

Year 2 – Session 3

Family Faith Formation
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND YOU

Understanding the Holy Spirit and His Work

Resource for Adults:

- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit in Song. https://youtube/anoORG_2Psg (4:44/minutes)
- Fr. Robert Barron on *The Holy Spirit*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1INut0Gi09Q> (12:02minutes)
- *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*. (Pages 104-106)

Objectives for Adults:

- To increase our understanding of the Holy Spirit.
- To increase our understanding of the value of the Holy Spirit in guiding our lives.

Objectives for Children:

- To learn about the Holy Spirit as the third Person of the Holy Trinity.
- To learn how to recognize the effects of the Holy Spirit.
- To begin to understand how he guides our lives.

Objectives for Family:

- To talk about and make plans for using their gifts as individuals and as a family to serve others.
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Welcome / Introduce Theme: (5 minutes) Families begin together.

In this session we learn more about the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Holy Trinity and His important work in us and in our Church. We will also learn about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how we can see the effects of His life in us.

Opening Prayer (10 minutes)

Sign of the Cross

Scripture Reading - Galatians 4: 6-7.

“To show that you are his children God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who cries out, ‘Abba, Abba’. So then, you are no longer a slave but a child. And since you are his child, God will give you all that he has for his children.” (from the Catholic Children’s Bible, St. Mary’s Press)

Sharing

Baptism has made us children of God. Remember what we learned in previous lessons that we were baptized with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Take a few minutes to list on the gift box handout all that God has given you as children of God – individually and as a family. (Tell them to keep the gift box for the last part of the session.)

Enlarge this clip art box and put it on white or colored cardstock for them to write on and to bring home to place in a prominent place.



Glory Be . . .

*Children are dismissed to their session. (See children’s lesson.)

Parents/Adult Presentation (30-40 minutes)

Brainstorm pictures, words or phrases that come to your mind when you hear the words: Holy Spirit? (You may ask for a volunteer to write those down on the blackboard or a large poster paper.)

Go to the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* (pages 104-106) for more detailed information on how the Holy Spirit is revealed. Prepare this information as a handout. Explain this information to them. Invite them to explore further in the Catechism.

Play the Video Song on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (4 min. 44 secs.)

Question for Discussion: ***When in your life would you say you were inspired by the Holy Spirit? Which gifts of the Holy Spirit do you feel you have been blessed with?*** Share your response to the question with those around you.

Before showing the video by Fr. Robert Barron, ask the parents/adults to reflect on this question silently. They will not have to share. ***What are your priorities? Are they worldly priorities or godly priorities?*** (1 minute)

Play Fr. Robert Barron's video on the Holy Spirit. (12:02minutes)

Question for Discussion: ***What is one action of the Spirit in your life for which you are most grateful?***

Children Presentation (30-40 minutes)

You may wish to use a lesson from your parish program that brings these points out or use what we have provided.

Video (12 minutes) ***The Holy Spirit and You*** from Franciscan Communications.

Discussion about the movie and what they learned. You reinforce the key points. Use the pamphlet that comes with the video.

Using a kite or a pinwheel, discuss with the children how the wind makes the kite fly and the pinwheel spin even though you can't see the wind. Reinforce that the Holy Spirit works in the same way. We can't see the wind. The Holy Spirit works in the same way. We can't see the Holy Spirit, yet he helps us to make good choices each day as we follow Jesus.

Role Play (15 mins.)

Children will love to role-play different situations that you have written out on slips of paper for them to act out. Suggest that they invite the Holy Spirit to help them make the right choice in each of the scenarios. Discuss each choice.

1. A friend of yours suggests you take something in a store without paying for it...
2. Your parents ask you to help by making your bed and cleaning your room...
3. Someone asks you to give them your homework answers to copy...
4. You break your sister or brother's favorite toy and pretend not to know anything about it...
5. Your friends are laughing and saying mean things about someone on the bus and they ask why you are so quiet...

Sharing and Action Plan – Children and Parents together (15-20 minutes)

Parents ask their child, "In class today, you learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Can you name some of those gifts?" "What gift would you like to receive from the Holy Spirit at Confirmation?"

Using the back side of the Gift Box cut-out where they listed what God has gifted them with as individuals and as a family, ask them to discuss one or two concrete ways that they can use these gifts in the next few weeks. Write down one or two things you will do as a family.

When we meet again, we can share what we did and what happened. (ex. make a video; take selfies of this, etc. Be creative.)

Closing Prayer and Ritual (10-15 minutes)

Using 7 candles have a child come up and place one candle on the prayer table. The child names one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The child's parent reads the prayer that corresponds to the gift. Repeat this for each gift.

Wisdom

Parent: Lord, we ask for the wisdom to share the good news with others.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit.

Understanding

Parent: Lord, we ask for the gift of understanding to guide all our actions.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit.

Knowledge

Parent: Lord, we ask for the gift of knowledge that we may recognize the mysteries of our faith.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit.

Fortitude

Parent: Lord, we ask for the gift of fortitude, so we can always make choices that please you.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit.

Counsel

Parent: Lord, we ask for the gift of counsel so we can follow your plan for us.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit.

Piety

Parent: Lord, we ask for the gift of piety that we can know and love you better.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit.

Wonder & awe

Parent: Lord we ask for the gift of wonder & awe, that we may always respect your greatness.

All: Lord, send us your Spirit

Give out prayer cards to each participant with the Holy Spirit Prayer so they can take it home and learn it. Suggest praying it as a family each day at dinner or bedtime.

Come Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
Enkindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit,
Did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
We may be truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolations,
Through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.*

- **Dismissal**

Created by Ann Marie Clavette. If you have questions or need clarification contact her at Annmarie.clavette@portlanddiocese.org.