

Std: 8
Chapter 4
Church: The community Led by the Spirit

Objective

- 1) To gain a deeper understanding of who the Holy Spirit is
- 2) To understand the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding the early church
- 3) To reflect on the Sacraments through which we receive the Holy Spirit.
- 4) To illustrate the influence of a spirit led life

Starter (15 min)

Explain the Holy Spirit to the children Through the [Biblical Narrative](#) (place the cursor on the highlighted text and press ctrl to go to the biblical narrative)

Activity -

Give one minute to the class to recall the key points from the narrative

Ask the students to make three column and write at least one point under each column

What I already knew about the Holy spirit	What I learnt new about the Holy Spirit	What I still wish to know about the Spirit
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Have a common discussion and list down the key points.

Introduction (20 minutes):

Activity - Divide the class into two groups. One group will focus on the life of the Apostles before Pentecost (time from the passion to the ascension of Jesus) and the second group will focus on the life of the apostles after Pentecost. Then compare and contrast the points from both the sides

Summarise how the Spirit brought about a great change in the life of the apostles

Deep understanding: The Holy Spirit endowed the apostles with a profound understanding of God's kingdom and the redemptive work of Jesus Christ.

Bold proclamation: The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to boldly proclaim the message of salvation.

Unity and purpose: The Descent of the Holy Spirit solidified their unity and sense of purpose.

Courage and strength: The Holy Spirit provided courage to confront resistance and persecution.

Miracles and healings: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the apostles performed miracles and healings that affirmed their message.

Acceptance of the non-Jews : The non-Jews were accepted into the church for the first time after Peter had a vision during his prayer

Help in taking proper decisions: The Spirit led the Apostles to take proper decisions and gave them clear instructions where to go and what to do

Receiving the Holy Spirit in our lives

Activity - [Object lesson on holy Spirit \(10 minutes\)](#) (Place the cursor on the highlighted text and press ctrl to go to object lesson)

After the activity prompt the students to answer the following questions.

1. Has each one of you received the Holy spirit, if Yes When and How
2. What happens when you receive the Holy Spirit ? (Discuss about the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit)
3. Do you feel something changed within yourself? Are others able to notice the change?

Group Activity: Reflection and Application (10 minutes):

Divide participants into small groups.

Instruct each group to brainstorm and list various ways in which you can lead a Spirit filled life

Allow volunteers from each group to share their reflections with the class.

OR

Class activity

Make a chart showing each Sacrament and the grace that the Holy Spirit gives through the same

Closing (10 minutes):

Summarize the key points discussed.

Close in prayer

Asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit to live in the footsteps of Jesus.

Lesson Resources

Biblical Narrative on Holy Spirit

Jesus lived on earth for 33 years. He was fully God, but he was also fully human, which meant he could only be in one place at a time and only impact a few lives at a time.

During the last supper, he said to his disciples, "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you."

Jesus' followers had some questions.

? How could Jesus going away be a good thing?

? Who was this Helper Jesus promised to them? There was very little talk of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament so they struggled to understand at first.

Jesus knew he needed to leave so the Helper could be with each of his followers at the same time, just as if he was standing right next to them, even if they were scattered all over the world.

So Jesus went away, up to heaven, leaving his disciples sad and quite confused. A few days later, the disciples were gathered together and something totally wild happened...

"And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of

fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit is the Helper Jesus promised!

The Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus to remind the world of what Jesus taught and did.

Pentecost was the first time anyone had ever had **God's Spirit inside them** instead of just on them or with them.

The Holy Spirit wasn't just for the first disciples. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to every Christian, and lives in every single person who follows Jesus. He doesn't normally come in flames and wind, but he lives inside you, as the Helper Jesus promised to send. The spirit of God helps you show the love of God to those around you, he helps you grow in the fruits of the Spirit, and helps you do God's work in the world.

HOLY SPIRIT: OBJECT LESSON

To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we allow him to occupy and control every area of our lives. How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?

Produce two glasses of water and two packets of Eno (preferably orange flavour). Open one packet and empty into one glass; drop the other unopened packet into the other glass.

Both glasses have the Eno, just as all Christians have the Holy Spirit. But notice how you can have the Holy Spirit and not his filling. Let's make it our goal this year to live in such a way as to unwrap the packaging around the presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us.

