirit empowers us with the words to say when people push back and don’t believe us while we’re teaching them about Jesus. He also empowers us with special spiritual gifts that we can use to help others. In all of these different ways, the Holy Spirit empowers us for one purpose: to glorify Jesus!

Small Group Discussion and Prayer:

Suggested time: 10–15 minutes

Discuss the following questions. Choose questions that are most appropriate for your group's age and attention level.

- Who gives us power when we have faith in Jesus?
- What is the Great Commission?
- Why don't we need to worry about what we will say to share the gospel?
- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?
- Who gets to decide what kind of spiritual gift you receive?

Take some time to share prayer requests. Then lead the kids in prayer.

Dear God,
Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit
Who empowers us to be able to glorify Jesus!
Thank you that He helps us teach others about Jesus,
Gives us the words to say when we need them,
And gives us spiritual gifts to help others.
We pray we would listen to the Holy Spirit
And how He guides us to glorify Jesus!
In Jesus' name, Amen!

Application Game

Musical Chairs

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Music (see suggestions below); a device to play the music, such as a CD player, smartphone, or computer

Instructions:

- Before class, select a couple of songs about the Holy Spirit. Some suggested songs include:
 - *Come Thou Holy Spirit*
 - *Come, Holy Ghost*
 - *Holy Spirit, Truth Divine*
- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. You may use chairs or dots on the floor. Make sure there is one less dot or chair for how many kids are playing.
- When you play music, the kids will walk around the circle. When you pause the music, each kid must find a seat.
- The kid without a seat is “out.” One option to make being “out” more fun, is that they can help you decide when to pause the music.
- Remove one seat or dot.
- Repeat until only one child is remaining. Clap for him or her.

LEADER: Have you ever heard songs like those about the Holy Spirit? I hope after all that we have learned over the past few weeks, you now understand a little bit more why we would sing and celebrate the Holy Spirit and all He does in our lives!

Application Craft

Acts 1:8 Earth Craft

Suggested time: 5–10 minutes

Supplies: Construction paper (blue and green); scissors; glue; printer paper or notecards; pen or marker

Instructions:

- Before class, print this week's verse, Acts 1:8, onto pieces of paper or notecards and trim to size. Consider allowing kids to write the verse themselves if they are able.
- Give each kid a piece of blue paper. Instruct them to cut out a large circle, which will represent earth.
- Give each kid one or two pieces of green paper. Instruct them to cut out large blobs to represent continents and glue them onto their earth.
- Pass out a copy of the verse to each kid. Instruct them to glue it onto their earth.

LEADER: Today, we talked about how the Holy Spirit gives us power to help us go out into the world and glorify Jesus. One way He does that is by helping us be witnesses and tell people about Jesus, like we learned about in this verse. This craft reminds us of the power the Holy Spirit gives us as He helps us do that!

