

The Holy Spirit

Adults and Teens:

Read about the coming of the Holy Spirit in your bible. The account is in the book of Acts, Chapter 2.



The Holy Spirit and Prayer

Pray the Prayer to the Holy Spirit together. Pray it often.

Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and
they shall be created.
And you will renew the face
of the earth.

Let us pray.

Lord,
by the light of your Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit
help us to be truly wise and
always to rejoice in your consolation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Be sure to do the “Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.” If time permits select from among the other “faith learnings” what works best for your family.



For Families with Young Children

A basic understanding of the Trinity is necessary before talking about the Three Persons, including the Holy Spirit.

Make sure your child understands that the Trinity is a mystery. Even very holy people who are very close to God don't understand it because it is something that we can't understand with our limited human minds.

A mystery is something that God wants us to know and believe. Explain that many people have used examples to try to describe what the Trinity is like. Saint Patrick used a shamrock with three separate leaves in one larger leaf. Some other ways to describe the Trinity use candles or an apple.

Use one of these ideas to demonstrate:

1. Place three candles on the table. Light one of the candles. From that candle, light the other two candles. Point out that two were lighted from one light; that there are three separate flames but they are all equal to one another. Then bring the three flames together to form one flame. There are still three flames, but they are mingled together into one flame.

2. Bring out an apple. There is the peel, the fruit we eat and the core. These are three distinct and different parts in one apple. An apple must have all three parts, there's no such thing as an apple without a peel, or without seeds, or without the fruit. In the same way, the Trinity means we must have the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Your child can begin to understand that the Trinity is a mystery that we can describe but not really understand, and that while each person of the Trinity is a separate individual, they all 'work together' - like the three flames mingle to make one flame.

Postcards

[Families with Young Children]

We know from the bible that Mary, the Mother of God was present in the Upper Room at the time of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Have your child create a postcard with a picture of Mary on the front of the card. On the reverse side, have them write what Mary might have said when the Holy Spirit as a tongue of fire came upon her.

Bible Verses

[All Ages]

Select a *few* verses. Using a bible, look up the verse.

Read each one loud.

What does the verse tell us about God's holy Spirit ?

Talk about this together as a family.

The Holy Spirit

...is the Source of Life

Genesis 1: 2

Psalms 104: 30

...is a Teacher and Guide

Psalms 143: 10

...is a Leader

1 Samuel 16: 13 - 14

...is God

John 4: 24

John 14: 16, 26

John 15: 26

1 Corinthians 6: 19

These verses tell us something about the third person of the Blessed Trinity.

Romans 8: 26

2 Corinthians 13:13

John 16: 13-14

If you have young children...



After reading the verse, have your child draw a heart on a piece of paper. Ask them to think about the “heart” of the verse. What is God trying to say to us in this verse ?

Images of the Holy Spirit

When you are in church...

There are three windows in our church that picture the Holy Spirit.

- **What are they ?**
 - **What role does the Holy Spirit have in each event pictured in the window ?**
 - **What mystery of is shown ?**
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Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The blessings of the Holy Spirit are often summarized in the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as described in Isaiah 11:2-3. These are the qualities of Jesus that take root in us and become our qualities.

Wisdom

The Spirit’s gift of Wisdom enables us to see things with God’s eyes. The gift of Wisdom helps us interpret life through the lens of Jesus Christ and his vision and teachings.

Understanding

The Spirit’s gift of Understanding enables us to understand God’s plan for our life and our world. The gift of Understanding helps us to interpret God’s plan for us in the daily events of our lives.

Right Judgment [Counsel]

The Spirit's gift of Right Judgment helps us to make good choices—to seek God's counsel, God's advice. Right judgments are made in light of God's laws.

Courage [Fortitude]

The Spirit's Gift of Courage enables us to see where our real strength lies: God is our strength. The gift of Courage enables us to face danger and overcome fear with confidence

Knowledge

The Spirit's Gift of Knowledge helps us to know which things are important and which are not. It helps us to know Jesus and what he teaches us.

Reverence [Piety]

The Spirit's Gift of Reverence helps us show our gratitude for all that God has done for us. It moves us to worship God, to offer God praise, to pray always in confidence.

Wonder and Awe in God's Presence [Fear of the Lord]

The Spirit's Gift of Wonder and Awe enables us to see the beauty of God's creation and the beauty in each person we meet.

Read through the descriptions of the gifts and as a family take a few minutes to talk about them.

- Which gifts does your family already possess ?
- How can you share these gifts with your family, friends and others in the community ?
- Which gift do you need to develop ?
- How can you grow in that particular gift ?

Pray to the Holy Spirit knowing that the Spirit hears you !

Living in the

Spirit

**I will be open
to the**

Holy Spirit in my life
