

### LESSON 3

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 8

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Paul encourages Roman followers of Jesus by teaching them that the Holy Spirit leads and helps God's children pray.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. —Romans 8:14

### CURIOSITY

### BELIEF

### FAITH

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| • Preservice Interactive Game: Name That Object!                             | 8–10 min |
| • Welcome Question: What's a subject in school you sometimes need help with? | 2 min    |
| • SMALL GROUP  | 25 min   |
| • Declaring God's Wonder   | 1–2 min  |
| • Prayer of Invitation   | 1–2 min  |
| • Worship: Your Love for Me, Love Come Down                                  | 8–10 min |
| • God's Big Story  | 5–6 min  |
| • Connecting the Wonder Truth  | 1–2 min  |
| • Responding in Worship: Holy Forever  | 3–4 min  |
| • Blessing Your Kids   | 1–2 min  |
| • SMALL GROUP: Responding in Worship Activity                                | 5–10 min |



### Schedule:

**Pre-service Activities:** 10 min before service

**Small Group:** 20-25 minutes

**Large Group:** 30-35 minutes

**Small Group Response Activity:** 5-10 min



[Holy Spirit Our Helper Spotify playlist](#)

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Romans 8:14

As I read Scripture, it's easy to pick up on the miraculous works of the Spirit. Like how the Spirit filled believers in Acts 2 and thousands were saved, or how the Spirit guided Paul and his friends on their missionary journeys, and especially the miracles of healing and opening prison doors. All very exciting! But the Spirit also works in the hearts and minds of believers in quieter ways. Our God is wondrous like that. He can move in a crashing storm or a small whisper. The work of the Spirit is mighty even when that work is helping us pray.

Read Paul's words in Romans 8:14–17 and 22–27. To understand that the Spirit helps us pray, we must first understand we are children of God. Just as I want to hear from my kids about how their days went or what they're excited about or how they're struggling, God wants to hear from His children. The Spirit gives us the boldness to go before the Creator of the universe as our Father! We can pray to Him in any way we need. And when times are so difficult we can only cry out, the Spirit intervenes again, speaking on our behalf to the Father when we don't even know what to say. How do these truths bring you comfort in times of struggle?

—Kramer Mize

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

## LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

### DID YOU KNOW?

### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

#### WHO?

The Apostle Paul had a significant ministry in the first century, especially as the Lord's chosen instrument to proclaim His name to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Paul authored a significant portion of the New Testament, including the epistle (letter) to the Romans.

#### WHAT?

The Holy Spirit frees us from the power of sin. The leading of the Spirit marks us as God's adopted children who can call God Father. The Spirit helps us pray, going to God on our behalf and aligning our hearts with His will.

#### WHERE?

Paul wrote the epistle to the Romans at the end of his third missionary journey while staying in Greece. He likely wrote from Corinth, since Phoebe—who Paul commends to the Romans—was from the church in Cenchreae (sen-KREE-ay), located near Corinth (Romans 16:1–2).

#### WHEN?

The epistle to the Romans was written around AD 56 or 57. Paul was setting out for Jerusalem to bring an offering to the Lord's people. He was planning to go to Spain after that, stopping in Rome along the way (Romans 15:24–26).

#### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus defeated the power of sin and death on the cross. The presence of the Holy Spirit makes Jesus' victory a lived reality for His followers. With the Spirit's help, believers experience freedom from sin and newness of life as God's children, awaiting future glory.

### Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding

### SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN** (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

## Interactive Game: Name That Object!

**RESOURCES:** Name That Object Sheets (1 set/SG)

Ahead of time, open the Name That Object Slides (regular or Challenge Version) and have them ready to display. You'll hold each sheet up for kids to see, so if your group or space is large, print multiple sets and give a set to each small group. See the Leader Tip below about how to utilize the Challenge version of this game.

**Leader Tip:** For Older Kids. To make this game more difficult for older kids, use the Challenge Version of the Name That Object Slides or Sheets. These include the object the kids need to guess along with two words they aren't allowed to use to describe that object.



### SLIDE: NAME THAT OBJECT

"Today we're going to learn about how the Holy Spirit helps us pray even when we don't know what to say. Let's play a fun game that will challenge us when we don't quite know what to say!"

Help kids pair up. Invite one kid from each pair to sit with her back to the SG Leader and the other to sit facing the SG leader. Explain that on your signal, SG Leaders will show the kids facing them the objects and the kids facing the objects will start describing them to their teammates.

Their goal is to get their partners to say the name of the object. Remind them they can't say the name of the object—they have to describe it. If you're using the Challenge Version sheets, then the game is even more challenging because kids will have more limitations on what words they can say.



Prompt leaders to show Object 2 (image of a bear) and signal kids to begin. When you give the signal, they can switch places and roles with their partners. Play several rounds, advancing to the next slide each time and allowing kids multiple turns as the guesser and the clue giver.



**Make It Inclusive!** If you have kids who are nonverbal, invite them to play by doing a version of charades. They can act out the object or use gestures to describe it.

