

Lesson 12: Who is the Holy Spirit? (Meeting the Third Person of the Truth)

Opening Reflection

(Please read this over with your child to begin to think about what they are going to be learning today)

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended to lead them "to all truth" as the apostles built up the Church all over the world. However, the Holy Spirit (like God the Father and God the Son) has no beginning or end; he was present at Creation, has worked throughout salvation history, enters us at Baptism, and seals each person at Confirmation with an indelible mark, empowering him or her with all that is necessary to accomplish the task God has in store.

Opening Prayer

A litany is a type of prayer used to meditate on a particular theme, such as the names of Christ or the saints. A leader says a line, and the people respond, usually with, "Have mercy on us" or, "Pray for us." In this Litany to the Holy Spirit, we will contemplate the various names for the Holy Spirit in order to help us think about who he is. I will lead, and you simply respond to each prayer by saying, "Have mercy on us." In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Promise of God the Father, have mercy on us.
 Ray of heavenly light, have mercy on us
 Author of all good, have mercy on us
 Source of heavenly water, have mercy on us
 Consuming fire, have mercy on us
 Ardent charity, have mercy on us
 Spiritual unction, have mercy on us
 Spirit of love and truth, have mercy on us
 Spirit of wisdom and understanding, have mercy on us
 Spirit of counsel and fortitude, have mercy on us
 Spirit of knowledge and piety, have mercy on us
 Spirit of the fear of the Lord, have mercy on us
 Spirit of grace and prayer, have mercy on us
 Spirit of peace and meekness, have mercy on us
 Spirit of modesty and innocence, have mercy on us
 Holy Spirit, the Comforter, have mercy on us
 Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, have mercy on us
 Holy Spirit, who governs the Church, have mercy on us
 Gift of God, the Most High, have mercy on us
 Spirit who fills the universe, have mercy on us
 Spirit of the adoption of the children of God, have mercy on us

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Challenge of the Week

Talk about the challenge from last week that is found on page 91. Talk about how the experience was or how they could keep the challenge up every week of their lives.

Dive in Story

Read the story on page 106 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talking points:

- What country is this story talking about?
 - Indonesia
- What are we called to be people of?
 - People of life-giving waters
- What gifts are you using to help others?
 - “The gifts from God” are ones that we each have and are all different. Talk about how you can use these gifts to help others and be the best person that you can be.

Who is the Holy Spirit? – with Deacon Burke-Sivers

Video Segment 1: Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Play video the following video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmVF5AZ3gWs>

Talking points after the video:

1. What are some images (or symbols) traditionally related to the Holy Spirit? What do they teach us about the Holy Spirit?
2. Deacon Burke-Sivers says the Holy Spirit can come in powerful or subtle ways. What are some of the quiet ways we can experience the Holy Spirit in our lives?

Video Segment 2: Our Guide and Map

Play video the following video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo1HLinkjEI>

Talking points after the video:

1. What are some ways that you think the Holy Spirit “animates” the Church?
2. How does the Holy Spirit act as our “map”? What are some ways we can “access” that map?
3. What is one thing you can do to open your heart more fully to the grace of the Holy Spirit every day?

Video Segment 3: The Holy Spirit in Your Life

Play video the following video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxbwVxz3QYg>

Talking points after the video:

1. Which Person of the Blessed Trinity do you find it easiest to talk to?
2. When might you choose to pray directly to the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

****ANSWER KEY FOR ALL SEGMENTS IS BELOW**

To the Heart with Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

Read the story on page 108 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talk points:

- What kinds of decisions are you facing right now that you could bring to God in prayer to help you make the right choice?
- Find It!
 - What does *ruah* mean in ancient Hebrew? (HINT: Read Genesis 1:2)

Hero of the Week

Read the Saint story on page 110 together, and then talk about what you read.

Talk points:

- When she was 13, she saw a bright light and heard a voice. The voice called her "Joan the Maid" and told her to live a virtuous life. Voices came more often and gave instructions that she was to fulfill and told her that God will be with you.
- Joan later identified the voices as belonging to the archangel Michael and the saints Margaret of Antioch and Catherine of Alexandria. At any rate, Joan's voices impelled her to attempt unthinkable tasks; she would rather die than deny them.
- It is through listening to the "voices" and "instructions" that she devoted herself to putting her trust in her relationship with God and trust in the Holy Spirit and knew she would be able to fulfill these instructions even if it meant she would die for her faith.

Challenge of the Week

- Ask the confirmation student to read the challenges on page 111 and choose one of the three to complete this week. Remind them to write about their experiences in the space provided.
- Read over the "Wrap-up" and the "What's the Word" sections of the workbook to review all the major words that have been mentioned throughout the lesson.

Closing Prayer

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Holy Spirit, you breathed life into every person here, and you make us strong when we trust in you. Inspire us to look more deeply into our lives for signs of your life-giving presence. Give us the words we need this week to inspire and comfort the people you have placed in our lives. Help us to know you better, so we can be more open to your guidance and more aware of our need for you in everything we do. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LINK FOR KNOWLEDGE CHECK: <https://forms.gle/GAUsfyBu3NweUnU6A>

Answer Key:

Segment 1:

1. Father, Son
2. A. Earth

Segment 2:

1. Holy Spirit
2. Soul

Segment 3:

1. True
2. C. defender

Find it!

Wind or breath, specifically the breath of God, the Holy Spirit