

The Holy Spirit

Lesson 12 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will examine the Holy Spirit as one of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, active and present in the world today.
- The participants will explore the significance of many of the Church's symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Content Summary

1. Just like God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit is part of everything that God is and does.
2. The Hebrew word for wind is *ruah*, which also means “breath” or “spirit.” In Genesis 1:2, God sent “a mighty wind sweeping over the waters” when he created everything. Thus we know that the Holy Spirit was active in the creation of the universe.
3. Wherever God sends his Son, he also sends his Spirit. Jesus and the Holy Spirit share the same mission, and their work cannot be separated. However, the Holy Spirit's mission is to never draw attention to himself, but to reveal God the Father and Jesus the Son.
4. The most dramatic manifestation of the Holy Spirit in Scripture is recorded at the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles. This event is called Pentecost. The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost approximately fifty days after Easter.
5. The mission of the Holy Spirit and the work of the Church are fused together. The Holy Spirit is the primary cause behind the Church's work and directs the Church's mission.
6. The Holy Spirit is the source of our life together, brings us together in unity despite our diversity, and enriches us with all the gifts needed to be the Body of Christ.
7. The title that Jesus uses for the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John is Advocate, which means “someone who stands by your side.”
8. The early Christians clearly identified the Holy Spirit with the work of God the Father and Jesus Christ.
9. The Church also uses a number of symbols to identify the work of the Holy Spirit: water, fire, a cloud and light, a dove, anointing, and the laying on of hands.
10. The seven special Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

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