

# Leader's Guide

## Let's Explore Our Faith Lesson 5 · God the Holy Spirit

### Aims:

- To discover who the Holy Spirit is and His work in the world, a person and the church
- To understand that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper
- To ask the Holy Spirit for help to know, be, and do what God wants

### Preparation:

- Read through the *Article of Faith 1.d.* (concerning God the Holy Spirit). *Editor's Note:* The ministry of the Holy Spirit and His relationship to Christians is extensive. Therefore, the *Article* itself is quite lengthy, and consequently this lesson. Try as we might to simplify key points, some of the concepts presented may be hard for some to understand. Note questions that come to mind. Any question(s) you have may be the same one(s) your students ask.
- Read the Scriptural basis for the *Article of Faith 1.d.*: Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:29; John 3:5-6; 14:16-18,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 13:2-4; 15:28; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 6:19-20; 12:4-11; 12:13; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 13:14; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:21-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 2:20-27
- Review the *Article* again. Highlight the connections between the key points of the lesson and the Scripture passages referenced.
- Prepare the student lesson.

### Needed:

- Student workbook, Bible and pencil for each student
- Copy(ies) of *MC Constitution* with *Articles of Faith and Practice*
- Marker board, markers and eraser
- Small Nerf or rubber ball
- Optional: poster board and markers

### Getting Started:

Begin your class with a short prayer. Ask God to help students understand what He wants to say to them about the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives.

Distribute *Student Workbooks*, Bibles and pencils. Students answer first question on page 1, telling some of the jobs or chores that need to be done around their house. **What are some of the jobs or chores that need to be done around your house? Of the people living in your house, who usually does each job?** Guide discussion to emphasize that different people often have different responsibilities or tasks.

Direct students' attention to the next statement. **Imagine that—God has jobs too!** Read the paragraph to review Persons of the Trinity. (*Answers: Father, Son, Holy Spirit*) Remember, the Trinity is a hard-to-understand concept, so don't get too sidetracked here. Review the specific jobs of the Father and Son, and then focus the students' attention on who we can understand more about, and that is the Holy Spirit and His work. (*Answers L-R: F, F, S, S, F, S, S, S*)

**So what do you think the Holy Spirit does? Let's list some of His jobs.** Volunteers respond. Accept all answers and write them on the board for reference later.

### Study:

Direct the students' attention to the *Article of Faith* paragraph in the workbook. Read Article 1.d. from the Constitution one phrase at a time as students follow along. Have students circle any words that are new to them. (Words printed in **bold** are listed in the *Glossary*.) Take time for students to discuss possible meanings for new terms they identify and look those up in the *Glossary*. Then discuss the paragraph, noting any concepts that may require more explanation during the study time.

Divide the class into four or five groups. Assign each group one of the truths related to the Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Truths 1 and 2 are shorter than the rest, and may be given to one group. If your class is

small, you may assign the sections to individual students or pairs of students. Ask students to read their assigned truths and fill in the section blanks using words from the Word Bank. The first letter of each word has been given to simplify the fill-in portion. Instruct students to look up the suggested Scripture. Help students in locating Bible verses or understanding meaning, if necessary. (Optional: Have the Bible verses for each section already printed on a sheet or on cards to save time looking them up.)

Truth 1. (Answers: *think, feel, choices, equal, God, power, honor, Holy Spirit*) The main point emphasized here is that the Holy Spirit is God. Truth 2. (Answers: *SIN—evil things they are doing, RIGHTEOUSNESS—good things they are not doing, JUDGMENT—punishment they will receive*) The main point of this truth is that the Holy Spirit teaches the world the truth about sin, righteousness and judgment.

Truth 3. (Answers: *tell, life, Pentecost, sent, believers, sin, God, trust, inside, alive, obey*) The main point is that the Holy Spirit indwells and regenerates believers. Then He helps them to obey Jesus.

Truth 4. (Answers: *e, c, f, b, d, a*) The main point of this truth is that the Holy Spirit helps believers know God better and receive power to do what is right.

Truth 5. (Answers: *church, brings, one, loves, works, worship, owns, serve, joy, goodness, grow, abilities, all, faith, prophecy, Word, lead*) The main point of this truth is that the Holy Spirit enables the church to live as united people of God and do Jesus' work in the world.

## Let's Review:

Have students do the mixed up review with a partner.

Answers: *God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is totally God, has always existed together with the Father and Son, and is equal with them in power and glory.*

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to be our Helper. The Holy Spirit works in the world to show people they have sinned, right living with God, and God's plan to save them from coming punishment. When a person turns away from sin to God and believes that Jesus, God's Son,

died for them, then the Holy Spirit comes to live inside. He makes them spiritually alive and gives them God's power to obey. And that's not all! As our Helper, the Holy Spirit also teaches, counsels, comforts and leads us; He helps us grow to be more like Jesus every day.

