

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 disciple , helping them follow Him and share the good news! Jesus-followers today are filled with the same internal guide and help —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

- Welcome Question: When have you been to a new place for the first time?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- God's Big Story
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Lights On! Breath Prayers
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Prayer Path



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps and Guides Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11; John 14; Galatians 5

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

Small 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

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11; John 14; Galatians 5

WORD OF WONDER: Acts 1:8

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils, board games or games

[Games & Activities Guide](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **How do you usually figure out what to do when you're in a new place?**
- **When have you helped someone else who needed some guidance?**



Leader Tip: If there are kids visiting for the first time, invite others to share information they think will help their first-time friends, such as the order of service or even where the restrooms are.

Word of Wonder Activity

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 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Our Word of Wonder for the Power of the Spirit series are the words Jesus spoke to His disciples when He told them He was sending the Holy Spirit to help and guide them. Let's say the verse together. Open your Bible to Acts 1:8. Encourage kids to read Acts 1:8 several times together.

Wow! Jesus gave us an amazing job—to tell people everywhere about Him! We're going to practice sharing the Word of Wonder with each other the way the verse itself instructs us to share the good news of Jesus—we will start with the people near us and then share with those farther away.

Help kids pair up with someone sitting near them. **First, let's practice saying the verse to our partner. Partners, you can read along and help as needed if your partner gets lost or forgets part of the verse. Take turns sharing the verse until both of you can say some of it by memory.**

Leader Tip: For Preteens. Challenge kids to say the verse relay style with their partners. One kid starts the verse and stops somewhere in the middle; then her partner starts saying the verse from that point.

Once kids have shared the verse with their partners, invite everyone to find a new partner who is sitting a little farther away from them. **Now take turns practicing the verse with your new partner.** After a minute or two, have kids pair up with one more partner, this time choosing someone sitting even farther away from them. **Again, take turns practicing the verse with your new partner. This time, see if you can say it completely from memory!**

Once they've practiced saying the verse with their third partner, gather the kids together. Invite a couple of kids to share the Word of Wonder with everyone.

Leader Tip: Explain to kids that the disciples were in Jerusalem when they received the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Jerusalem was nearest to them, Judea and Samaria were a little farther from them, and the ends of the earth were very far! Saying the verse with three different partners reflects these distances.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), sticky notes (3 per kid)

Give each kid three sticky notes and guide them through finding these three passages in their Bibles: Luke 11, John 14, Galatians 5. Invite them to mark each one with a sticky note. Encourage leaders to help kids find the passages.

Acts 2 takes place during a Jewish festival called Pentecost, when many people from different nations were gathered in Jerusalem. The disciples were together when the Holy Spirit came in a powerful and visible way, just as Jesus had promised. This moment marks the beginning of the early church and the spread of the gospel to many nations. Peter then explains what is happening and clearly shares the message about Jesus. As you read, think about how the coming of the Holy Spirit changes the disciples and how people respond to the message about Jesus.

Invite kids to follow along as you read the following: John 14:16–20, Luke 11:9–13, and Galatians 5:16.

Leader Tip: Some kids love contributing to the lesson by reading aloud! This lesson includes three short passages, so choose three willing kids to read aloud as everyone else follows along.

Elementary Questions

- **Who is the Holy Spirit?** (Possible answers: The Holy Spirit is God; the Holy Spirit is our powerful, wise, and loving helper; the Holy Spirit is the presence of God who is with and in Jesus-followers.)
- **Who does God give the Holy Spirit to?** (All people who love and follow Jesus, including us!)
- **What are some things the Holy Spirit does?** (Possible answers: The Holy Spirit defends us when we feel guilty, guides us in how we live, and helps us through our struggles.)
- **Can you fill in the blank? The Holy Spirit helps us become more like _____. (Jesus)**
- **As followers of Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit! What is one way the Holy Spirit helps you?**
- **What would you like to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?**

God is our good Father who loves to give good gifts to His kids! If we love and follow Jesus, we are God's kids, and He gives us the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to help us and guide us. Let's ask the Spirit to do that right now!

Make It Inclusive: Open-ended questions can be difficult for some kids to answer. Consider modifying the questions into yes/no format or offering two answer choices for each.

Preteen Questions

- **The Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers at Pentecost. What did the Holy Spirit help the disciples do that day? What happened as a result?** (Share God's story with others and speak in languages they had never learned. Many people believed God's story and became Jesus' disciples too.)
- **Who does God give the Holy Spirit to?** (All people who love and follow Jesus, including us!)
- **As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is our paraclete. What does that mean?** (The Holy Spirit is our advocate who defends us, our counselor who guides us, and our helper who helps us through struggles.)
- **How did the Holy Spirit change the apostle Paul?** (The Holy Spirit changed Paul from an enemy of Jesus to one of His most dedicated followers.)
- **When we love and follow Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit! What is one way the Holy Spirit helps you?**
- **What would you like to ask the Holy Spirit to help you with this week?**

God is our good Father who loves to give good gifts to His kids! If we love and follow Jesus, we are God's kids, and He gives us the amazing gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit wants to help us and guide us. Let's ask the Spirit to do that right now!

