

LESSON 3

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11; John 14; Galatians 5

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to fill His disciples, helping them follow Him and share the good news! Jesus-followers today are filled with the same internal guide and helper—God's promised Holy Spirit.

WORD OF WONDER: The Holy Spirit gives us power. —from Acts 1:8

- Arrival Activity - Play Stations:
 - Magnet Play
 - Puzzles
 - The Holy Spirit Guides Us Coloring Sheet
- Opening Curiosity Activity: Hot or Cold
- Word of Wonder: From Acts 1:8
- Craft: Holy Spirit Puzzles
 - Read the story!
- Circle Time: Magnetic Power
 - older group dismiss to LG if necessary
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship
- God's Big Story: The Role of the Holy Spirit
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Closing Game: Follow Through the Hoops





LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

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SCRIPTURE: Luke 11; John 14; Galatians 5

WORD OF WONDER: From Acts 1:8

I can get lost backing out of my own driveway.

I've been lost in dozens of cities, including my own. I once made a wrong turn in Detroit and ended up in Canada. You know you're navigationally challenged when you land in the wrong country.

So, I welcome having a guide along for the ride. It's helpful ... if I listen. And there's the rub: Guides are lifesavers only if you follow their guidance.

Pause now to read John 14:16–18, Luke 11:9–13, and Galatians 5:16.

Did you notice? God promises the Holy Spirit will guide you in all the ways that matter most—moment by moment, aiming you at truth, pointing you toward God. You just need to listen.

Through this lesson, your kids will discover that as Jesus-followers, they're not alone as they figure out life. A loving guide is traveling with them—in them—directing their life's journey into eternity.

That's good news for your kids—and you. What a relief to know that although you might not be able to locate that coffee shop, you can be confident of finding heaven.

- What turns might the Holy Spirit be nudging you to take in life?
- How can you discern the Holy Spirit's voice?
- What might today look like if you invited the Spirit to speak to you now ... and you listened?

—Mikal Keefer

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus taught His disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit; in fact, the Spirit is available to all the children of God. This is the Spirit of God—the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)—who is God’s own presence with God’s people.

WHAT?

Jesus said He wouldn’t leave His disciples behind like children without their parents. He would send the Holy Spirit to be their helper and to live inside them. The Spirit guides God’s people, showing them the right ways to live and how to best display Jesus to the world.

WHERE?

Physically, Jesus departed to join His Father in heaven. But strictly speaking, God isn’t removed from human affairs in heaven. Rather, God is present in all of heaven and earth, and God even dwells within Jesus-followers through the Holy Spirit.

WHEN?

In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God was available to select individuals like prophets, priests, and kings. What was previously a temporary empowerment from God is now a constant presence and asset to all Jesus-followers because they are united to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.

CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY:

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God. That means that the Spirit who fills Jesus-followers is fully God, the same powerful God who was present at creation, who guided the people of Israel, and who raised Jesus from the dead.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11; John 14; Galatians 5

WORD OF WONDER: From Acts 1:8

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: magnets (several), small magnetic items (such as paper clips and small metal toys), cookie sheets (several), puzzles, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [The Role of the Holy Spirit Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?

Play Station: Magnet Play

Set up: Set out magnets, magnetic items (such as paper clips and small metal toys), and cookie sheets. Watch carefully to ensure the kids don't put small objects in their mouths.

Play: Let the kids play with the magnets and move them around on the cookie sheets. They can make various designs. Encourage them to use one magnet to "guide" the small metal items around the cookie sheet.

Play Station: Puzzles

Set up: Set out a variety of puzzles.

Play: Invite the kids to help one another as they put the puzzles together.

Play Station: The Role of the Holy Spirit Coloring Sheet

Set up: Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheet and set out coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids could also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone helping them.

Curiosity Activity: Hot or Cold

SUPPLIES: Bible

Ahead of time, hide a Bible in the room.

I have hidden a Bible somewhere in the room, and I need someone to help find it. I'll say, "cold" when you're far from the hidden Bible, and I'll say, "hot" when you're very close to it. I might even give you the clue "warm" if you're getting closer to finding it. Play several rounds and encourage different kids to find the Bible each time.

