

Lesson 3

The Holy Spirit Calls us Through the Gospel

Bible Lesson: John 3:1-6, Acts 2:37-39

Memory Verse: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.” *John 6:63*

Enrichment Memory Verse: God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. *II Thessalonians 2:13b-14*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in the Holy Spirit;...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel,...

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✚ Students will know that the gospel is the good news that Jesus died to save sinners, including the student.
- ✚ Students will understand how the Holy Spirit calls through the gospel to make it possible for them to believe and receive Jesus.

Prepare Materials:

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

- ◆ Envelope with "GOOD NEWS" written on the outside containing slips of paper with items of good news
- ◆ New Word Chart

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work through God's Word as you prepare for this lesson, to give you a fresh and deeper understanding of the gospel.
2. Pray for your students during this week. Pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in their hearts through the Law. Pray that they may see their sins and their need of the grace of God. Pray that they may be reminded to meet God in His Word each day.
3. Pray for the families and homes of your students. Pray for the Christian parents who seek to guide their children. Pray that God's Word may work through the lessons to draw families and homes to faith and a closer fellowship with God.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

In Acts 8 one of the disciples of Jesus Christ was used of God to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with an Ethiopian eunuch. Philip was told to go to a certain road. He did and found a man who was reading from the book of Isaiah. As Philip arrives the Holy Spirit spoke to Philip and told him to speak to the eunuch (Acts 8:29).

The eunuch was in need of a teacher and the Holy Spirit graciously provided one for him that day. The eunuch was reading the passage which reads: “Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: **“HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.” IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.**” (Acts 8:32-33). The Holy Spirit was at work doing what God’s people need.

The Lord has made clear that He will provide the church with those who will preach and teach His Word (Ephesians 4:11). He did this in a wonderful way for the eunuch and is now providing for you and your students. Pastors are preaching to their congregations speaking of the Lamb of God and you too are pointing young children to the One who takes away their sins.

The words of Isaiah were proclaiming the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Philip was able to begin with this Scripture and go on to declare the good news about Jesus (Acts 8:35). This was the work of the Holy Spirit calling the Ethiopian. With this teaching from Philip the eunuch also heard about the promise connected with baptism and was baptized (Acts 8:37-38). The Holy Spirit then carried Philip to another place where he continued to preach and teach the Gospel.

In the events in Acts 8, we see how clearly the Holy Spirit was at work. But what might almost miss our notice is how the Scriptures were the center of what the Spirit used. It wasn't the miraculous carrying away, in fact that only happened after the Gospel was communicated.

This should encourage us as we teach. We have the promise that the Holy Spirit works through the Scripture to create faith and bring assurance. Our experiences can trick us, our feelings are fickle, but the Word of God is sure.

Many times someone has answered a ringing phone and said to someone nearby, "It is for you." The common question which quickly follows is, "Who is it?" We don't have to ask that question when the Bible is preached and taught amongst us. It is the Holy Spirit calling to us through the Word. We gladly proclaim that God graciously calls us through His Word. So, at the center of our teaching must be this Word. Most of us are not that eloquent, but it is not our wisdom or eloquence or even the great logic which we might use in explaining the teachings of the Bible that brings faith. It is the Holy Spirit whom we rely upon at all times.

B. Creed Study

In the third chapter of II Timothy we focus in on the example of Timothy. He was a young man whom the Lord led to help the apostle Paul. Paul disciplined Timothy in the faith and in the ministry. Paul had a very warm and loving relationship with Timothy as evidenced in II Timothy 2:1 when he addresses Timothy as "my son." Paul recognized that Timothy tended to be timid and shy (II Timothy 1:7) and therefore needed to be encouraged. Thus Paul writes in II Timothy 2:1 that Timothy should be "strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." Notice how Paul directs Timothy's heart and mind to the Lord.

Notice in II Timothy 1:4-5 the significant impact that Timothy's mother (Eunice) and his grandmother (Lois) had on his life. Timothy had a tremendous heritage of faith. His heart and soul were impacted by the presence of godly people.

Let us look at the phrase "genuine faith." The word genuine also can be translated as "unhypocritical." God's Word had penetrated Timothy's heart and life. We see a further explanation of this in 3:14-17.

Paul says that Timothy had known the "sacred writing" (the Bible) since he was very little. It was that Word that had enabled Timothy to be "wise for salvation." It was that Word that enabled Timothy to experience faith in Christ Jesus.

