

Leaders' Guide, BS 7: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Goal: That the student would understand who the Holy Spirit is and understand some of the roles that the Holy Spirit has.

Scripture: Various, you will find it helpful to print out the last page so that everyone can see all the passages together.

Getting to know you:

Take some time to take personal prayer requests from each person and pray for one another. You can share a little vision about how we want to be a community that cares for one another.

Bible Discussion

Hook

The Holy Spirit is most like

- The Force (from Star Wars)
- A ghost
- A person
- All of the above
- None of the above

What is right or wrong about each of the answers?

The Force

Right: Powerful, Present Everywhere

Wrong: Impersonal

Ghost

Right: A Spiritual Being

Wrong: A Limited Being

A Person

Right: A Personal Being

Wrong: A Limited Being

One of the most misunderstood characters in the entire Bible is the Holy Spirit. We find the Holy Spirit all over the Scriptures from the first chapter of Genesis (1:2) to the last chapter of Revelation (22:17) we find the Spirit of God at work. However, He is often misunderstood and confused by Christians today.

From what you know...

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- And why did He come?

Allow them to answer and don't worry so much about getting all the right answers. Say, "let's read together a series of passages that tell us more about the Holy Spirit"

Book

John 16:7-14

*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, **the Counselor** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send **him** to you. When **he** comes, **he** will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 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. **He** will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*

John 14:16-17

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Counselor** to be with you forever--the **Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept **him**, because it neither sees **him** nor knows **him**. But you know **him**, for **he** lives with you and will be in you.*

Acts 1:8

*But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

1 Corinthians 3:16

*Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that **God's Spirit** lives in you?*

2 Corinthians 3:17

*Now **the Lord** is **the Spirit**, and where **the Spirit of the Lord** is, there is freedom.*

Rom 8:9-16

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by **the Spirit**, if **the Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you,*

your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead** is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **his Spirit, who lives in you.**

Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-- but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by **the Spirit** you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received **the Spirit of sonship**. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Look:

Give out the scripture page. Have them go back and circle or highlight each reference (pronouns or names) to the Holy Spirit in the preceding passages:

List the titles that are given to the Holy Spirit in these passages.

Counselor, Spirit of Truth, God's Spirit, the Lord, Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead (Spirit of God), Spirit of sonship

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
The Holy Spirit is God! (look especially at the 2 Corinthians passage) He is as fully God as the Father and the Son.
- What are the personal pronouns used for the Holy Spirit?
Him and He, as contrasted with the pronoun "it." The Spirit is a personal being with desires and emotions, just like the Father and the Son. He is not simply an impersonal force or power.

List below the roles or functions of the Holy Spirit that you have found in the passage?

Have them go back and underline what the passages say the Holy Spirit does
convict the world of guilt,

*will guide you into all truth,
will speak only what he hears,
will tell you what is yet to come,
will bring glory to Jesus,
be with you forever,
lives with you and will be in you,
comes on you and gives you power,
lives in you (listed about 6 times),
controls believers (as opposed to being controlled by the sinful nature),
leads believers,
testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

The work of the Holy Spirit is to:

manifest the active presence of God in the world.

Took:

- How does knowing that the living God who created the universe lives in you affect the way you think about your relationship with God?
- How does knowing that the living God who created the universe lives in you affect the way you want to live?
- Are there things you want to start doing or stop doing?

Prayer

Take a few minutes to pray and ask God to lead and guide you through His Spirit to make these things possible.

You make the call about whether to do this all together or have them all do so silently with you closing in prayer in the end

Announcements

Next week, we will continue to look at the person of the Holy Spirit as we look at the power available to Christians through the Holy Spirit. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in everyday life? How do I access the power of the Holy Spirit?

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