

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

- Curiosity Activity: Act It Out
- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Your Love For Me, Jesus Loves Me (remix)
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



Holy Spirit Our Helper Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8

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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8

WORD OF WONDER: Romans 8:14

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Curiosity Activity: Act It Out

"We're going to do an activity where I'll pretend to be a thing or animal, and you guess what I'm pretending to be. I'm not going to use any words, so you have to pay attention to what my body is saying. Let's see if you can figure out what I'm pretending to be even when I don't use any words to tell you.

Act out the following things (or make up your own) and encourage the kids to guess:

- Chair
- Dog
- House
- Car
- Elephant
- Bird
- Rainbow
- Bed
- Monkey
- Ballerina

You can also let the kids take turns acting things out when you whisper in their ear what to act out.

"Great job guessing! It's amazing that even with no words, you could figure out what I was pretending to be. Today we're going to learn about prayer, which is when we talk with God. We can pray and talk with God anytime and anywhere. The Bible tells us that even when we don't know the words to say or what to talk about, the Holy Spirit will help us. We'll learn today how the Holy Spirit helps us pray."

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

RESOURCES: Tac the Cat puppet

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac, we're so glad to see you!

Tac the Cat: Well, I'm even more glad to see you because I need your help!

Leader: All right, Tac, you're in the perfect place. There are lots of helpful friends here. What can we do for you?

Tac the Cat: I saw that you were writing letters to people you are thankful for, and it made me very curious. I think I want to write a letter to my Grand-meow and Grand-purr. But what if I don't know the best words to say to them?

Leader: Friends, I wonder if you've ever felt what Tac is feeling. Tac isn't sure what to say in his letter, and he's feeling nervous about using the right words and saying the right thing to his grand-cats.

Tac the Cat: I call them my Grand-meow and Grand-purr, and I love them so much. I just don't want to mess up my words.

Leader: Tac, I think our friends will have some good help for you. Friends, do you think Tac's letter to his grand-cats needs to be perfect? (Allow kids to respond.) That's some good help. I don't think it has to be perfect either.

Tac the Cat: Whew, that helps me feel better.

Leader: I think Grand-meow and Grand-purr just want to hear from you, Tac, even if you aren't sure what to say or how to say it.

Tac the Cat: Is this kind of like what you were saying earlier about talking to God?

Leader: It sure is, Tac! When we pray and talk to God, it is OK if we aren't sure exactly what to say or how to say it. God's Holy Spirit will help us when we pray.

Tac the Cat: The Holy Spirit must be a great helper.

Leader: Well said, Tac! Thank you for coming and seeing us today. I know Grand-meow and Grand-purr will love to get a letter from you because they love you so much!

Tac the Cat: Thanks for the help, everybody! I'll see you later.

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: What kinds of things can we talk with God about? Allow the kids to respond. Can God hear us even if we don't pray out loud? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how cool it is that we can talk to God whenever we want? God wants us to hear from us.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY**. Today we'll discover how the Holy Spirit helps us pray!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

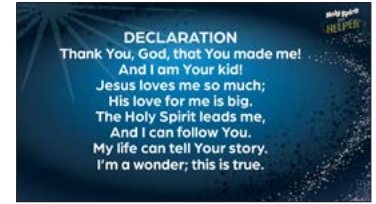
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



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 for hearing our prayers today and every day. You are amazing—please help us understand You more! Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, who leads us and helps us pray! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn how the Holy Spirit helps us pray. Let's sing together about all the good ways God helps us!"

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Romans in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Romans in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, chair, crown (optional), throne decorations (optional)

Ahead of time, place a chair as a throne at one end of your space. There should be enough space in front of it for kids to gather near. If you happen to have a chair that already resembles a throne, use it! If not, consider using some throne decorations (e.g., regal-looking blankets) to cover the chair. Place the crown on the seat of the throne.

Leader Tip: This storytelling works best if there is significant 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, the kids will move forward and sit closer and closer to the throne.

Gather the kids as far as possible from the throne and sit in a position where they can see the throne behind you. **"Let's imagine there's a king sitting on that throne over there.** Point to the chair. **Now, imagine if you could go over and talk to that king. How do you think you might feel if you were going to talk to a king? Would you be worried about saying and doing the right things?** Let the kids respond. **Now imagine this: What if you had a helper with you—a helper who would show you the way and never leave your side?**

Well, I have some really good news because before Jesus died on the cross, He made a promise to His disciples. Jesus promised to ask God the Father to give them a special helper. This helper would be their friend and be with them forever! This friend is the Holy Spirit. Jesus kept His promise. God gives the Spirit to be with people who believe in Jesus. When we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives with us and in us (from John 14:15–17). The Holy Spirit is God—our powerful, wise, and loving helper.

Later, when the church started, a man named Paul did God's work. God sent Paul to tell people the good news about Jesus. Paul told them about Jesus and how the Holy Spirit changes our lives.

Paul wrote a letter to the church in Rome. Paul's letter told more about the Holy Spirit. We can have the Holy Spirit because of Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. He beat sin and death. Sin is the wrong things we do that separate us from God.

Now imagine this: What if the king on the throne wasn't just a king, but also a loving father? What if a loving father sat on that throne over there, and you were the king's kid? And what if you knew that as a child of the king, you were loved? Would that change how you felt about talking to the king and coming near to the king? Let the kids respond.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he says, "Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God" (Romans 8:14). Followers of Jesus are God's adopted kids! God is a loving Father. He wants the best for His kids. When we have the Holy Spirit, we can call God our Father. We can be close to God and know that He loves us. God promises that someday everything will be perfect in His forever kingdom. Our helper reminds us that we are now God's children and that God's promises are for us. The Holy Spirit also helps us talk with God in prayer and do the things that please God.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen 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!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for the Holy Spirit, who helps us pray. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Father God, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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!