Finding the hidden Bible was a little tricky! How hard do you think it would have been without having help to guide you to it? Allow the kids to respond. It reminds me that sometimes we might need help or might feel lost or confused in life. Sometimes we might not know what to do. But we're not alone. God gives us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. The Holy Spirit is God's wise, powerful, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit helps us in many ways. Today we're going to learn how the Holy Spirit helps and guides us.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, beanbags (at least 3), bucket

WORD OF WONDER

The Holy Spirit gives us power.

—from Acts 1:8

Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series is from Acts 1:8. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.

Today we learned that God sent the Holy Spirit to guide Jesus' followers. The Holy Spirit gives us power to obey God and follow His ways. What's something you need help with? Allow kids to respond. Offer your own suggestion if kids need help (examples: following rules at home, being kind to one another, being brave when I'm afraid, etc.).



We can ask God to help us with many things, and He loves to help us! Jesus said that God will give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks because God is our Father in heaven. And God gives good gifts like a father giving good gifts to his kids. And the Holy Spirit will be our helper and our guide.

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

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT**—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.
- **GIVES US**—Point to yourself.
- **POWER.**—Flex your arm muscles.
- **FROM ACTS 1:8**—Hold your hands together as if opening a book.

Let's practice the verse by playing a beanbag toss game. You'll need someone to help and guide you as you toss the beanbag into the bucket. First, say the verse with me: The Holy Spirit gives us power.

You'll try to toss beanbags into a bucket. Each time you toss the beanbag, say part of the verse:

Toss 1: **The Holy Spirit**

Toss 2: **gives us**

Toss 3: **power.**

The next time you do it, you'll toss the beanbags with your eyes closed and someone will help and guide you over to the bucket so you can toss it right into the bucket. Encourage the kids to take turns closing their eyes while tossing the beanbag as you help guide them with your hands or your words.

Make It Inclusive: For kids who struggle with coordination or large motor skills (or who are visually impaired), offer an individual bucket right in front of them, and let them toss bean bags on their own as they stand right over the bucket.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What does the Holy Spirit give us power to do?** (obey God and to become more like Jesus, share His story)
- **What do you need the Holy Spirit's power and help with today?**

Craft: Holy Spirit Puzzles // Read the Story

SUPPLIES: construction paper (1 sheet per kid), glue sticks

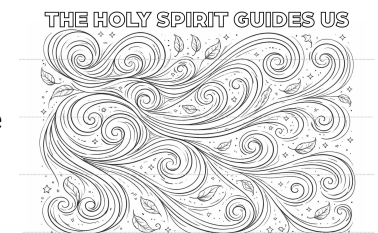
RESOURCES: Puzzle Picture (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print a Puzzle Picture for each kid. Cut into fourths along the dotted lines and prepare a small baggie with a puzzle for each kid.

Give each kid a prepared puzzle bag and a piece of construction paper. Instruct them to pull out their puzzle pieces and put them together.

We're learning today that the Holy Spirit is our helper, our guide, our teacher, and our friend. When we trust in Jesus, we're not alone. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us. When we face hard things, the Holy Spirit can give us wisdom and power.

Now you have pieces to a puzzle. What happens if I take away some of your pieces and tell you to put the puzzle together? Take away a piece from several kids. Pause to allow them to respond. You need help to see the whole picture and solve the problem. You need all the pieces just like we need the Holy Spirit to help us live for God and become more like Him. The Holy Spirit makes our hearts whole and new when we trust in Jesus. Give back the puzzle pieces. Color your puzzle pieces as I tell you today's story.



Today's story comes from the Bible when Jesus was talking to His friends before He went back to heaven. Jesus wanted them to know they would not be alone. He promised to send them a Helper who would always be with them. Jesus also taught them how to talk to God and trust Him.

Jesus said He would ask God to send the Holy Spirit to be with His followers forever. The Holy Spirit would help them and stay with them.

