

# God the Holy Spirit

**L**ook at the illustration on this page. It will help you understand what you have been learning in the Apostles' Creed. God is triune—one God in three persons and three persons in one God. See the symbol with three equal parts? The hand is a symbol for God the Father, who created us and all that exists. The cross is a symbol for Jesus, reminding us of His suffering, death, and resurrection. The dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. We use a dove to **symbolize** the Holy Spirit because of what is said in Matthew 3:16. Immediately after the baptism of Jesus, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended in the form of a dove and rested on Him.

Through the prophets, God promised to send His Son, Jesus. At just the right time, this promise was fulfilled. In John 14, the evening before His death, Jesus promised that He would not forsake His disciples, but He would send them the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Helper, who would be with God's children forever.

Have you had a time when you needed help? Dan and his friends had planned a hike to the waterfalls several miles from home. The boys were excited as they set off. They were going to have a great adventure! And they did, until Josh slipped down a six-foot bank and twisted his ankle. The other boys tried to help him back onto the trail but soon realized they could not do it. They needed

help. Dan took out his cell phone. His dad had insisted that he take it with him. He punched in his home phone number and was very relieved to hear his dad's voice. "Can you come and get us?" Dan asked. "Josh fell, and we need help." Of course, Dan's dad came as quickly as he could.

This is a good illustration of what the Holy Spirit does. When we call on Him, He does just what Jesus promised: He helps us.

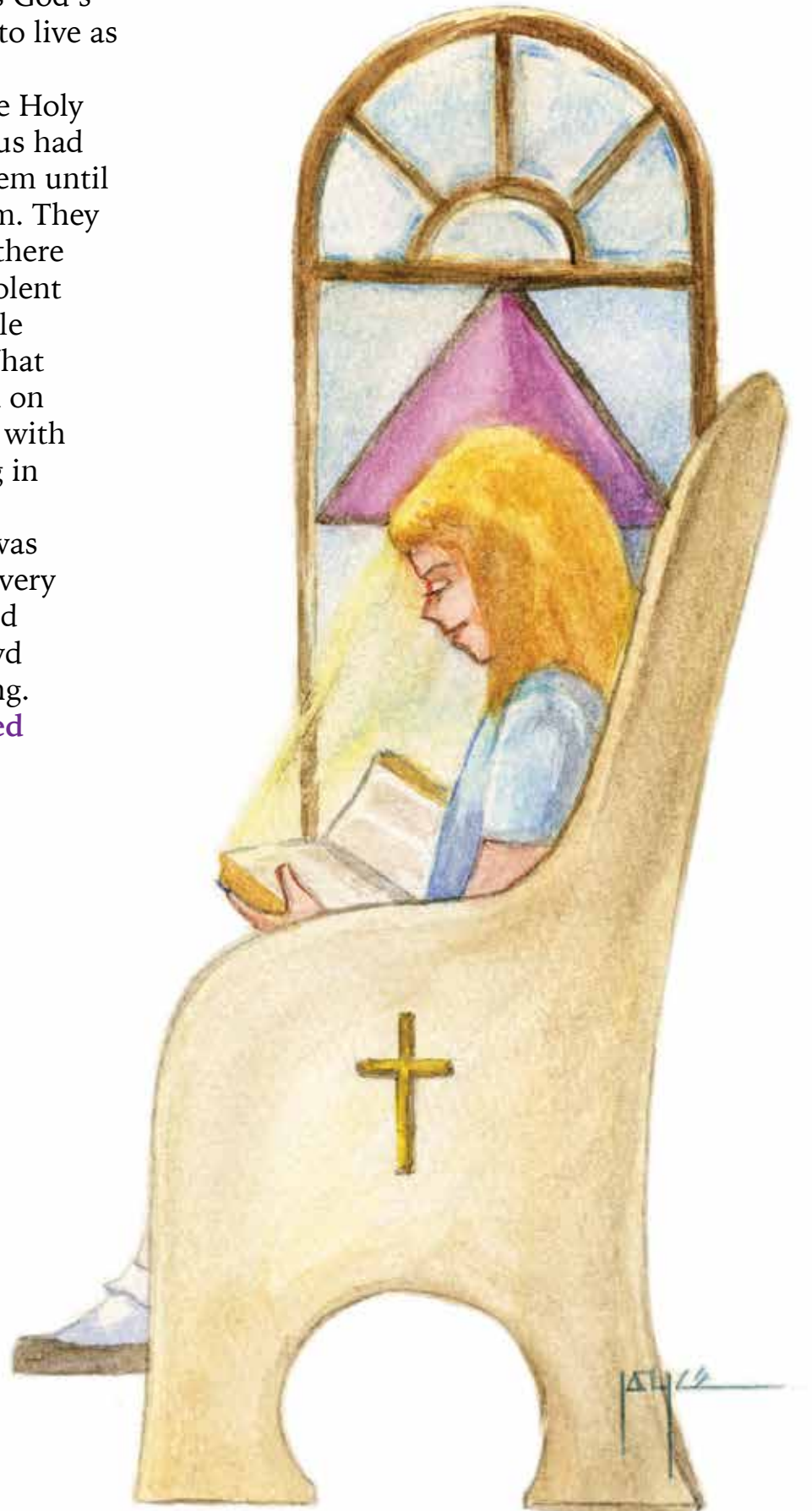


As our Helper, the Holy Spirit shows us our sin and brings us to confession. He gives us faith to believe in Jesus and to know that we are forgiven. He teaches us God's truth, leads us, and **empowers** us to live as children of God.