**Leader Tip:** For Younger Kids. Describing an object without saying its name can be challenging for younger children as well as kids with verbal processing challenges. Modify the game by having all kids face away from the screen while you describe each object. Once someone guesses the object correctly, invite all kids to turn around and look at the picture.

**Great job describing those objects and listening to your partners!** Describing objects like that can be tough to do, and we don't always know what to say. Today we're going to learn how God gives us the Holy Spirit, who helps us pray when we don't know what to say.

#### **SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH**

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY.**"



## Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR , whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

#### **SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION**

**At service start time,** draw kids' attention to the Welcome Question.

Invite kids to write answers on the poster board or whiteboard.

**"What's a subject in school you sometimes need help with?"**

**"Today we're going to learn about God the Holy Spirit, who helps us pray and reminds us of what is true. But, first, it's time for small group."**



## Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

## Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

#### **VIDEO: COUNTDOWN**

**"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"**

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

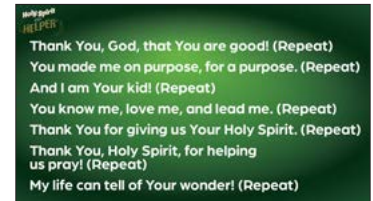
**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**Thank You for giving us Your Holy Spirit.** (Kids repeat.)

**Thank You, Holy Spirit, for helping us pray!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You that we get to be together today to explore Your Word. You are amazing—please help us to understand You more! Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, who leads us and helps us pray! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

**"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"**

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: Your Love for Me, Love Come Down**

## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE

"Today, we're learning from the book of Romans, a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians living in Rome. Paul was helping these believers understand what it means to live as God's children, led by the Holy Spirit. He reminds them—and us—that even when life is hard, the Holy Spirit helps us and prays for us when we don't have the words. This message wasn't just for people long ago, but for us today as we follow Jesus and trust the Spirit to guide us!"

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**





## LESSON 3 THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

### EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, scissors (prep only), Holy Spirit Flame Bag (from Lesson 1), tape or glue (prep only), chair, Bible, crown, throne decorations (optional), flameless tealight optional)

**RESOURCES:** Holy Spirit Flame Sheet (1 flame/kid), Letter to Rome Prop Sheet(1/LG)

Ahead of time, print the Holy Spirit Flame Sheet on cardstock—as many as needed for your group (four cards per sheet) so each kid can receive a card. Cut the cards along the dotted lines, stack them, and place them inside the Holy Spirit Flame Bag (from Lesson 1). Print the Letter to Rome Prop Sheet and roll it to use as a prop. (You won't be reading the letter aloud.)

If you don't have the Holy Spirit Flame Bag from Lesson 1, you can make one. Put red, orange, and yellow tissue paper into a white gift bag so it resembles the gift of the Holy Spirit. It should also look like a lantern, so make sure the flame-colored tissue paper is visible. Tape or glue copies of the Full-size Holy Spirit Flame Sheet (from Lesson 1) onto each side of the bag. Place the stack of flame cards from the Holy Spirit Flame Sheets into the bag. You may also want to put a flameless tealight in the bag.



Wonder Ink

**Leader Tip:** Hold onto the Holy Spirit Flame Bag when you're finished with this lesson to use again during the Lesson 4 Experience It! Script.

Set the stage: On one end of your space place a chair as a throne. There should be enough space in front of it for kids to gather near it. If you happen to have a chair that already resembles a throne, use it! If not, consider using some throne decorations (i.e., regal-looking blankets or fabric) to cover the chair. If you can, elevate the chair in some way, such as setting it on a platform. Place the crown (printed or real) on the seat of the throne.

Set your props: Place the Bible, the rolled Letter to Rome Prop Sheet, and the Holy Spirit Flame Bag with flame cards near where you will begin the storytelling.

Important note: This script works best if there is a large distance between the throne and where you and the kids will sit to begin the lesson. Consider starting at the back of your space, with the throne at the front. Gradually, kids will move forward and sit closer and closer to the throne.



Gather kids as far as possible from the throne and sit where they can see the throne behind you. **Let's imagine there's a king sitting on that throne.**

**A king just like this!** Display the **first Kings and Fathers Slide**, which shows a king who looks disinterested. **What do you see in this picture?** Wait for responses. Prompt kids to describe not only the setting, who's there and what's happening, but also to imagine what the relationship between the people in the picture might be like.



**Let's think about kings in the ancient world. Could just anybody walk into the throne room and talk with the king?** Wait for responses. **Do you think there might have been a long line of people who were waiting to talk to the king?** Pause for responses. **How do you think you might get in to talk to the king?** Point to the screen. Listen to kids' ideas and invite them to demonstrate their answers.

Display the **second Kings and Fathers Slide**, which shows a loving father.

**Now tell me what you see in this picture.** Wait for responses. Again, prompt kids to imagine what the relationship between the people in the picture might be like. **What if a loving father like this** (point to the screen) **sat on that throne over there, and you were the king's kid? And what if the king loved you? Would that change how you would get in to talk to him?** Pause for responses.