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to share one area where they need the Holy Spirit's help. For example, they might need the Spirit's help getting along with a sibling, showing kindness to someone who is unkind to them, or having the courage to ask a teacher for help. Then encourage kids to pray for one another's requests, asking the Spirit to help the person they are praying for. Praying to the Holy Spirit might feel strange for some kids, but assure them that like Jesus and the Father, the Holy Spirit is fully God and hears our prayers!

Leader Tip: Explain to kids that 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, who is God, lives in us and is everywhere we are!

Elementary Responding in Worship: Lights On! Breath Prayers

SUPPLIES: flashlight or flameless tealights (1 per kid), paper, writing utensils, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Play “Holy Spirit” (Instrumental) from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#) quietly in the background during this activity.

If it’s feasible, turn off the lights. (For safety reasons and to prevent kids from becoming scared, avoid making the room pitch black.) **Have you ever been in a room that’s so dark you couldn’t see where you were going?**

Or maybe you’ve been outside on a very dark night. What happened?

Invite kids to respond. **It’s hard to know where we are going in the dark, but when we turn on the lights** (turn the lights back on), **we can see clearly again!**

God gives the Holy Spirit to every Jesus-follower, and the Holy Spirit leads and guides us. When we have a hard decision to make or are in a hard situation, the Holy Spirit helps us know what to do. The Holy Spirit’s help is a lot like turning the lights on in a dark room!

Sometimes life gets busy, and we can forget that the Holy Spirit is with us and ready to help us. One way we can stay connected to God throughout our days and remember that the Holy Spirit is with us is by praying a breath prayer. Does anyone know what a breath prayer is? Pause for kids to respond. **Yes! A breath prayer is a short prayer we say silently as we breathe in and out. It reminds us that God is with us and that the Holy Spirit wants to help us all day long. We can say a breath prayer at any point during the day, even while you’re doing other things!**

Let’s practice some breath prayers now, and as we do, I’ll turn the lights on every time we say the second part of the prayer. Slowly say the three breath prayers together. Turn the lights off as you say the “Breathe In” phrase and turn the lights back on as you say the “Breathe Out” phrase:

Breathe In: **Holy Spirit, ...**

Breathe Out: **You are with me.**

Breathe In: **Holy Spirit ...**

Breathe Out: **help me.**

Breathe In: **Holy Spirit ...**

Breathe Out: **guide me.**

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. If there are pre-readers in your group, have kids repeat each phrase after you rather than say them together.

Give each kid a flashlight or a flameless tealight and help them pair up with partners. Invite them to spend some time practicing breath prayers together. They can say the prayers that are on the slide, or they can create their own original breath prayers. As they pray, encourage them to turn their lights off as they breathe in and turn them back on as they breathe out.

After about 1–2 minutes, collect the lights and gather the kids together to worship. Play “Pour Your Spirit Out” from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and invite kids to move and dance to the music. Encourage kids to listen in their hearts for the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. What is the Spirit speaking to them? Set out paper and writing and coloring utensils for kids who would like to journal or draw their responses.

Leader Tip: If you have ribbon wands and/or handheld instruments, make them available for kids to use during this worship time!

Preteen Responding in Worship: Prayer Path

SUPPLIES: masking or painter’s tape, paper, writing utensils, coloring utensils, butcher paper (optional)

RESOURCES: [Prayer Path Sheets\(1/preteen SG\)](#), [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, print the Prayer Path Sheets. Use tape and/or butcher paper to create a prayer path along the floor or the wall. Tape the four Prayer Path Sheets to the path in order. If your group is large, print multiple sets of the sheets, each on a different color paper, and create multiple paths so that kids can spread out during the activity.



Have you ever been hiking or biking on a path? What was it like? What would have happened if you had wandered off the path? Invite responses and conversation. **A path helps us stay on track so that we get where we need to go without getting lost! Similarly, when we love and follow Jesus, God gives us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. We face difficult situations and decisions every day, and the Holy Spirit helps us stay on the best path.**

Let’s spend some time talking with God now as we travel this prayer path. Point to the prayer path you’ve prepared. Show kids each stop along the path and invite them to spend time at each. Explain that they can move from stop to stop at their own pace. Set out paper, writing utensils, and drawing utensils for kids who would like to journal their thoughts and prayers.

Invite kids to start at Prayer Path Stop 1. Play “Holy Spirit” (Instrumental) from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#) quietly in the background as they pray. When everyone has visited all four stops, gather all the kids for a time of worship. Play “Pour Your Spirit Out” from the [Power of the Spirit Elementary Spotify playlist](#) and invite kids to sing along, pray quietly, or continue journaling their thoughts and prayers.

Make It Inclusive: Have an adult or youth leader at each prayer station to read the Prayer Path Sheet aloud for kids who struggle with reading or who need a little extra help staying on task during self-paced activities.