

Confirmation Teaching Guide



**Discover God's
Treasures**



saint mary's press

This guide and the corresponding activity booklets have been submitted for the nihil obstat and imprimatur. Saint Mary's Press is currently awaiting notice of final approval.

The content in this program was developed and reviewed by the content engagement team at Saint Mary's Press. Content design and manufacturing were coordinated by the passionate team of creatives at Saint Mary's Press.

Copyright © 2016 by Saint Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications, 702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1320, www.smp.org. All rights reserved. No part of this guide may be reproduced by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

4505

ISBN 978-1-59982-878-7

Contents

Welcome	4
Program Overview	5
Key Elements of the Program	14
Additional Support Information	16
Chapter 1 Holy Spirit, Come to Us!	18
Acts 2:1–6	
Chapter 2 The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us	25
Luke 4:16–19,21	
Chapter 3 We Are Born Again	31
John 3:4–6	
Chapter 4 We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives	38
Matthew 28:16–20	
The Renewal of Baptismal Promises	44
Confirmation Key Words	46
Acknowledgments	47

Welcome

Welcome to *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures!*

We at Saint Mary's Press are excited to partner with you in the important ministry of preparing children for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation as part of the restored order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Through this new and unique program, children are led on an adventure of discovery as they explore the rich and beautiful significance of this sacrament in their lives. *Go Seek Find* will engage and inspire children, creating a spirit of excitement and joy around their journey toward encountering the Holy Spirit through the treasure that is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This program was developed with the real needs of children at its center. The program's core text is *The Saint Mary's Press® Catholic Children's Bible*. By using a Bible designed specifically for them and engaging with the Featured Stories within it, children will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation through the biblical lens of Jesus' life and works as empowered by the Holy Spirit and learn more about their faith in language they can understand. They will also experience interactive core activities that bring the chapter lessons to life in a fun and memorable way. And they will learn important information about the Sacrament of Confirmation, reinforcing this new knowledge through a variety of activities and family learning opportunities offered in the activity booklets that accompany each lesson.

Together, you and the children will *Go Seek Find* the incredible treasure that is the Sacrament of Confirmation. May an ever-expanding awareness of Christ's presence in our lives be the source of faith, hope, and love for all of us!

With hopes and prayers for every blessing,

The Publishing Team at Saint Mary's Press

**"Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened to you."**

(Matthew 7:7)

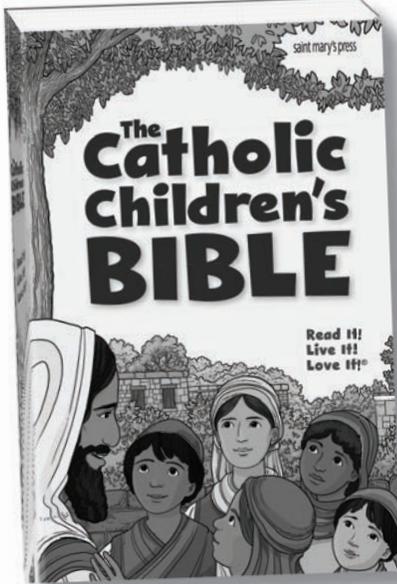
Program Overview

Program Outline

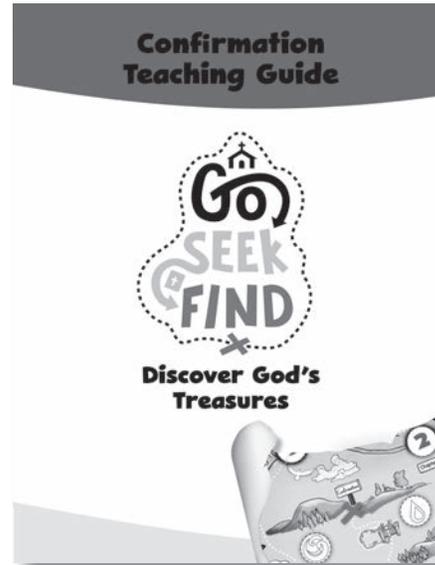
Chapter Number	Chapter Title	Lesson Goals	Featured Story	Key Words
1	Holy Spirit, Come to Us!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation 	The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)	symbol, confers
2	The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that the Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News to express that the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word to recognize that we are strengthened with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit 	Jesus Says He Came to Save Us (Luke 4:16–19,21)	Good News, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruits of the Holy Spirit
3	We Are Born Again	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that we first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism to recognize that in Confirmation we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to renounce sin to summarize that in Confirmation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism 	We Are Born Again through Baptism (John 3:4–6)	baptismal promises, laying on of hands, anoint, Sacred Chrism
4	We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recognize that Jesus wants us to spread the Good News everywhere to recall that Jesus is with us always through the Holy Spirit to express that the Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus in his mission of love 	Jesus Wants Us to Help Others to Know Him (Matthew 28:16–20)	General Intercessions, Dismissal, witness