Say this with me: Jesus sends the Holy Spirit *Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.*

Jesus told His friends that they could talk to God anytime. He said to ask, seek, and knock, and God would listen and answer.

Knock gently on the table or floor

Say this with me: I can ask God. *I can ask God.*

Jesus said that God is a good Father who gives good gifts to His children. And the best gift God gives is the Holy Spirit.

Say this with me: God gives good gifts. *God gives good gifts.*

The Holy Spirit is with us and helps us every day.

Say our Wonder Truth with me: The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us. *The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us.*

Put your puzzles together on your construction paper and glue them onto the paper. You can take your pictures home to help you remember that the Holy Spirit helps and guides us!

Circle Time: Magnetic Power

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), magnet, paper clips

RESOURCES: Circle Time Question Cards (1 set/SG)

Ahead of time, print the Circle Time Question Cards and cut apart the cards. Put a paper clip on each card.

We're learning how the Holy Spirit can help and guide us. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside people who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and helps us choose not to sin. The Spirit also changes us so that we want to do the things that please God. The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and helps us become more and more like Jesus. As we listen to the Holy Spirit and let the Spirit guide us, we get closer with God.

Do you know what a magnet is? Allow kids to respond. Magnets stick close to something that is magnetic. The magnet can guide the paper clip, kind of like how the Holy Spirit is close to us and guides us.

Who was changed by the Holy Spirit and wrote about the Holy Spirit in today's part of God's big story?	Who does the Holy Spirit live inside?	Why did the disciples need the Holy Spirit?	Share about a time when you needed help and someone helped you.
How does the Holy Spirit help us?	What can we do when we need help from the Holy Spirit?	What do you need the Holy Spirit to help you with?	
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LESSON 3 CIRCLE TIME QUESTION CARDS EARLY CHILDHOOD			

Gather the kids to sit in a circle and take turns using a magnet to pick up a card from the circle by touching the magnet to the paperclipped part of the card. Read the question from each card and discuss with the kids.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who was changed by the Holy Spirit and wrote about the Holy Spirit in today's part of God's big story?** (Paul)
- **Who does the Holy Spirit live inside?** (Jesus' disciples, people who trust in Jesus)
- **Why did the disciples need the Holy Spirit?** (to share the story of Jesus with others)
- **Share about a time when you needed help and someone helped you.**
- **How does the Holy Spirit help us?** (changes us to be more like Jesus, speaks to our hearts and helps us choose not to sin, changes us so that we want to do the things that please God, helps and guides us)
- **What can we do when we need help from the Holy Spirit?** (pray and ask for help, listen, read the Bible)
- **What do you need the Holy Spirit to help you with?**

When you need help, you can always ask God for help. He gives us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us, just like the Holy Spirit guided the disciples to share the story of Jesus with others. Let's talk to God now in prayer.

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.

Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and 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 and then 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 above, making a path in front of you.

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

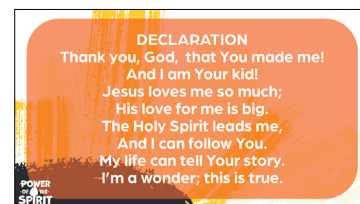
March in place like you're following the leader.

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, shake your fingers and celebrate (praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to us. We're grateful that we can be helped and guided by the Holy Spirit. Please help us listen to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit helps us. Let's sing and thank God for the Holy Spirit! Play songs Take You at Your Word, Happy Day and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible; Bible Story Picture (optional)

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.)*

Hold up your Bible.

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the books of Luke, John, and Galatians in the Bible. Those books are in the New Testament.

Read the Read the Experience It Script on the following page.

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: marker, paper (5 sheets)

Ahead of time, use a marker to draw simple pictures of the following onto sheets of paper: a gift box, a smiley face, a heart, a cross, and an arrow.

Leader Tip: For older kids, you can give paper and markers (or whiteboards and dry-erase markers) to each kid and invite the kids to help draw pictures as you tell the story.

For this story, you can be helpers to guide us as we look at pictures to show different parts of the story. I'll call on a helper at different points in the story.

