

Lesson Twelve - Who Is The Holy Spirit

The purpose of this lesson is to encourage candidates to understand who the Holy Spirit is and to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. Confirmation is an outpouring of and sealing with the Holy Spirit. This lesson and the next two (about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit) are intended to introduce the candidates to the Holy Spirit.

Goals:

1. Every student should be able to say the Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the the Trinity.
2. Every student should be able to say the Holy Spirit is the love of the Father and the Son.
3. Every student should be able to say they become temples of the Holy Spirit at their Baptism and receive the an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity who proceeds from the Father and the Son and “is worshipped and glorified with the Father and the Son”. “The Holy Spirit” is the proper name of the third Person of the Most Holy Trinity. Jesus also called him the Paraclete (Consoler or Advocate) and the Spirit of Truth. We know him through his actions, when he reveals the Word to us and when he acts in the Church. We become a temple of the Holy Spirit at our baptism and receive a special strength of the Holy Spirit at our Confirmation.

Students can look at pages 112-114 in their workbooks for more on who the Holy Spirit is.

Discussion Questions:

Video 12.3 (The Holy Spirit in Your Life) - 2.5 Minutes

- a) When you pray are you speaking to God directly? Which person of the Blessed Trinity do you most frequently think you are addressing, and why? The Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit? In what circumstances would you tend to pray directly to Jesus? To God the Father? To God the Holy Spirit? (Remember, God is one, so anytime we pray to God, all three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—hear our prayers.)**

The purpose of this question is to remind students to remember that prayer is a conversation between them and God. It can be easy to just start rattling off prayers and forget that we are speaking to the creator of the universe. How would we feel if our friends were rattling off different things and topics, but weren't really paying attention to what they were saying or even paying attention to us as they were talking to us. Hopefully, this will be a good reminder that the Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Trinity and can be addressed directly.

- b) When and why might you pray directly to the Holy Spirit? (Think in terms of when throughout the day might these occasions arise).**

If nobody wants to share ideas, use these below to jumpstart conversation.

- i) When making a decision to ask the Holy Spirit for Wisdom
- ii) When we need to be courageous to ask the Holy Spirit for Fortitude
- iii) When reading Scripture to ask the Holy Spirit for Understanding

- iv) When we go to prayer to ask the Holy Spirit for Piety
- v) When we are proud to ask the Holy Spirit for Fear of the Lord

Video 12.2 (Our Guide and Map) - 3 Minutes

a) How is the Holy Spirit like a map? How does he guide us closer to Jesus and the Father?

The purpose of this question is for students to begin to see that the Holy Spirit can be incorporated into their daily lives. The Holy Spirit is guiding us, prompting us, to choose the good, to be a witness of Jesus Christ, to live out our faith courageously. But we can often miss the promptings of the Holy Spirit because our world is too noisy or we are too distracted or we simply don't want to listen.

2) Video 12.1 (Symbols of the Holy Spirit) - 6 Minutes

a) The Holy Spirit is often symbolize with water or fire. Why is fire an appropriate symbol for the Holy Spirit? Think about the characteristics of fire.

- i) Fire - While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions.
 - (1) Fire is purifying - When gold is placed in fire, the imperfections come to the top and can be scraped away leaving it purified.
 - (2) Fire strengthens - When certain metals are placed in fire they are strengthened and capable of being sharpened
 - (3) Fire Spreads - After Pentecost, the apostles go out and begin preaching the good news of Jesus Christ. 2000 years later the Gospel is still be shared, spread, and passed down.

b) How can we be aware of the more subtle promptings of the Holy Spirit?

Students can begin thinking about opportunities in their day in which they have the ability to do something good for someone else. Since the Holy Spirit is love, I really want them to think about opportunities where they have the ability to love generously, to sacrifice, to be selfless. This could be at home, at school, on athletic teams.

1) Read the "To the Heart Story" on page 108.

a) What kinds of decisions, other than where to go to college, are you facing right now that you could bring to God in Adoration to help you make the right choice?

Dive Deeper

- 1) Pray the Prayer of the Holy Spirit and really examine what the words are saying.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful
and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray. O God,
Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise,
and ever to rejoice in His consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Challenge of the Week

- 1) Pray the Come Holy Spirit prayer every day when you wake up in the morning.
- 2) Memorize part of the Come, Holy Spirit prayer
- 3) Pray to the Holy Spirit this week for guidance when making decisions.

Saint of the Week

- 1) Joan of Arc (If you have extra time feel free to read the story of Joan of Arc.)