

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: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other. —Acts 1:8

- PRE-SERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Ask, Seek, Knock Scavenger Hunt
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: A Puzzling Problem
- Welcome Question: When have you been to a new place for the first time?
- SMALL GROUP
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Take You at Your Word, You Have Overcome
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Worthy of it All
- Blessing Your Kids



INVITATION

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

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WORD OF WONDER: 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.

LESSON 3 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us

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WORD OF WONDER: Acts 1:8

As kids arrive...

20 minutes before service begins, leaders are in place ready to welcome kids.

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. Be intentional about introducing yourself to new parents and kids.

SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP

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

OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Ask, Seek, Knock Scavenger Hunt

SUPPLIES: writing utensils (1 per kid), box or bag, stickers or other small prizes (1 per kid)

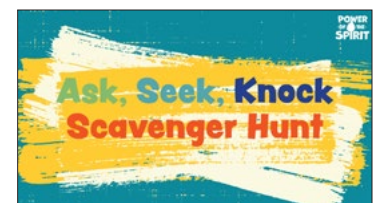
RESOURCES: Scavenger Hunt Sheet (1 per kid) *By Request

Before kids arrive, print one copy of the Scavenger Hunt Sheet for each kid. Put the prizes in a box or bag. Without the kids knowing, ask a volunteer leader to take the box or bag of prizes and stand on the other side of a closed door. When the time comes and the volunteer hears a kid knocking persistently on the door, she can open the door and give a prize to each kid.

Display the Ask, Seek, Knock Slide and gather the kids. **What happens when you knock on the door of someone's house?** Allow kids to share answers. **Yes! Usually someone answers! Today we'll learn that when we ask Jesus for help, He will give it to us through the Holy Spirit. When we ask, seek, and knock, God answers!**

Let's spend a few minutes helping each other complete the Ask, Seek, Knock Scavenger Hunt! This activity is about having lots of fun, asking for help, and seeking guidance! One detail you must know: It cannot be done alone! Give each kid a Scavenger Hunt Sheet and a writing utensil.

Read all the tasks on the sheet together before the kids begin. (Wait until later to read the last line on the bottom of the page.)



Make It Inclusive: Invite kids to simplify the activity by writing only the first letter of each answer on the lines. For example, if a friend says, “Hello” in Spanish, they can simply write an “S” on the line. Very young kids or kids with learning challenges who are not able to write letters can simply draw a smiley face next to each task they complete.

Encourage kids to interact, share answers with one another, and complete the tasks in any order. When the group is almost finished with the challenges, read the last line of the page aloud: **When you’re finished asking and seeking, please sit down and wait patiently for a reward!**

When all the kids are seated, continue. **Wow! That was so much fun! Each of you was so incredibly diligent to Ask, Seek, and ... Knock? Wait, did we knock?** Pause for kids to answer. **I think I’m going to need one of you to help get everyone’s prizes!**

Choose a kid and ask her to knock on the door and wait for it to open. You may want to have her knock persistently several times! Encourage her not to give up knocking! When the volunteer leader opens the door and comes in with the prizes, celebrate and cheer. Encourage the kids to thank the volunteer and to enjoy their good gifts!

Display the Holy Spirit Wonder Truth Slide. When you asked your friends for help during the scavenger hunt, what did they do? Pause for responses. **Yes! They helped you. There’s someone else who loves to help us too—God! God cares about us and gives us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. Today’s Wonder Truth is THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES US.**



Make It Inclusive: When children struggle to focus, understand, or follow instructions, pair them with a peer helper or ensure they’re seated near a leader who can offer encouragement and assistance throughout the lesson.

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: A Puzzling Problem

SUPPLIES: puzzles (1 or more, with original boxes), gallon-size resealable baggies (1 per puzzle), permanent marker (prep only), cardstock (optional), scissors (prep only, optional), quart-size resealable baggies (1 per 3–5 kids, optional)

RESOURCES: **Puzzle Sheets (1 per 3–5 kids) *By Request**

Ahead of time, gather store-bought puzzles. If your group is large, you’ll need one 50–100-piece puzzle for every 3–5 kids. If your group is small and you plan on having all the kids work together, you’ll need one 100–300-piece puzzle. Place the pieces for each puzzle in a gallon-size resealable bag and set the boxes nearby but out of sight. Be sure to number the baggies and their corresponding puzzle boxes so you remember which box belongs with the pieces in each bag.



Leader Tip: Second-hand and thrift stores are great places to find puzzles at discounted prices!