In this series, we're learning about the Holy Spirit—God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit first came to Jesus' followers on a holiday called Pentecost. The Holy Spirit gave all of those people power to share God's story with others.

The Holy Spirit still gives followers of Jesus power to tell His story today. But the Spirit doesn't only help Jesus' followers share the message with others, it also helps and guides them each day. Before Jesus went to heaven, He told His disciples that He would not leave them alone. He said that the Holy Spirit would come to them and live inside them. Jesus said the Spirit would be their helper and guide. Invite a kid to come hold up the smiley face picture. The smiley face reminds us that we won't be alone. The Holy Spirit comes to be our friend and helper.

All people can become Jesus' disciples if they trust in Jesus. Jesus said that God will give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks because God is our Father in heaven. And God gives good gifts like a father giving good gifts to his kids. Call on a kid to be the "helper" and hold up the gift picture for everyone to see. That kid will stay there for the rest of the story. The gift picture reminds us that God gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside people who trust in Jesus.

One of Jesus' followers, named Paul, said that when the Holy Spirit lives in us, the Spirit changes us to be more like Jesus. Paul was changed by the Holy Spirit too! He wrote that sometimes we want to sin—to do wrong things that hurt our relationship with God. Because the Holy Spirit is God, the Spirit knows what we should do at all times. Invite another kid to come up and be a helper by holding up the heart picture. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and helps us choose not to sin. The Spirit also changes our heart so that we want to do the things that please God. We don't want to do things that keep us from Him. The heart picture reminds us that the Holy Spirit helps our hearts obey God and do what He wants.

The Holy Spirit changes our hearts and helps us become more and more like Jesus. As we listen to the Holy Spirit and let the Spirit guide us, we get closer with God. We become more like Jesus. Invite a kid to come be a helper by holding up the cross picture. The cross picture reminds us that we can trust in Jesus, who died on the cross, rose again, and forgives our sins. The Holy Spirit is our helper, our guide, our teacher, and our friend. When we trust in Jesus, we're not alone. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us. Invite a kid to hold up the arrow picture. The arrow picture reminds us that the Holy Spirit helps direct us and guides us as we walk through life. When we face hard things, the Holy Spirit can give us wisdom and power. We can remember that the Holy Spirit helps and guides us.

Thank the helpers and collect the pictures.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

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

God is three persons but still one true God: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. God gives the Holy Spirit as a gift to every Jesus-follower. As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us. That means that the Spirit who fills Jesus-followers is fully God. The Spirit living in us is the same powerful God who was there when God created the world and who raised Jesus from the dead.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, and thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit who guides and helps us.

Let's pray and talk to God. Think of something you need God to help you with. Let's pause and pray together, and you can ask God for help with whatever you need help with. Pause and invite the kids to pray.

God, thank You for giving the Holy Spirit to guide us. Thank You for helping us and leading us. Help us follow and obey You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: God sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples, and He sends the Spirit to us too. May you always remember that the Holy Spirit will guide you and give you the power to do what He tells you to do. Always and at all times, God hears you and He loves you!

Closing Activity: Follow Through the Hoops

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoops (at least 4)

Today we learned from God's big story that God gives us the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit helps us and guides us. The Holy Spirit helped the disciples tell many people about Jesus, and He can help us be more like Jesus! Let's play a game of Follow the Leader. The leader is going to guide us through the hoops.

The hoops represent difficult things we face in life, where we may need God's help. What are some circumstances we may go through in which we would need help from the Holy Spirit? Allow the kids to respond. **The Holy Spirit can help and guide you through all of those hard things. Let's practice letting a leader guide and lead us as we go through the hoops.**

Choose volunteers to hold up the large plastic hoops so kids can walk through them, one after another. Have kids line up and follow the leader around the room, walking through the hoops.

To make it more challenging, the people holding the hoops can wiggle them, or the kids can hop or close their eyes while walking through the hoops.

Play multiple rounds and let different kids take turns being the leader.

VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO

While you wait for parents to arrive, bring out the Play Stations and play the God's Big Story video for review.

