

Lesson 1

God the Holy Spirit

Bible Lesson: John 14:16-18, Acts 2:1-13

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: "...but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." *Acts 1:8*

Catechism Memory Work: "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."

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✠ The student will understand and believe that the Holy Spirit is God, and that He is a real Person, the third Person of the Trinity.
- ✠ The student will know that the work of the Holy Spirit is to work repentance and faith and to encourage, strengthen and sanctify the believer.
- ✠ The student will yield to the Holy Spirit and will know Him personally as Sanctifier, Helper, and Friend.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ♦ the dove symbol representing the Holy Spirit
- ♦ artist's picture of Jesus

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that God will give you understanding of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, and enable you to teach it to your students with sensitivity to His leading.
2. Pray for your students as you begin this quarter's study. Pray that they may come to know the Holy Spirit as Helper and Friend.
3. Pray that your students may recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and may yield to Him as He leads them to repentance and faith.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

The Third Article provides to us, in short and succinct phrases, Scripture's teaching about the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's work is not new in the New Testament (He has always been). However, the reality is that the New Testament does clarify and unfold the work of the Holy Spirit to be ushered in after Christ's Ascension and the day of Pentecost.

In Acts 1 the disciples were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). They were promised that when the Holy Spirit came they would receive power and that they would be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

As the pages of these lessons are read and considered be encouraged that the Holy Spirit is at work through the Words of the Bible to teach you and each student about the Holy Spirit.

Such a task would be impossible without the Scriptures, but they have been revealed to us to instruct us (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As we read in John 3:8 **"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit."** So we are not in control of the Holy Spirit but God has promised us to be at work through His Word. He has promised that His Word is a means by which He bestows His grace.

He is one of the persons of the Trinity to whom we ascribe certain activities and actions.

These activities (along with the work of the Father and the Son) are those whose goal and purpose is bringing us into relationship with Him. Showing us the person and work of Christ!

So, as your students hear about Jesus, they are hearing by the work of the Holy Spirit. As Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:26 **“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 that I have said to you.”** This great work of the Holy Spirit is also mentioned in John 15:26 which says, **“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about me.”**

In Acts, we see the extraordinary activity of the Holy Spirit. We hear about the speaking in tongues, the flames of fire, etc. These events are cementing in the minds of the Apostles the reality of Christ’s words and ministry. We do not need tongues of fire above someone’s head to know that they are speaking God’s word. When God’s word is open the Holy Spirit is at work. When you or a student recognizes their sin and repents; believing Christ’s words that is the Holy Spirit at work.

The Holy Spirit’s activities are sometimes believed to be only the extraordinary signs that we see and the Scripture, along with the Sacraments, are disregarded. This should not be! The Holy Spirit is active in the preached Word and the Sacraments. We confess that we believe in the Holy Spirit not because we have some great spiritual awareness or sensitivity. We state this belief based on the Words of the Holy Scriptures.

B. Creed Study

In the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, the person and the work of the Holy Spirit will be the focal point of our Sunday school lessons. In today's evangelical community there is a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding regarding the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. We have listed five basic truths regarding the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit is a person—the third person of the Trinity. He is not an impersonal force.
2. The Holy Spirit will convict people of their sin.
3. He will guide into truth.
4. He will glorify Christ.
5. He will be a helper, the Sanctifier, to the believer in his walk and service of Christ his Lord.

In understanding the Holy Spirit you need to realize four concepts:

1. At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer. One cannot be a Christian without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. *Every true believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit.*
2. Every Christian is baptized in the Spirit, but not all Christians are *filled* with the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means simply to allow Christ to be the Lord of one's life. Christians have a daily struggle in submitting to Christ's control. We always want to rule our own lives instead of allowing Christ to rule. Ephesians 5:16
3. Our Lord desires to produce His fruit of the Spirit within our lives. In Galatians 5:22-24 Paul lists the various attributes of a Spirit-filled Christian. These are actually character qualities of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is not up to us to produce these fruits but simply to abide in Him and be fruit bearers. John 15
4. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to God's children. Read Romans 12:1-8 and II Corinthians 12:4-18. These special gifts by definition are special abilities that God gives enabling us to accomplish His work. Our focus should not be so much on the gifts of the Spirit but our focus should be on abiding in Christ. Growth in grace and effective spiritual ministry are by-products of abiding in Christ.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Visit with students as they arrive; listen and seek to learn what they are thinking about and learn of their personal needs.

