

LESSON 3

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Gives Us Power

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

Activity: Guiding Cars

Activity: Follow Through the Hoops

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Hot or Cold

Activity: Guiding Cars

SUPPLIES: toy cars

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We're going to talk about how God can help us, lead us, and guide us when we need help. Come see what we have today! Let's play with these cars and get curious. You can guide the cars around the room.

Provide toy cars for kids to share and move around. Help them guide the cars around the room. Let them navigate around natural obstacles in the room. Ask whether they're getting stuck anywhere or if they need help. Guide them toward parking their cars against the wall out of the way when you're ready to move on to the next activity.

Activity: Follow Through the Hoops

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoops (several)

Today we'll learn from God's big story that God gives us the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit can guide us. The word guide means help and lead. The Holy Spirit can help us be more like Jesus and obey Him. Let's play a game like Follow the Leader with hoops. The leader is going to guide us through the hoops.

The hoops are like the hard things we face, where we may need God's help. What are some times when you need help? Allow the kids to respond. If kids are struggling to come up with ideas, give them examples such as when they're sick, sad, or need help obeying the rules or being kind. **Let's go through the hoops and think about how the Holy Spirit helps us and guides us. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence.**

Choose volunteers to hold up the large plastic hoops so kids can go through them, one after another. They may not have the physical coordination to step over the hoops at this age and may need to crawl through them or hold someone's hand while walking through them. Lead the kids one at a time through each hoop. **It was easier to go through the hoops when you had a leader and helper to guide you. We'll learn today about how the Holy Spirit leads and guides us.**

Our Wonder Truth today is: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER.

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—Move arms up and in a circle in front of your body, palms facing out.

HELPS AND—Give yourself a hug.

GUIDES US—Bring arms down from above and make a path in front of you.

Worship

Today we'll learn about how the Holy Spirit helps us. Let's sing and thank God for the Holy Spirit! Play songs from the LL Spotify Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Gather kids to watch the God's Big Story Video, then circle up for a short review:

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about when God sent a special gift to Jesus' followers. We'll learn about the Holy Spirit. Encourage the kids to say, "Holy Spirit." Let's find out from the Bible what happened.

I'll lead you as I tell this story, and you follow my lead and do what I do. Before Jesus went to heaven, He told His disciples that He would not leave them alone. The Holy Spirit was coming to be with them. The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. Stand up and walk in place and say "The Holy Spirit came" with me. Stand up and walk in place. Invite the kids to follow your lead and repeat after you.

Jesus' promise happened. The Holy Spirit came to live inside of Jesus' followers and helped them share God's story with others. Put your hands at your mouth like you're sharing a secret or message with others. Invite the kids to follow your lead and do the same.

The Holy Spirit helps Jesus' followers obey God and do what He wants. The Holy Spirit helps people become more like Jesus and teaches us what God is like. Put your hands at your ear like you're listening. Invite the kids to follow your lead and do the same.

God gives the Holy Spirit to live in everyone who trusts in Jesus and follows Him. The Spirit will always help us when we need help. Put your hands together in a praying hands position and invite the kids to do the same. The Spirit guides us each day to become more like Jesus.

Repeat the motions

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Thank you for the world so sweet. kids repeat

Thank you for the food we eat. kids repeat

Thank you for the birds that sing. kids repeat

Thank you God for everything. kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

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.

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.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God.

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 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!

Activity: Hot or Cold

SUPPLIES: Bible

Ahead of time when the kids aren't looking, hide a Bible somewhere in the room.

I need your help! The Bible is hidden, and you can help find it. I'll guide you by giving you clues. I'll say, "hot" if you're close to it and "cold" if you're far away. Play Hot or Cold as the kids search for the hidden Bible. Young toddlers may need more assistance. When they find it, cheer and clap.

You needed help finding the Bible. You listened as I guided you, and you found God's Word—the Bible! The Holy Spirit helps us know God and be closer to Him. The Holy Spirit helps us obey God and live the way He wants. We can thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us.