Alternatively, print a copy of the Puzzle Sheets for every 3–5 kids. (Do not print two-sided.) Cut apart the puzzle pieces on page one, shuffle them, and place them in a quart-size resealable baggie. Every small group of 3–5 kids will need their own set of puzzle pieces. Set the copies of Puzzle Sheets page 2 in a separate pile, face down so kids can't see the image on them.

Display the **A Puzzling Problem Slide** and gather the kids. If you plan on having kids play this game in smaller groups, help them form groups of 3–5 and give each group a baggie filled with puzzle pieces. **Let's play a game called A Puzzling Problem.** Hold up a baggie filled with puzzle pieces. **Your job is to put a puzzle together as quickly as possible. Let's get started!** If everyone is playing the game together, dump the pieces



out on a table or the floor and invite all the kids to gather around and begin. If kids are working in small groups, invite them to start their puzzles. Do not let them see the puzzle boxes or images of the final puzzles. After about 30 seconds, interrupt them: **Would any of you like a little help?** Pause for kids to respond. **OK. I'm going to give one person the image of the completed puzzle. They can't show it to the rest of you, but they can help and guide you by describing what the final picture looks like.** If everyone is working together, invite one kid to come up and receive the box for that puzzle. If kids are in small groups, invite one representative from each group to come up to receive their puzzle box (or alternatively, the second page of the Puzzle Sheets). The representative(s) can describe the final image and guide their friends by telling them where each piece should go. They may not show the picture to the rest of the group until the puzzle is complete.

Leader Tip: If kids are taking longer to complete the puzzle than planned, that's OK. Set the partially completed puzzle aside for the time being and allow kids to return to it at the end of the lesson. Some kids might even invite family members to help finish it during pick-up time.

Gather the kids back together. Ask these questions, pausing after each for kids to share:

- **What was the hardest part of this game?**
- **What happened when one person got to see the final picture?**

Display the **Holy Spirit Wonder Truth Slide**. **Trying to put together a puzzle without knowing what it's supposed to look like was pretty hard! But when one person saw the final picture and was allowed to help, the game got a little easier (and probably more fun too!). God cares about us and doesn't leave us to figure out on our own the best way to live! He gives us the Holy Spirit to help and guide us. Today's Wonder Truth is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES US.****



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. **When we go to new places or have new experiences, we sometimes need help from an expert or a friend! Since each day holds new challenges and opportunities, God has given us someone to help and guide us. We will discover more about this amazing helper today. 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

Display the Holy Spirit Declaration Slide. 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.)

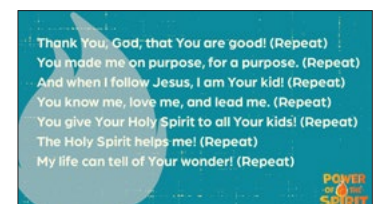
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

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

You give Your Holy Spirit to all Your kids! (Kids repeat.)

The Holy Spirit helps me! (Kids repeat.)

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



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, we love You. Thank You for always being a good Father who gives good gifts to His children. We can trust You and come to You with everything we need. Help us and lead us by Your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

Today we'll hear about how the Holy Spirit helps and guides us as we follow Jesus. Let's praise and thank God for the Holy Spirit! Play songs [Take You at Your Word](#), [You Have Overcome](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

[Display the Holy Spirit Title Slide.](#)

Today we are learning about a promise Jesus made and how it connects to the way we talk to God. As you watch, think about why Jesus calls the Holy Spirit a Helper and what it means that God gives good gifts to His children.

[Watch the God's Big Story Video.](#)



LESSON 3 THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: clear, empty disposable water bottle with the label removed; water; table; lab coat; safety goggles; food coloring (green works great!)

RESOURCES: [Wind Sound Effect](#) - [search for wind sound effect on Spotify](#)

Ahead of time, fill a clear, plastic water bottle about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water. Place its cap back on. Set the water bottle, table, lab coat, safety goggles, and food coloring to the side of the stage area. Note that the bottle of food coloring should be full or nearly full. The table should be small enough to move easily.

Make It Inclusive: If some kids struggle to focus or understand and follow instructions, pair them with a peer helper or offer them a seat near a leader who can encourage and help them as needed throughout the lesson.

Display slide 1 of the Experience It! Slides. **On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered upstairs in a house. Suddenly ...**

Display slide 2 and play the Wind Sound Effect.

... the house was filled with a sound like strong wind blowing in, and the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' disciples. They immediately went outside and started to share God's story with others.

