

The Holy Spirit is God

Week #1 (28th Apr 2024):

The Big Point: The Holy Spirit is God

God's Word: Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-31)

Memory Verse: But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26 (NIRV)

Application: I can know the Holy Spirit.

Series Aim: For kids to know the Holy Spirit.

Creative Video:  [God Sends the Holy Spirit \(Optional, repeated\)](#)

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY

♥ CENTRE YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

This series is all about the Holy Spirit! We may have heard "Holy Spirit" but never actually know much about Him. This series hopes to help kids know and understand more of the Holy Spirit - who He is, what He does and how He helps us to grow and remain in God!

Series Aim: For kids to know the Holy Spirit.

♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- Pray for kids to learn the third Person of the Trinity: The Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit is God.
 - The Holy Spirit is someone we can know, not just a source of power or some sort of power.
 - The Holy Spirit can help us in all our situations and helps us to keep to God's ways. This is also how He helps us to remain in God!
- Pray for kids to remain in God and grow in their faith, trust and friendships with Jesus.
- Pray that as the kids remain in Jesus, they will grow to bear fruits that will please

Him - good character / fruit of the spirit, a willingness to share the gospel with others!

♥ Memory Verse Write Up

But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit.
He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:26 (NIRV)

This verse is spoken by Jesus to the disciples, speaking about how God will send the Friend - the Holy Spirit to come help the disciples in everything that they will do. As Jesus Himself referred to the Holy Spirit with the pronoun "He" to express the personhood of the Holy Spirit and how He is one of the trinity of God. The Holy Spirit is how God and Jesus are truly always with us (Matthew 28:20) since He is as much God as Jesus and God the Father. The Holy Spirit is also known as the Helper - as He teaches all disciples all things and reminds us of all that Jesus had taught us - be it in person to the disciples, or through the Bible to us. In the context of the disciples, this is an important promise regarding their future role in writing the words of Scripture as well as their roles as apostles following Pentecost (what we learnt last week).

♥ GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

In this series, we want to introduce kids to the Holy Spirit! After Easter, the children went through a Post-Easter series that brought them through:

- Jesus being alive and appearing to his disciples (Luke 24:13-49)
- Jesus giving them the Great Commission and promising the coming of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:1-11)
- The Holy Spirit coming upon them at Pentecost (Acts 2)

However, children may not really understand who the Holy Spirit is and how He relates to God. Thus, this series aims to introduce the kids to who the Holy Spirit is and how He is as much God as Jesus and God the Father. The following are three truths of God that the children need to be clear about.

TRUTH #1: There is Only One God

To first understand the person of the Holy Spirit, we need to know the truth that there is only One God that we believe in who created the world and everything in it.

TRUTH #2: God is Three in One

The God that we believe in is only One God, but He lives and is always expressed as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thus, there is one God but three Persons, each of whom is fully God - God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit. Each of the Persons of God is responsible for certain parts of the work that God does in the world.

The truth of how God is both one and three at the same time may be something that is hard to understand, not just for kids but even for adults. Yet, it's important that we and the kids know this truth because it is who God is and part of knowing His attributes as how He revealed Himself to us. We might not fully understand it, but it does not mean we should not know this truth.

Think of it this way, when you put together a jigsaw puzzle, you have to figure out how all the different pieces fit together to make a picture. God is somewhat like that. He is so, so, so Big and powerful that it is hard for our human minds to understand and know Him. But he has shown Himself to us in different ways, through the Bible, and through the three Persons of God: God the Heavenly Father, God the Son who is Jesus and God the Holy Spirit. All three are God, but all three are separate and different from the other. When we learn more about God through these three Persons of God, they tell us more things about God like pieces of a puzzle. The more we learn about God, the clearer our picture of him will be. Then, the more amazing He becomes to us and the more we love him.

Note to Teachers: Advice AGAINST using the three forms of water to teach how God exists in three persons. It is true that the chemical compounds of water (H₂O) are able to be three things while still remaining H₂O. It is able to be solid (ice), liquid (running water) and vapour (steam). Yet, we need to note that the same H₂O molecules cannot be all three at exactly the same time. In a space where H₂O can exist as solid ice, it cannot exist as liquid water. In the same way, in a space where H₂O can exist as liquid water, it cannot exist as water vapour. At any one space and time, the H₂O molecule cannot exist as all three at the same time. This is clearly not a good analogy of God's existence as three persons as Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit are able to be all at the same space and are able to be all three all at the same time, as the story of Jesus' baptism shows us.

TRUTH #3: The Holy Spirit is God

The Holy Spirit is the third and last person of the three persons of God. Unfortunately, as He is "Spirit", and not someone we can see, the Holy Spirit is sometimes seen less as God and not as a full person with consciousness.

Yet, the Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is a real and genuine person. He is not some force of power like the force of wind or the power of electricity, even though He does give power (Acts 1:8), and has been described to be like a rushing wind ([Acts 2:2](#)). The Holy Spirit is treated as a Person and he shows us qualities that are true only if he is a person.