*The Holy Spirit also has important jobs in the church. He brings together the many believers in Jesus into one body of Christ, and He sets us aside to worship God. Not only that, but the Holy Spirit also provides what all believers need to serve God—special godly qualities called graces and spiritual gifts. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for helping us know, be, and do what God wants.)*

Emphasize the *Scripture to Learn*. To teach John 16:13 to students, play a game of Think Quick! Print the words of the verse on the board or a sheet of poster board. Have the students sit in a circle. Read the verse together several times. Start the game by tossing the ball to a child who must say the first word of the verse. That child tosses the ball to another child who must say the second word of the verse, and so on until all the words of the verse have been said. When the kids are familiar with the verse, erase or cover words or remove the poster to play the game repeating the words from memory.

## My Response:

Direct students' attention to the list of the Holy Spirit's jobs written at the beginning of class. Take a moment to analyze. **How many of the jobs on our list actually are jobs of the Holy Spirit according to the Bible? Is there any job the Holy Spirit does that surprises you? Which of the Holy Spirit's jobs do you find most helpful?** Allow students to complete sentence starters in the *My Response* section of their workbook. As they write, encourage students to reflect on specific benefits of the Holy Spirit as our Helper. As time permits, allow volunteers to share their answers with another person or the class.

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What are some of the jobs or chores that need to be done around your house?

Think of at least five. Write or draw your answers.

Of the people living in your house, who usually does each job?

Imagine that—God has jobs too!

Just as the different people living in your house do different jobs, the members of the Trinity have different jobs to do. Remember, the Bible teaches that God is a tri-unity—One God, yet three persons. Each of these three all-knowing, all-powerful and all-present Persons is completely God, has always existed together and is equal in the power and glory that belong to God.

Take a moment to fill in the blanks. We know them as:

God the F \_\_\_\_\_, God the S \_\_\_\_\_ and God the H \_\_\_\_\_  
S \_\_\_\_\_.

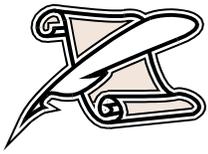
Each of them has specific jobs they do. In the last two lessons, we looked at what God the Father and God the Son do. **Read each phrase below. If the job best describes one the Father does, put an “F” on the line. If the job best describes one the Son does, put an “S” on the line.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Invented salvation      \_\_\_\_\_ Makes us His child      \_\_\_\_\_ Loves, provides, protects

\_\_\_\_\_ Prays for His people      \_\_\_\_\_ Reigns over all      \_\_\_\_\_ Always been a Father

\_\_\_\_\_ Speaks in our defense      \_\_\_\_\_ Gives new life      \_\_\_\_\_ Died for sins

That leaves God the Holy Spirit. Exactly what does the Holy Spirit do? Read on.



# Article of Faith

The fourth part of our *Article of Faith* about God lists several of the important truths that the Bible teaches about God the Holy Spirit.

*We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the triune God, proceeding from the Father and sent by the Son, is one **substance, majesty, and glory** with the Father and the Son, very and eternally God. His office and work is to reprove or **convict** the world of **sin**, of **righteousness**, and of **judgment**; to **regenerate** such as **repent** of their sins and **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ; to **sanctify**, and **endue** with power, teach, guide, and comfort the believer.*

*The Scriptures reveal the work of the Holy Spirit in the church to be that of **uniting** believers into the **body of Christ**, possessing it as the **temple of God**, equipping it with **gifts and graces** for service, giving it the body of inspired truth and imparting to it the spirit of **illumination** and guidance into all truth, and presiding over and guiding the church into the will of God.*

The truths found in this *Article* talk about who the Holy Spirit is, and as the third Person of the Trinity, what jobs He has.

**Use the words in the box to fill in the blanks. The first letter of the word has been given for you.**

## Truth 1. The Holy Spirit is...

Like God the Father and God the Son, the Holy Spirit is a Person with intelligence (He can t\_\_\_\_\_), emotion (He can f\_\_\_\_\_ joy, anger, etc.) and will (He can make c\_\_\_\_\_). Father, Son and Holy Spirit are e\_\_\_\_\_ in substance (all are by nature G\_\_\_\_\_), in

### WORD BANK

choices  
equal  
God  
power  
honor  
feel  
think  
Holy Spirit

majesty (all have the p\_\_\_\_\_ to rule as God) and glory  
(all have the h\_\_\_\_\_ of God's greatness).

**Read Acts 5:3-4.** In verse 3, Peter says that Ananias lied to the H\_\_\_\_\_  
S\_\_\_\_\_. In verse 4, Peter says he lied to God. Clearly, the Bible teaches that the  
Holy Spirit is God.

### Truth 2. The Holy Spirit's work in the world is...

**Read John 16:7-11.** Jesus said that when "the Counselor" (another name for the Holy Spirit) comes, He would convict or show the people of the world where they are wrong in three areas: sin, righteousness and judgment.