Program Components

The Catholic Children's Bible

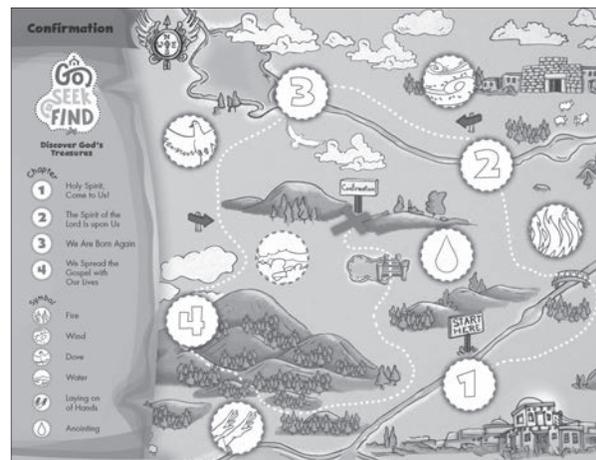


Teaching Guide



Activity Booklets

Treasure Map



Understanding the Components

Teaching Guide

Background Focus provides quick, easy-to-read insights about the theme of the chapter.

18

Chapter 1

Chapter 1

Chapter 1

Featured Story
The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost
- to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols
- to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation

Lesson at a Glance

Go (10 minutes)
Opening Prayer
Engage Activity

Seek (30 minutes)
Featured Story
Core Learning Activity

Find (20 minutes)
God's Treasure of Confirmation
Lesson Wrap-Up
Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 1 activity booklet
- red crepe paper streamers, one for each child
- lively music to accompany the streamer activity
- pictures of symbols of the Holy Spirit mounted or drawn on cards
- preparation materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- "Holy Spirit, Come," by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- "Breathe (Live)," by Hillsong Kids (Hillsong Church)

Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of "father"; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can't forget. Then we realize: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit's presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God's love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God's new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 1 activity booklets.
- Begin prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Choose a child to read the leader's lines, and invite the rest of the children to read the lines for "all." Explain to them that the word *kindle* means "to light or set on fire."

Lesson Goals shows the key desired outcomes of the chapter.

A list of **Materials Needed** helps you adequately prepare for the lesson.

Two **Music Suggestions** are offered for possible incorporation into the lesson.

The **Go** part of the lesson begins with an opening prayer that is found in the activity booklets.

After the opening prayer, an **Engage Activity** will spark interest and create excitement in the children.

Engage Activity

- Invite the children to share what they know about the Holy Spirit, and record their answers on the board. Give them some examples if they need help. *[Answers might include: the Holy Spirit is included in the Sign of the Cross; the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity; the Holy Spirit helped us prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; the Holy Spirit is our helper and inspires us to do good.]*
- Tell the children that today they will learn that after Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to help the Church. Explain that Christians celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit each year on a very special and holy day.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to find Acts 2:1–6 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1712).
- Direct them to turn to page 1714 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the text between the leaves on page 1714 is a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1712.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on the pages 1714–1715. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork.
- Invite a volunteer to read the title on the page, and ask the children to share what the word *disciples* means. *[A disciple is a follower of a teacher. A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus. We are all disciples of Jesus.]*
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask the children several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - > What do we call this special day when the Holy Spirit came? *(Pentecost)*
 - > What did the disciples hear? *(A strong wind blowing)*
 - > What did the disciples see? *(They saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread and touched each person.)*

The **Seek** part of the lesson invites the children to interact directly with the Bible and learn key sacrament-related themes through important Bible stories.

Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Use the symbol cards that you have made in advance to show the different symbols of the Holy Spirit as you discuss them. Symbols might include wind, fire, water, cloud and light, dove, finger of God. Some pictures can be found on the Internet.
 - > We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we use symbols to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us. A symbol is something that stands for something else. There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit. We already know that wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit. *[Hold up the symbol cards of wind and fire.]*
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is water. *[Hold up symbol card.]* Water reminds us of our Baptism. This is when the Holy Spirit first came to us, which we will learn about more in another lesson. When we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross, we are also reminded of our Baptism.
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove *(hold up symbol card)* because, when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove.
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is light. *[Hold up symbol card.]* Light led the Chosen People out of Egypt at night. When became the Messiah, Jesus cast a shadow on the wall of the tomb.
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is the law of love in the heart.

Note: Further explanations can be found in *Church*, 694–701. Note of laying on of hands in chapter 3, as they receive the Order of Confirmation.

- > Suddenly there came a sound like the rushing of wind, and fire appeared and divided, and it sat upon each of them.
- > The Holy Spirit came and they were told to tell others about it.
- Explain to the children that the Holy Spirit has been with the Church ever since the Holy Spirit came. Continue by telling the children that the Holy Spirit guides the Church through the Pope and bishops and the people.
- Tell the children that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost.

Chapter 1

Live It!

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! on page 1715 or read it aloud to the group.
- Ask the children to pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each line and ask the children to repeat it.
- Ask volunteers to memorize the prayer as suggested. Keep a record of their names. Tell them that you will ask them to recite the prayer aloud at the next session.
- Explain to the children that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit signs and seals us, and strengthens us with his gifts.

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1715.
- Invite the children to find a partner and use the images to retell the Bible reading the best that they can.
- Encourage several volunteers to stand and summarize the Bible reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!
- Have the children use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story (pages 1714–1715) that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining three chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Wind and Fire Dance

- Choose a lively song or other piece of music ahead of time and have it ready for this activity.
- Prepare the children for the activity by reminding them that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as wind and fire.
- Distribute the crepe paper streamers, one to each child. (For each streamer, take three, 3-foot long, red crepe paper strips and staple together at one end.) Explain that the streamers are red because red is the color of fire and so it is the color of the Holy Spirit. Remind them that red is also the color of love, just like red hearts on Valentine's Day.
- Gather the children in a large circle, with space around each one. Explain that, when the music starts, they are to wave their streamers up, down, and around. Tell them that they will

Chapter 1

- Explain that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - > The Sacrament of Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit will come to each one of you personally. So we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day that you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - > We rejoice in it and celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit will strengthen you in Confirmation and will be with you always.
 - > At Baptism, you received your name. In Confirmation, you will be called again by your name to receive the Holy Spirit. *[Optional: You may also be called by a new name of a special saint that you will have as a friend in heaven to help you live as a strong follower of Jesus.]*
- Note:** The Church gives candidates for Confirmation the option of using their baptismal name in Confirmation, to emphasize the connection of Confirmation to Baptism, or of choosing the name of a saint or holy person. For further information, please see page 17 in the front of this teaching guide.
 - > For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop comes to our parish. The bishop is "the ordinary minister" of Confirmation. This means

The **Find** part of the lesson relays key information about the sacrament the children are preparing for.

- be using the power of the wind to wave their streamers.
- Explain that you will occasionally stop the music. Have the children "freeze" in place until you start the music again.
- Start the music and lead the children in a dance around the circle or the room, stopping and starting the music as you wish. Finish the dance by gathering the children in a circle.

Process the Activity

- Explore the symbol of wind for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - > Can you think of a time when the wind is very powerful? *(a tornado, hurricane, or wind-storm)* But wind has power for good things also. How do we use wind for energy and electricity? *(We use windmills to capture the power of the wind to use for energy.)*
 - > Wind is also refreshing and cleansing. When is wind refreshing or cleansing? *(a cool breeze on a hot day; wind can blow dust and dirt away and leave things clean)*
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like wind because he is very powerful, but also very refreshing and cleansing.
- Explore the symbol of fire for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - > Can you think of a time when fire is very powerful? *(a forest fire; a house fire)*
 - > How do we use fire for energy and other good things? *(We use fire for heat, for cooking, for campfires, to light candles in church and at home.)*
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like fire because he is very powerful, but he also gives us energy and light. Remind the children that fire is also a sign of love, and the Holy Spirit gives us the energy and power of love to do good things. Tell them that the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts to understand the love of God the Father for us, and also what Jesus wants us to think and do.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on page 23 in its place.