In verses 16-17 we see what the Holy Scriptures are able to do for us. First of all the Scriptures (all of them, Genesis to Revelation) have been inspired (literally "God breathed") by God Himself. Notice also that the Bible is profitable for:

1. DOCTRINE - Enabling us to know the truth.
2. REPROOF - The Scriptures convict us when we are wrong or living in sin.
3. CORRECTION - As we agree and submit to the Word then God gives us the power to get back on the godly path of life.
4. TRAINING - The Holy Scriptures show us how we are to live and then give us the power to live, to worship and to serve the Lord.

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.

Ask students to share answers to prayer and prayer topics. Encourage participation in brief sentence prayers of thanks. Lead the class in prayer for the Holy Spirit's leading in the class session. Pray for believing hearts.

Open with Prayer

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Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Romans 3:20

And

From the Catechism: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him;...

Review

Conduct a quick oral review of last week's lesson.
Questions to be added later.

Introduce Wall Words

dependent—

mystery—

remedy—

despair—

Introduce the Lesson

SHOW the envelope, GOOD NEWS, and have students draw out and read the good news items. **ASK** What is the best good news you can think of? (Allow brief sharing.) I guess it might depend on what you needed. If you were very sick, it would be good news to hear you'd soon be well. If you needed money for an expensive operation, it would be good news to hear you had just won a million dollars. But to Saul, the enemy of Christians, there couldn't be any better news than that Jesus had died for him and taken away his sins. You see, when Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, Saul saw the sins he had committed and all the sins in his heart. He knew that in God's eyes he (Saul) deserved to die for his sins. And he couldn't think about anything else. That's what the law does to us when the Holy Spirit uses it to show us what we're really like. The gospel was the best news in the

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world to Saul. And it's the best to us, too, when the Holy Spirit shows us our sins. Today's lesson teaches us how the Holy Spirit calls us through the gospel.

Teach the Lesson

SAY Open your books to Lesson 3 and read the lesson title. **ASK** What will we learn about in this lesson? (*about how the Holy Spirit calls us through the gospel*) We just learned what the gospel is. Do you remember? (*the good news that Jesus died for our sins, and that we can be forgiven if we confess our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior*) There's only one way that can happen. Let's read this lesson and find out what it is. The Holy Spirit is working whenever God's Word is preached or taught.) **SAY** The Holy Spirit is working to create true and living faith. What is living faith? We have living faith when we trust in Jesus to save us from our sins. It doesn't mean just believing that God exists or even only that Jesus came to die to save people. Living faith means that God shows you your sins and leads you to ask God to forgive you. It means you trust in Jesus as *your very own* Savior. **SAY** Let's see what the Holy Spirit shows people when He calls them. When the Holy Spirit speaks to us, He shows us that the gospel is really true. When we trust in Jesus, God really forgives our sins. He shows us how much Jesus loved us when He died on the cross and paid for our sins. When we hear God's Word that tells us about Jesus' perfect life, the Holy Spirit helps us understand that Jesus kept the Law for us. It's as if the Holy Spirit shines a light on Jesus so we can see how wonderful Jesus is. You and I can read and read about Jesus, but we'll never see Him in this way unless the Holy Spirit shows us how much Jesus loves us and wants to give us eternal life and every joy and blessing.

More to be added later...

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 6:63

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."

CATECHISM—READ

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him;

But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel,...

Activity Pages

Activity 1—Words to Remember

ANSWERS

ACROSS

5. Nicodemus

8. God

9. news

10. baptized

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- 13. love
- 14. mystery
- 16. salvation
- 17. provides

DOWN

- 1. Spirit
- 2. creed
- 3. Jerusalem
- 4. Gospel

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- 6. sin
- 11. peace
- 12. glory
- 15. Savior

Activity 2—Who Does What?

ANSWERS

The *Holy Spirit* gives *faith*.
...*calls* me through the *Gospel*.

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for calling us through the gospel, and for giving us faith to receive Jesus into our hearts. We pray that we may listen and learn when the Holy Spirit speaks to us. We pray that You will keep on calling boys and girls and men and women. We pray that everyone in this class will trust You as Savior. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Assignment

- 1. Practice memory verse.
- 2. Review the lesson at home.
- 3. Share the gospel.