**Draw lines from the key words to the right definition.**

SIN

punishment they will receive

RIGHTEOUSNESS

evil things they are doing

JUDGMENT

good things they are not doing

This means that the Holy Spirit helps us to know we have sinned or done wrong things. He warns us of coming punishment because of our sin. He helps us understand that we can have a right relationship with God because Jesus died on the cross.

### Truth 3. The Holy Spirit's work in a person is...

**Read Acts 2:1-4.** As God's children, Jesus wants us to t\_\_\_\_\_  
others how they can receive God's free gift of eternal l\_\_\_\_\_  
through Him. It is the Holy Spirit's job to help. That's what He came  
to do on the day of P\_\_\_\_\_. Now the word *Pentecost*  
means fifty days. It had been fifty days since Jesus' resurrection. He  
had already gone back to heaven to be with the Father. On  
Pentecost, Jesus s\_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit to live in or **indwell**

#### WORD BANK

Pentecost

God

sent

tell

obey

trust

life

sin

inside

believers

alive

b\_\_\_\_\_. Now, when a person understands what the Holy Spirit teaches them about s\_\_\_\_\_, righteousness, and judgment, they must **repent** or turn away from sin to G\_\_\_\_\_. They must **believe** that Jesus Christ is God's Son and t\_\_\_\_\_ that His death paid the price for their sins. Then God the Holy Spirit comes to live i\_\_\_\_\_ them and **regenerates** or makes them spiritually a\_\_\_\_\_. He gives them God's power to o\_\_\_\_\_ and tell others.

**Truth 4. And that's not all. The Holy Spirit also works in a person's life to...**

As you can see, God the Holy Spirit plays a big part in the lives of those who believe in Jesus. **Discover what else the Holy Spirit does for us by matching the statements on the left with the verses on the right.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ He **sanctifies** or helps us grow to be more like Jesus each day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He **endues** or equips us with power to serve Jesus.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He teaches us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He counsels and comforts us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He guides us to understand God's truth.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He gives us spiritual birth.

- |    |             |
|----|-------------|
| a. | John 3:5    |
| b. | John 14:16  |
| c. | Acts 1:8    |
| d. | John 16:13  |
| e. | 1 Peter 1:2 |
| f. | John 14:26  |

**Truth 5. The Holy Spirit's work in the church is...**

**Use the word bank on the following page to finish these sentences.**

The Bible calls everyone who has believed in Jesus, the **body of Christ**. Another name for the body of Christ is the C\_\_\_\_\_. We will learn more about the church in later lessons. Right now, let's look at the Holy Spirit and the many important jobs He has in the church.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and Ephesians 4:3-4.** First, the Holy Spirit **unites** or

b\_\_\_\_\_ together the many believers in Jesus into o\_\_\_\_\_ body of Christ that l\_\_\_\_\_ and cares for each other, and w\_\_\_\_\_ well together.

**WORD BANK**

works  
Church  
worship  
joy  
loves  
brings  
abilities  
one  
provides  
grow  
owns  
word  
prophecy  
faith  
serve  
goodness  
all  
lead

**Read Ephesians 2:19-22.** Next the Holy Spirit possesses the church as the **temple of God**. Just like the temple in Bible times was set aside to w\_\_\_\_\_ God, all believers are set aside to worship God.

We belong to Him—He o\_\_\_\_\_ us!

The Holy Spirit also equips the church for service. He provides what all believers need to s\_\_\_\_\_ God by giving us two very special things.

The first is **grace**. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** Another name for the grace is *fruit of the Spirit*. These are love, j\_\_\_\_\_, peace, patience, kindness, g\_\_\_\_\_, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Just as a tree or plant bears fruit, when you g\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus, the Holy Spirit produces these special qualities in your life. When people see your *gracious* living, they know you belong to Jesus.

The second thing the Holy Spirit gives us is **gifts**. **Read 1 Corinthians**

**12:4-11.** Gifts are special a\_\_\_\_\_ the Spirit gives to

believers so the church can do the work of Jesus. Every believer has at least one gift. No believer has a\_\_\_\_\_ of the gifts. No one gift is given to every believer. The Bible lists many spiritual gifts. Wisdom, knowledge, f\_\_\_\_\_, healing, miracles, and p\_\_\_\_\_ are just some of the gifts the Spirit gives.

Finally, Holy Spirit guides the church into God's will. He helps believers understand God's W\_\_\_\_\_, the Bible, and is there to l\_\_\_\_\_ us in going the right way. He helps believers know, be and do what God wants.



## Let's Review.

To review who the Holy Spirit is and what He does, carefully read the summary below. Correct the mixed-up letters by crossing out the wrong letter, and writing the correct letter above it.

God the Holy Spirit is the shird lerson of the Trinity. He is totally Tod, has always qxisted together cith the Father and Son, and is equal with them in kower and glory.

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## Scripture to Learn.



“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13

## My Response.



Complete these sentence starters to tell what you would say about God the Holy Spirit.

One thing I didn't know before about God the Holy Spirit is...

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I know the Holy Spirit is...

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I need the Holy Spirit's help to...

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I thank the Holy Spirit for. . .

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