Acts 2 records the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of **Pentecost**. Jesus had told the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until He had sent the Holy Spirit to them. They were all together when suddenly "there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting." What looked like "tongues of fire" rested on each one of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages.

The noise of the rushing wind was heard all over the city. Jews from every nation were living in Jerusalem, and when they heard the sound, a crowd gathered to see what was happening. They were **stunned** and **bewildered** to hear their own languages being spoken by the disciples. What an astonishing time this must have been!

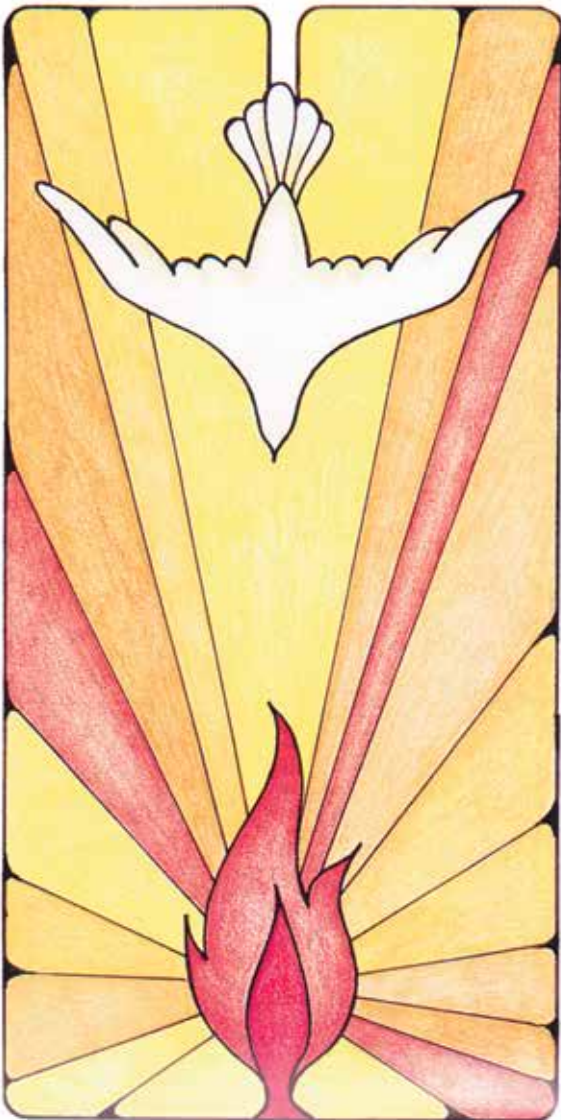
Without the Holy Spirit, it would be impossible for us to understand the Scriptures. We would not be able to believe in Jesus. The lessons in this book will teach us how the Spirit uses God's Word, both the Law and the Gospel, to bring us to true faith. In the meaning of the Third Article, believers confess that the Holy Spirit makes us holy and day by day makes us more and more like Christ. This is why He is called our Sanctifier.



## ACTIVITY 1

### What Happened?

Number these events about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost in the correct order from our lesson.



- ☐ There came a noise from heaven like a violent rushing wind.
- ☐ Jesus told the disciples to stay together in Jerusalem.
- ☐ They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages.
- ☐ After the baptism of Jesus, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descended in the form of a dove.
- ☐ The noise filled the whole house.
- ☐ Jesus promised He would send the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ The people were stunned and bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the disciples.
- ☐ What looked like tongues of fire rested on each of the people.
- ☐ When people around the city heard the sound, a crowd gathered to see what was happening.

## ACTIVITY 2

# The Holy Spirit . . .

The Holy Spirit is called our Helper and Sanctifier. What does the Holy Spirit do? Choose the best word to complete each sentence.

holy  
understand  
leads  
Christ  
faith  
sin  
truth  
confession  
empowers  
God's  
forgiven

1. shows us our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. brings us to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. gives us \_\_\_\_\_ to believe in Jesus.
4. gives us faith to know we are \_\_\_\_\_.
5. teaches us God's \_\_\_\_\_.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ us.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ us to live as children of God.
8. helps us \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures.
9. speaks to us through \_\_\_\_\_ Word.
10. makes us \_\_\_\_\_.
11. makes us more and more like \_\_\_\_\_ day by day.



## Catechism

### *The Third Article of Sanctification*

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
The holy Christian Church,  
The Communion of Saints;  
The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body;  
And the Life everlasting. Amen.

## Memory Verse

"I will ask the Father, and  
He will give you another  
Helper, that He may be  
with you forever."

—John 14:16

*Enrichment Memory Verse:*  
*Acts 1:8*