Display slide 3.

The Holy Spirit empowered them to tell the story with great courage and even to speak in languages they had never learned. Many people believed God's story and became Jesus' disciples too.

Display slide 4, which is a plain black screen.

But the Holy Spirit's power doesn't end there. The Holy Spirit—God's powerful, wise, and loving presence—continues to empower us to tell Jesus' story today. But the Spirit doesn't only enable us to share the message with others. He also helps and guides us each day. Before Jesus went up to heaven, He told His disciples that He would not leave them behind like children without their parents. Instead, the Holy Spirit would come to them and live inside them.

Jesus told the disciples that the Spirit would be their **paraclete** (PAIR-uh-kleet).

Advance to slide 5, which is an image of a parakeet. **Not parakeet! Paraclete!**

Display slide 6, which is a black screen.

Paraclete is a title that refers to multiple things the Spirit does for us. First, paraclete means an "advocate," a person who defends someone else in a court of law, just like a ...

Display slide 7, which is an image of a lawyer. ... **lawyer!**

It also refers to a "counselor," someone who guides us, like a ...

Display slide 8, the image of a teacher. ... **teacher! The Spirit teaches us how to live.**



Finally, *paraclete* also means “helper.” The Holy Spirit defends us when we feel guilty, guides us in how we live, and helps us through our struggles.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit lives inside His disciples. All people can become Jesus’ disciples if they put their trust in Jesus and ask to receive God’s promise.

Place the lab table center stage. If needed, ask one or two volunteers to help you move it. Put on a lab coat and safety goggles. Place the water bottle in front of you on the table.

Let’s pretend this bottle is us. When we choose to trust and follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives.

Put one or two drops of food coloring into your bottle and swirl the water until the color is evenly distributed. Water should only be slightly colored.

Jesus said that God will certainly give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks because God is our Father in heaven. Human fathers love their children enough to give them good gifts. If a child asks for something to eat, her father will not offer her something that could hurt her. Because He is the best of fathers, God our Father will give the best gifts to those who ask.

The apostle Paul said that when the Holy Spirit lives in us, the Spirit begins to change us to be more like Jesus. Paul had personally experienced the Holy Spirit changing him from an enemy of Jesus to one of His most dedicated followers. Paul wrote that sometimes we want to sin, or do wrong things, that hurt our relationship with God. Because the Holy Spirit is God, the Spirit knows what we should do in every circumstance. The Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts and helps us resist our desires to sin. Add 1–2 drops of food coloring.

The Spirit also changes our desires over time so that we want to do things that please God rather than things that separate us from Him. Add 1–2 drops of food coloring. **If we listen to what the Spirit tells us, we won’t do those things that hurt our relationship with our Father in heaven.**

And over time, as we walk with Jesus, the Holy Spirit transforms our desires and helps us become more and more like Jesus. Add 1–2 drops of food coloring. Replace the bottle cap and swirl the water as you speak the next paragraph.

As we listen to the Spirit’s voice and follow the Spirit’s guidance, we will avoid sin and grow deeper in our relationship with God our Father. The Holy Spirit is our *paraclete*. The Spirit is our defender, our teacher, and our friend. The Holy Spirit helps and guides us.

Hold up the water bottle and admire how much different the water looks now than it did at the start of the story. Explain that this change is a bit like how we look more and more like Jesus, slowly and over time, with the Holy Spirit’s help and guidance.

Leader Tip: The kids in your ministry come from a variety of homes and families. Be particularly sensitive when sharing that God is our good heavenly Father and keep in mind that some kids have very few experiences or negative ones with father figures in their lives. Your consistent and caring presence shows kids the Father’s heart for them!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Holy Spirit Wonder Truth Slide. Our Wonder Truth today is **THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS AND GUIDES US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

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



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What do you think is the most amazing thing the Holy Spirit does in our lives? Allow kids plenty of time to think quietly before calling on anyone to answer. Consider sharing your own answer as well.

What amazing, powerful things can wind do? Allow kids to answer. **I'm filled with wonder when I think about the power of wind. Do you think the Holy Spirit is like the wind? How?** This is an abstract question. Some kids may grab onto the comparison, and others may not be ready to understand. That's OK! Give them all space to think and wonder.

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: WORTHY OF IT ALL

Blessing Your Kids

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: May you trust in the goodness of your heavenly Father and deeply desire all His good gifts. May you be filled with His Holy SpiritCso that the Spirit may help you and guide you all your life.