Bible Word Search

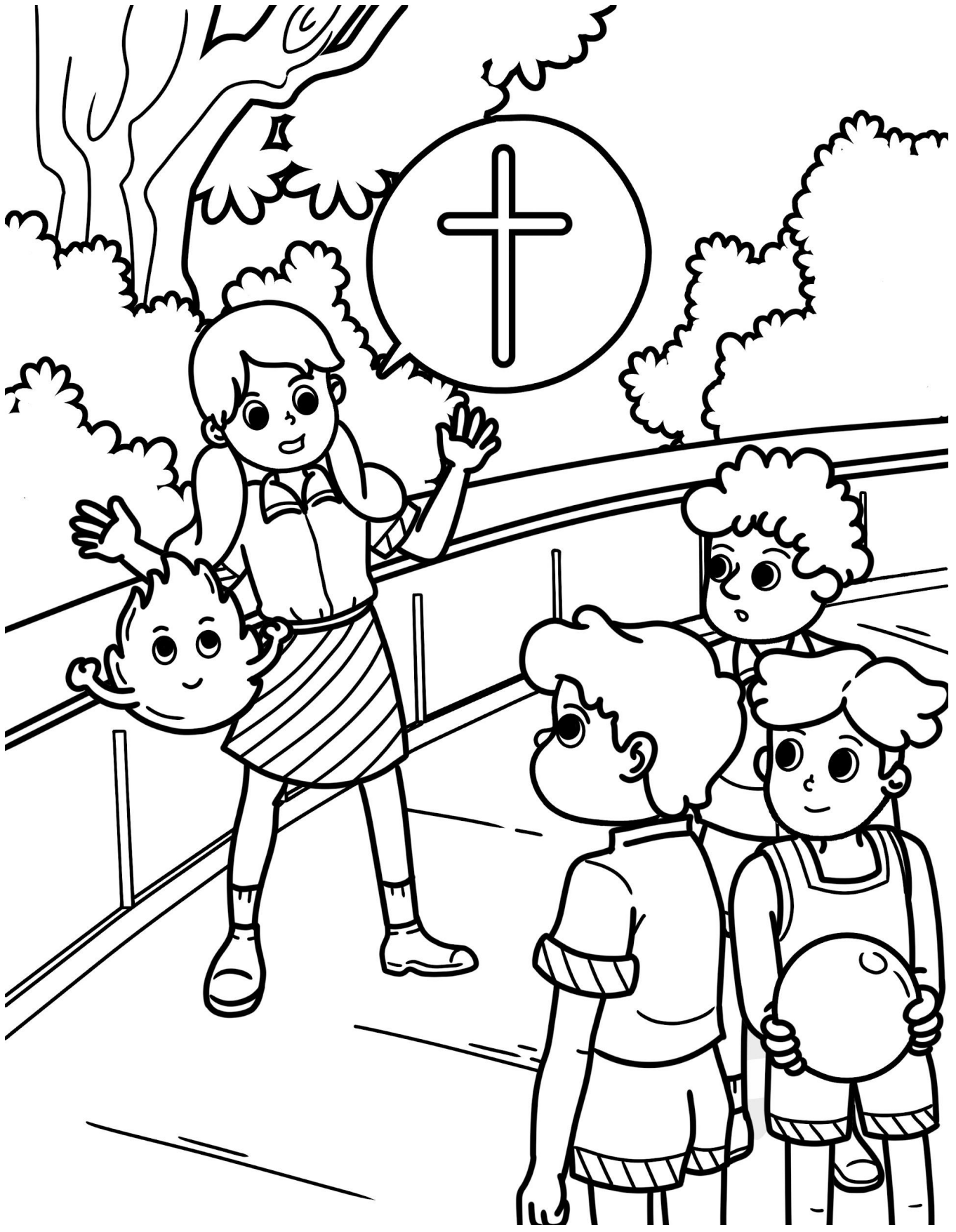
BIBLE - EMPOWER - FAITH - GIFTS - GLORIFY - GOD

GOSPEL - HEARTS - HOLY - HOPE - JESUS - LOVE - SPIRIT

Z	Q	F	E	U	D	O	Z	I	T	V
O	P	A	M	R	K	V	Q	C	F	G
N	V	I	P	Y	H	Q	N	N	F	L
I	B	T	O	A	E	V	X	Y	G	O
G	N	H	W	L	A	I	I	H	B	R
Y	H	G	E	P	R	S	D	T	I	I
S	P	I	R	I	T	M	T	B	B	F
V	U	F	N	N	S	E	H	O	L	Y
V	D	T	M	E	G	L	O	V	E	L
D	P	S	V	G	O	S	P	E	L	M
Y	N	V	W	I	D	J	E	S	U	S

Word Search Answers

Z	Q	F	E	U	D	O	Z	I	T	V
O	P	A	M	R	K	V	Q	C	F	G
N	V	I	P	Y	H	Q	N	N	F	L
I	B	T	O	A	E	V	X	Y	G	O
G	N	H	W	L	A	I	I	H	B	R
Y	H	G	E	P	R	S	D	T	I	I
S	P	I	R	I	T	M	T	B	B	F
V	U	F	N	N	S	E	H	O	L	Y
V	D	T	M	E	G	L	O	V	E	L
D	P	S	V	G	O	S	P	E	L	M
Y	N	V	W	I	D	J	E	S	U	S



A Note for Parents

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The Holy Spirit empowers us. He gives us courage to tell others about Jesus, he changes our hearts so we want to glorify God, and allows others to respond to the gospel and gain the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives, too.

As we go through these lessons, spend some time talking about each principle at home. Some possible suggestions for conversation or activity include:

- The Holy Spirit gives us power to glorify who?
- Who can you tell about Jesus?
- When will the Holy Spirit give you the right words?
- Discuss spiritual gifts with your family.
- Share one way you've experienced the Holy Spirit's power in your own life. It could be when you were telling someone about Jesus, a spiritual gift of yours, or any other incident. Pray with your kid about how she might experience the Holy Spirit's power in her own life, as well.

Review and discuss the lessons with your children regularly. You might already have a dedicated prayer or Bible time in your home. If so, great! If not, perhaps it is the time to start one. It doesn't have to be formal. You can speak about God's truth on the way to activities or around the dinner table. Remember that training a child is a constant task, but it is also the most significant and rewarding one we can undertake.