Hand out the Holy Spirit Flame Cards from the Flame Bag as you continue, or ask another leader to hand them out. **During the early days of the church, God worked through a man named Paul. Paul was an apostle—a leader sent out by God to spread the good news of Jesus. Paul spent his days sharing about Jesus and the new life the Holy Spirit brings. The Holy Spirit is God—our powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Spirit is with those who believe in Jesus.**

**Leader Tip:** Consider mentioning to the kids that what they are holding in their hands, the image of a flame, is not the Holy Spirit itself but a representation of the Spirit. Remind them that the Holy Spirit is the gift of God's presence with us, so we can't see Him.

Sit or stand near the kids with a Bible and the rolled Letter to Rome Prop Sheet. **It can be a little confusing to know who the Holy Spirit is and what He does. Paul wrote a letter** (unroll the letter and hold it up) **to the Roman church to explain more about the Holy Spirit. That letter is now in the Bible** (hold up the Bible), **so we can know more about the Holy Spirit too! Paul's letter** (point to the letter), **which we call the book of Romans** (point to the Bible), **tells us these beautiful truths: the Spirit is available to us because of what Jesus did when He died on the cross; Jesus broke the power of sin—the wrong things we do that separate us from God; the Holy Spirit leads us to life and peace through becoming God's children; and the Spirit helps us talk with God in prayer and do what pleases God.**

**Paul says, "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God"** (Romans 8:14). Ask kids to imagine the Flame Bag is like a light or a lantern that shows the way. With the "lantern" leading the way, ask kids to move about halfway to the throne and sit down. **Followers of Jesus are God's adopted kids! This means we can go to God just like a son or daughter goes to a loving father who wants what's best for them. The Holy Spirit gives us the power and permission to call God our Father and approach Him without fear because He loves His children completely.** Point to the



back of the room. **We don't have to stay back there or wait in a long line to talk to the King! We can come to God our Father anytime.**

**Leader Tip:** You'll move around a lot in this lesson, so keep the Holy Spirit Flame Bag with you. When you move toward the throne, hold the bag like a lantern as though it's leading you. When you move away from the throne, hold it like a regular bag. The Spirit only leads us closer to God.

**But what if I forget?** Ask kids to stay where they are; then walk by yourself to the back of the room.

**What if I do something wrong? What if I sin and feel like I need to be back here? What if I forget who I am?** Pause. **Our helper** (hold up the Holy Spirit Flame Bag) **reminds us who we are.** With the lantern leading, walk back to where the kids are while saying, "I am God's kid," until you reach the kids. **We are God's children. He loves us.** Sit with the kids.

**God promises a new creation—the day when we will be made new in a perfect kingdom that will never end. As His kids, we get to share in this promise! "As [God's] children, we will receive all that he has for us. We will share what Christ receives"** (Romans 8:17). With the lantern leading, walk with the kids to sit right in front of the throne.

**God's creation is longing for the day when all is made new. Followers of Jesus long for that day too. We look forward to a future when we will be raised to everlasting life as part of God's family. In the meantime, we can wait patiently through the trouble and suffering that life sometimes brings. And when we are weak, we can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us. But how?** Ask kids to stay where they are. Walk away from the throne about halfway back. **Sometimes I don't know what to say to God. Sometimes I don't know what to pray for.** Walk further back to where you started. **Sometimes I'm too mad or too sad to even want to talk to God, and that makes me feel like I'm back here.**

Hold up the Holy Spirit Flame Bag. **The Holy Spirit helps us as God's children to pray to God when we are weak.** With the lantern leading, walk slowly to the throne while saying: **The Spirit helps us pray, even when we don't know what we should pray for** (Romans 8:26). **In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes, "But the Spirit himself prays for us. He prays through groans too deep for words. God, who looks into our hearts, knows the mind of the Spirit. And the Spirit prays for God's people just as God wants him to pray"** (Romans 8:26–27). **That means even when we don't know what to say to God, the Holy Spirit prays the exact right thing for us. The Spirit prays for us, and God receives it as our prayer. What an amazing truth! What an amazing helper!**

Sit with the kids at the foot of the throne. **Followers of Jesus are God's children, and we can talk to God about anything. We don't have to be nervous about saying the wrong thing. We can talk to our King, our loving Father, whenever we want. He always wants to hear from us.** Place the Holy Spirit Flame Bag on the throne. **The same Spirit who frees us from the power of sin and reminds us we are God's children will continue to be our helper. The Holy Spirit helps us pray."**

**Leader Tip:** For some kids, this might be the first time they hear the good news that Jesus died (and rose again!) so their sins can be forgiven. Consider reminding kids that anyone who chooses to follow Jesus and accept God's gift of forgiveness and salvation is a child of God!

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

Jesus beat sin and death when He died on the cross and rose again about 2,000 years ago. But Jesus' victory isn't just a faraway event in history. Because of the Holy Spirit, Jesus-followers get to live in the reality of His victory today! With the Spirit's help, we can experience freedom from sin and new life as God's children!"



## Responding in Worship

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

**WORSHIP VIDEO: HOLY FOREVER**



## Blessing Your Kids

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** May God bless you this week and may the Holy Spirit remind you that He helps you and leads you!