



ELEMENTARY SPIRITUAL FOCUS

HOLY SPIRIT



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THE WHY

By the third grade, kids are all about having fun and doing what they like to do in the moment. We all like to have fun, but there are times in our walks with God that we need to put Him first and listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in our lives so we can be blessed. We need to remind and work with kids at this age to start taking some quiet time to read God's Word and obey what it says, so they can be prompted by the Holy Spirit.

At this stage, they are beginning to understand abstract concepts, and following a prompting isn't always concrete. By diving deeper into who the Holy Spirit is, what He does, and how we can be guided by Him, it will help them know to cast fleshly desires aside and follow God's Word.

WEEK 1: Who Is the Holy Spirit?

PENTECOST:

In Acts, the apostle Luke was describing the day of Pentecost which Jesus talked about in Matthew 28. The Holy Spirit came to live in believers since Jesus went to heaven. It was the first time the Holy Spirit came to live in us forever. You see, the Holy Spirit was able to live in people during the Old Testament, but only for a short time. The Holy Spirit came upon people in the Old Testament, but He couldn't live in them because Jesus hadn't come yet to redeem us from sin. A lot of times we think the Holy Spirit came into being at Pentecost, but He was in the beginning just like the Father and the Son.

TRINITY:

The Holy Spirit is not a separate part of God. He is God, just like the Son and the Father are God. It's very similar to your body, soul, and spirit. Each part makes up you. The same is true for God. He is made up of the Son, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. The Father sent the Holy Spirit to live in us so we can live and be reminded about what the Son, Jesus, taught when He was here on earth. As a believer, you have the Holy Spirit living in you. You just have to listen, obey, and accept His gifts.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV) - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

ASK & THINK ABOUT:

- 1. Who is the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit is a person of God (Trinity). He comes and lives in us when we accept Jesus into our lives.

WEEK 2: What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

In John 14:15-26, Jesus told His disciples that He will leave them and that His body will be taken up into heaven, but He will send the Holy Spirit to live inside of them. Jesus mentions a couple things the Holy Spirit will do:

- Advocate (verse 16): An advocate speaks on your behalf. Think of a defense lawyer. They support and plead on behalf of their client. When you pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit intercedes or speaks on your behalf.
- Remind you of everything Jesus taught (verse 26): Jesus taught us a lot of things in the Bible, and it can be hard to remember everything. The Holy Spirit helps remind us of Jesus' teachings so we can do what is right and lead a blessed life.

The Holy Spirit does a lot for us, but we must be willing to learn about Him and accept Him into our lives. How do we do that? Well, Jesus tells us we must obey His teachings. That means we read our Bible and follow what is said in it. When you read the Bible and follow it, you are practicing being led by the Spirit. We want the Holy Spirit to be our advocate and reminder, we just have to learn how to obey and be led by Him.

John 14:15-21 (NIV) – *“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and 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. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”*

WEEK 2: What Does the Holy Spirit Do?

John 14:25-26 (NIV) - "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

ASK & THINK ABOUT:

- 1. What two things does the Holy Spirit do according to John 14?** The Holy Spirit is our advocate and reminder. He speaks on our behalf when we pray and reminds us of God's Word.

WEEK 3: The Prompting of the Holy Spirit

HOW DOES HE WORK:

In Galatians 5, Paul is telling the people to follow the Holy Spirit instead of following what they think is right. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit can seem confusing, but it really isn't. He might not talk to you in an audible voice, but you will have a prompting in your heart to do something, or you will be reminded of a Bible verse that will encourage you. The best way you can prepare your heart so you can follow the Holy Spirit is to read God's Word every day. When you read the Bible, you are filling yourself with God's wisdom. The Holy Spirit helps you to recall what you have learned from God's Word. But He can't help you remember something that you never put in your heart. That is the reason it is so important to be reading the Bible all the time. When you need guidance, the Holy Spirit will prompt your heart toward God's Word. We just need be listening and willing to follow Him. We must decide that we will obey His promptings so we can lead a blessed life.

Galatians 5:13-18 - *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”*

ASK & THINK ABOUT:

1. What is the best way we can learn how to listen and be prompted by the Holy Spirit?

We need to put God's Word into our hearts versus doing what we feel like doing in the moment like video games, watching YouTube videos, or playing. We need to put God first, that way the Holy Spirit can help remind us of His Word so that we can lead blessed lives.



VICTORY KIDS