For example, the Holy Spirit can be lied to ([Acts 5:3](#)) and insulted ([Hebrews 10:29](#)), which are things that cannot be done to a mere force or power like wind or electricity. The story of Ananias and Sapphira shows how the Holy Spirit could be lied to – Ananias and Sapphira lied to the church that they gave all their money to the church when the truth was, they kept some money for themselves. Peter rebuked them and told Ananias that he has not lied to men but to God ([Acts 5:3-5](#)). When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he was actually lying to God. Thus, we know that the Holy Spirit is God and is a Person, not just a force of power.

The Holy Spirit is also described in the Bible as having a mind, something that mere wind or electricity does not have.

- [1 Corinthians 2:10-11](#): The Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God
- [Ephesians 4:30](#): The Holy Spirit has emotions and can be grieved
- [1 Corinthians 12:11](#): The Holy Spirit has a will and thoughts and gives abilities to members of the body of Christ as he so chooses

The Holy Spirit also does things that only God can do:

- He was present and involved in the creation of the world. ([Genesis 1:2](#), [Psalm 33:6](#), where the [Hebrew *ruach*] word for “breath” also means Spirit of God)
- He is the one who gives new life to people so they can believe in Jesus and be saved.
- He is also the one who worked in the lives of the writers of the books in the Bible so that the Bible would be the Word that tells us more of who God is.

Lastly, the Holy Spirit has qualities that are true only of God. For example, the Holy Spirit is referred to as living forever ([Hebrews 9:14](#)), being present everywhere (omnipresent: [Psalm 139:7-10](#)) and having all knowledge (omniscient: [1 Corinthians 2:10](#)).

But perhaps the best way we can see how the Holy Spirit is God is in how Jesus Himself promised the coming of the Holy Spirit who will be an ever-present help to his disciples and eventually, to us all who follow Jesus.

Read John 14:15-31

This passage speaks of Jesus promising his disciples the coming of the Third Person of God: The Holy Spirit. Jesus shared in clear terms that the Holy Spirit will come from God

to be with us and help us in all that we do. Jesus is affirming the identity and existence of the Holy Spirit, as well as Jesus' own association with the Holy Spirit. The main ideas to take note of in this passage is mainly through v16-18, v26-27.

V16-17 I will ask the Father. And he will give you another friend to help you and to be with you forever. That friend is the Spirit of truth - Jesus, the Son, is promising his disciples the unending presence of God who will come as the third person of God: the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will be an ever-present friend who will be a friend to all believers.

The NIRV version does not use the word "Helper", but the Holy Spirit is said in many versions as the Helper. In Greek it is *parakletos*, which has the idea of someone called to help someone else, and it could refer to an advisor, a legal defender, a mediator, or an intercessor. Thus, this helper will be the Spirit of truth who will guide the disciples into all truth, functioning as Jesus' representative in his eventual physical absence.

V18 He lives with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you like children who don't have parents. I will come to you. - Jesus continues to assure how the Holy Spirit will always be with us and help us, telling us of his omnipresent nature. It is also interesting that the pronoun written for the Holy Spirit is "He", telling us again of His Personhood. This is repeated in v26 where Jesus promises how the Holy Spirit will teach the disciples all things and bring to remembrance all that Jesus himself has taught to the disciples.

V27 I leave my peace with you. I give my peace to you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not let your hearts be troubled. And do not be afraid. - The expression peace (Hb. *shalom*) had a much richer connotation than the English word does since it conveyed not merely the absence of conflict and turmoil but also the notion of positive blessing, especially in terms of a right relationship with God and also, the idea that "all is well" in one's life. This may be manifested most clearly amid persecution and tribulation, thus telling us again how the Holy Spirit will be a help to all of us in times of trouble.

Link to Big Point

The Holy Spirit is God and the spirit of truth who helps Jesus to remain free of sin whilst he was fully human on earth. It is important to note too, now that Jesus has ascended to heaven, He is with us through the person of the Holy Spirit, as long as we believe in what Jesus did on the cross. This is also true for the disciples who have witnessed both the ascension of Jesus, as well as the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came on them (Acts 2). Note that it is after receiving the Holy Spirit that the disciples are empowered and emboldened to speak the truths of the Gospel without fear of others. The Holy Spirit did His work in the lives of the disciples, empowering them to become apostles that always remain in God and even started many churches in many new cities / countries, the

first steps of fulfilling the Great Commission! The Holy Spirit is never limited by space or time, He is everywhere and ready to help us, empower us and remember the commands of God! **The Holy Spirit is God!**

Link to Application

Since the Holy Spirit is God, we are able to come to know the Holy Spirit and His presence. After all, the One who is always present with us is actually God in the person of the Holy Spirit. Like what is mentioned in the memory verse (John 14:26), the Holy Spirit is our Helper in the sense that He helps us to keep God and His commands/ways in mind since He is the one that reminds us of everything that Jesus has taught us. The Holy Spirit is the one that reminds us of what is in the Bible in times of weakness and/or trouble, helping us to remember what it looks like to obey God and remain in Him and His ways. Like how He is able to empower and embolden the disciples, He is able to empower us, embolden us and help us to become more like Jesus! **The Holy Spirit is God** and we can know Him!