Each lesson is anchored by a **Core Learning Activity**. This activity presents an aspect of the chapter theme in a fun, engaging, and memorable way.

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take some time to get input from the class, and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost.
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation.
- Ask the children to color in the chapter 1 circle on their Confirmation treasure maps to mark that they have completed the first chapter. Then remind them that the symbols of fire, wind, and the dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit. Invite the children to color in these symbols.

**Closing Prayer**

- Begin the prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross and saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, come to us. Come upon us, not in wind and fire, but in the love and joy you place in our hearts. Bring us closer to Jesus and to all of God's children." Encourage the children to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

The **Lesson Wrap-Up** encourages the children to recall what they learned and mark their progress on their treasure map.

Additional Activities offers substitute options for the core learning activity. These additional activities also may be used to extend the lesson.

Additional Activities**Holy Spirit Headbands (15 minutes)**

- Distribute the paper strips. Fit them around the head of each child, and staple or tape them together. After fitting the headbands, ask the children to take them off and put them on their desks.
- Distribute a red flame to each child. Ask the children to staple the flame to the front of their headbands.
- Explain that, just as they were called by name in the Sacrament of Baptism, so they will be called by name in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Instruct the children that, when you call their names, they will come up and hand you the Holy Spirit headband.
- Place the headband on each child's head, using these or similar words, "[Name], I place this flame upon your head as a sign that the Holy Spirit will come to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May you follow the Holy Spirit, now and always." Prompt the child to respond, "Amen."
- Play a song about the Holy Spirit to conclude the activity.

Materials Needed

- yellow construction paper, cut into strips, lengthwise, one or two for each child
- red flames cut from red construction paper
- stapler, scissors, and tape

The Wind Blows Wherever It Wishes (15 minutes)

Note: Balloons are used in this activity. If any of the children have an allergy to latex, you should choose a different activity.

- Ask the children to open *The Catholic Children's Bible* to the following verse: John 3:8. Help the children as needed. Read the passage aloud.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit leads us all through life, but we don't always know exactly where the Holy Spirit is leading. Tell them that sometimes God works in mysterious ways, and we just have to follow in trust.
- Explain that we will illustrate this verse now, using our own breath.
- Invite five children to form a line across the front of the room and facing the back of the room. Give each child a balloon of a different color.
- Explain that the object of this game is to get the balloon to the other side of the room by blowing it up and then letting it go. Tell the children that when their balloon falls to the floor, they should pick it up at the spot where it landed, blow it up again, and then release it again. Instruct them to repeat these actions until their balloon touches the wall in the back of the room.
- Mark the beginning of the race, and invite the rest of the class to cheer for those who are racing. Continue until the last child's balloon has touched the wall. Choose five more children, if time allows, and have the race again.

Materials Needed

- balloons, one for each child

Activity Booklets

Confirmation

Chapter 1



Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Prayer

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you will renew the face of the earth.

Each activity booklet begins with a **Prayer** that is used as the opening prayer for that chapter's lesson.

Page 2 (on the left) features an activity that relates to content the children are learning about in the Bible.



Using the Featured Story on page 1714 in *The Catholic Children's Bible*, fill in the missing words.

"When the day of _____ came, all the believers were gathered together in one place. Suddenly there was a _____ from the sky which sounded like a strong _____ blowing. . . . They saw what looked like _____ which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the _____ and began to talk in other languages, as the Spirit enabled them to speak."

2

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

____ 1. A ____ is something that stands for something else.
a. sign b. symbol c. song

____ 2. Two symbols of the Holy Spirit are ____.
a. trees and grass b. cars and trucks c. wind and fire

____ 3. The Holy Spirit first came to us in the Sacrament of ____.
a. Baptism b. Matrimony c. Anointing of the Sick

____ 4. In the Sacrament of _____, we receive the Holy Spirit in a special way and are strengthened.
a. the Eucharist b. Reconciliation c. Confirmation

____ 5. The ordinary minister of Confirmation, the person who usually confers this sacrament, is the ____.
a. bishop b. Pope c. parish priest

3

Page 3 (on the right) features an activity that relates to the sacrament content the children are learning about in the chapter.

