

### 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.

**Activity: Can You Hear Me?**

**Activity: Simon Prays**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Ball Bounce**

**Wonder@Home™**

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Activity: Can You Hear Me?

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (1 sheet per kid), tape (prep only), cardboard rolls (optional)

Ahead of time, create megaphones by rolling the construction paper into a cone and adding tape to the seam to keep it secure. Each child will need their own. If you have access to cardboard rolls, those are also a good option.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome! I'm so glad we are here together at church today.**

Invite the children to experiment with talking into the megaphones using loud voices and soft voices. Invite them to move away from the group and speak into the megaphone or stand close and gently speak into the megaphone.

**Friends, these megaphones do a good job of helping our voices be heard. Today we are going to learn how we can talk to God in prayer, anytime and anywhere, and we know God always hears us because we have a helper called the Holy Spirit.**

## Activity: Simon Prays

Gather the kids together. **Praying is when we talk to God. We can talk with God anytime, anywhere, about anything. Let's play a game to practice all the ways we can pray.** This game is like Simon Says, but there are no tricks. Use the phrase "Simon Prays" every time you give a directive. **All the ways that Simon Prays are ways that we can pray too.**

Say the following statements and encourage the kids to act out what you say:

- **Simon Prays with eyes closed.** Encourage the kids to close their eyes.
- **Simon Prays with eyes open.** Encourage the kids to open their eyes.
- **Simon Prays while on his knees.** Encourage the kids to kneel.
- **Simon Prays sitting down.** Encourage the kids to sit down.
- **Simon Prays with hands folded.** Encourage the kids to fold their hands.
- **Simon Prays with hands open.** Encourage the kids to open their hands.

Vary directives and speed of directives to get kids moving, but every directive is an example of a way that a person can pray, helping kids understand many of the ways we can talk to God.

**Our Wonder Truth today is THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Point up.

**HELPS US**—Bring palms together in "prayer hands" in front of you.

**PRAY**—Keep palms together and bring them into a vertical prayer position.

## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**Today in God's big story, we'll learn how God gives us His Holy Spirit to lead us and help us pray.**

Play songs from the [Holy Spirit Our Helper Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [God's Big Story Video](#)

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about the Holy Spirit.** Encourage the kids to say, "Holy Spirit." **Let's find out from the Bible how the Holy Spirit helps us.**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video or read the story from the Bible or use the script provided.

**Friends, we can talk to God all the time. This is what prayer is! We can talk to God in a loud voice.**

Ask kids to loudly repeat after you, "Hi, God!" **Or we can talk to God in a quiet voice.** Ask kids to quietly repeat after you, "Hi, God." **We can talk to God when we are standing up.** Ask kids to quickly stand up with you. **We can talk to God when we are sitting down.** Ask kids to sit back down.

**We can talk to God about anything, anywhere, and anytime, and if we ever aren't sure how to pray, God promises to give us a helper. Our helper is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Holy Spirit helps us pray. When we're sad, we can talk to God.** Ask kids to make a sad face. **When we're happy, we can talk to God.** Ask kids to make a happy face. **The Bible says that when we don't know what to say, the Holy Spirit can help us. The Holy Spirit prays the right thing for us. What a great helper!**

Invite the kids to move with you into a kneeling position. **Followers of Jesus are God's children, and we can talk with God about anything. We don't have to worry about saying the wrong thing. The Holy Spirit is our helper. The Holy Spirit helps us pray.**

Stay kneeling while you pray together.

## Prayer and Blessing

**Father God, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to 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.

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

## Activity: Ball Bounce

**SUPPLIES:** lightweight playground ball

Gather the kids and hold up a lightweight playground ball. Bounce it to one child and encourage that child to say the Wonder Truth: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray. Then see if that child can bounce the ball back to you. Bounce the ball to another child and continue until all the kids have said the Wonder Truth. To make it harder, play another round and bounce the ball two times to each child, then three times. Continue and see how many bounces you can get.

**We can remember that the Holy Spirit helps us pray. This week, remember that we can talk to God all the time—that's prayer! The Holy Spirit helps us pray. We can talk with God about anything. When we're sad, we can talk to God. When we're happy, we can thank God. The Bible says that when we don't know what to say, the Holy Spirit can help us. The Holy Spirit prays the right thing for us. What a great helper!**