Open with Prayer

Ask for sentence prayers of praise and thanks for God's special care and goodness. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and teaching during the class period.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:
From the Bible: Revelation 5:12

And

From the Catechism: And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; . . .

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true Man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, bought me and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with silver and gold, but with His holy and precious blood and with His innocent sufferings and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Review

SHOW the covers of Quarters 1 and 2 books. **SAY** This year we are learning about what the Apostles' Creed teaches about our God, the one true God we believe in and trust. **ASK** What do these covers remind you of the things we've learned about God? (*He is one God in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*) **ASK** What did we learn about the Father, our Creator? (*He created us and the whole world and universe; He protects and cares for our bodies and souls so that we may have fellowship with Him, etc.*) **ASK** What did we learn about the Son, our Redeemer? (*He is true God and true Man, our Prophet, Priest and King; He redeemed us, bought us back from sin and death by His own death and resurrection, so we might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom and serve Him, etc.*)

Introduce Wall Words

Symbolize—
empowers—
Pentecost—
stunned—
bewildered—

Introduce the Lesson

SAY This quarter we will learn about the third Person of the Triune God. We will learn about Him from the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, and from God's Word as it teaches us the truths taught in the Third Article. **ASK** What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Maybe not as much as we know about Jesus our Savior and about the Heavenly Father. **SHOW** the artist's picture of Jesus. **ASK** Is this what Jesus looked like when He lived on earth? Probably not. We don't know what Jesus really looked like because the camera hadn't been invented yet. This picture is an artist's idea of what he/she thought Jesus might have looked like. But this picture does look like a man and we know that Jesus was a real Man as well as the Son of God— true God. But nobody on earth has ever seen God the Father. We do know that He created us and keeps us and that He is a loving Father. Our own loving earthly fathers give us a little idea of what a perfect Father might be like. **ASK** What is the Holy Spirit like? The symbol on our books represents the Holy Spirit with a dove. The Holy Spirit is pictured as a dove in the symbol because when the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus when He was baptized by John the Baptist, He came down as a dove. The dove represents peace and sacrifice. But the Holy Spirit is not a dove. He is a real Person, the Third Person of the Triune God. Even though you can't see the Holy Spirit, you can know Him as a wonderful Friend. He is a Friend you can't do without. He will help you know Jesus better. He can give you faith to repent and trust in Jesus as your Savior. He can make you more like Jesus. In this book you will learn what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit. I hope you will come to know Him as your Sanctifier.

Teach the Lesson

To be added later

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 14:16

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

CATECHISM—READ

"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."

Activity Pages

Activity 1—What Happened?

ANSWERS

4, 3, 7, 1, 5, 2, 9, 6, 8

Activity 2—The Holy Spirit...**ANSWERS**

1. sin
2. confession
3. faith
4. forgiven
5. truth
6. leads
7. empowers
8. understand
9. God's
10. holy
11. Christ

CLOSING THE LESSON**Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we thank You that when we have You as our Savior, we have all we need. We have a heavenly Father who has created us and who cares for us every day. We have a Redeemer who paid for our sins. And we have the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to bring us to know You and to make us holy and Christ-like. We pray that you will work in our hearts so we will accept Your work with faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assignment

1. Remind students to complete any unfinished activities and review the lesson.
2. Encourage students to share what they have learned with family and friends.
3. Remind students to practice both their memory verse and the Third Article.