The **Family Page** provides parents with helpful information about the chapter and key ideas to bring the lesson to life at home.

Family Page



Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of “father”; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can’t forget. Then we realize what has happened: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit’s presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit

came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God’s love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God’s new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!



Family Strategies

“Before you fly off the handle, count to ten.” This is an age-old remedy for dealing with a stressful moment. It provides a space in which to calm down and to respond appropriately to a difficult situation. It is a strategy that can work for anyone of any age, and a strategy that parents can easily model for children. For us as baptized Christians, these ten seconds can be a sacred space in which the Holy Spirit can work. The habit of counting to ten could even be adapted by repeating the words “Come, Holy Spirit!” ten times!

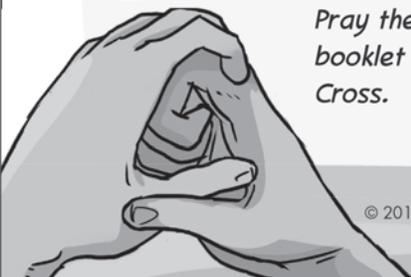
[The prayer on the cover of this activity booklet is from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, by the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy [Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB], 1989], page 157. Copyright © 1989 by the USCCB. All rights reserved.]



Family Activities

- Congratulate your child on beginning to prepare for Confirmation. Take time after the Mass this weekend to look for symbols of the Holy Spirit (fire, dove) in the stained-glass windows or other art in your parish church.
- Read together the Featured Story on page 1714 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (Acts of the Apostles 2:1–6). Remind your child that the Holy Spirit will come to him or her personally at Confirmation. You may also want to pray the Holy Spirit prayer (see front cover of this booklet) regularly, either at meals or at bedtime.
- Watch the YouTube video “33 The Holy Spirit Comes” (2:58). Ask: When do we need courage? When do we need healing? Then ask the Holy Spirit for these gifts.

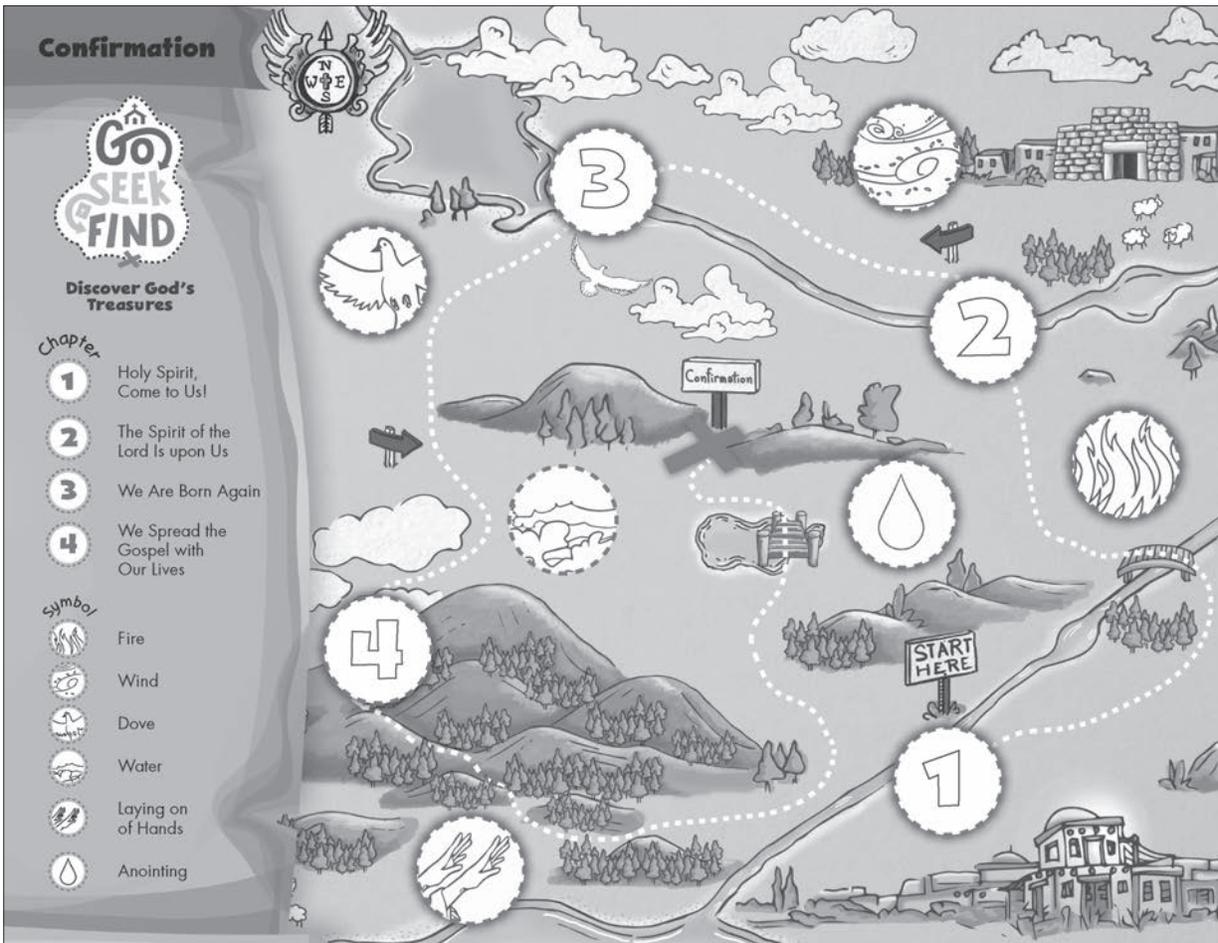
Pray It!



Pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit from the cover of this activity booklet as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Treasure Map

A **Treasure Map** helps the children track their progress through the chapters in a way that also reinforces what they learned.



Key Elements of the Program

Teaching Guide

The teaching guide divides each chapter into three main parts: “Go,” “Seek,” and “Find.” The “Go” section begins with an opening prayer and continues with a short activity to engage the children in the topic of the day. The “Seek” section involves exploring Scripture related to the sacrament of focus and a core learning activity centered on the chapter theme. The “Find” section gives the children a deeper look into the meaning of the sacrament and concludes the lesson with a summary and closing prayer.

Activity Booklets

A fun and colorful activity booklet is provided for each chapter. Although intended for use as supportive group-learning activities, these booklets also may be completed at home with the family. They include the opening prayer used for each lesson, two activity pages that support the learning of the chapter, and a family page that offers families background on the chapter topic, strategies to integrate the values of Christian life into family life, and suggested activities related to the lesson to be done at home.

Additional Booklet

The Sacrament of Confirmation resources include an additional booklet that contains all the key words used in the program as well as the Renewal of Baptismal Promises from the *Order of Confirmation*.

Treasure Map

The Sacrament of Confirmation has its own treasure map. This unique and colorful resource is designed to build excitement as the children journey through the various chapters on the way to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Using colorable chapter numbers and symbols related to Confirmation, the children track their progress as they recall the key themes and lessons offered in the four Confirmation chapters.

Music Suggestions

Music can add another wonderful dimension to this program. Each chapter includes two song suggestions that correspond to the chapter theme. These songs can be purchased and downloaded online. For a complete list of all of the songs for the program, please visit the online resources for this program at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books. Of course, you may also wish to add your own favorite hymns or songs such as those that are popular in your parish community.

Videos

Options for activities that incorporate fun and engaging videos are provided throughout the program. Settings with the necessary technology can utilize this additional media to further enliven learning. These video suggestions are also included on the family page in the children's activity booklets, so if they are not used within the formal learning environment, they can be enjoyed at home with the family. Quick links to the video resources that are referenced throughout this program are available as part of the online resources for this program at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books.

Additional Support Information

Teaching with *The Catholic Children's Bible*

Go Seek Find is a unique sacrament preparation program, as it immerses children directly in *The Catholic Children's Bible* and introduces key themes involved in sacrament preparation through Bible stories. This focus on Scripture builds important biblical literacy as it roots the themes of the sacraments in God's Word. It is important, therefore, that you are familiar with *The Catholic Children's Bible* in order to help children become comfortable and confident with its navigation and use. To this end, *The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide* was created. This invaluable resource will help you introduce *The Catholic Children's Bible* to children, as well as provide you with essential insights into how to help children read and understand Scripture. You can learn more about this helpful resource by contacting your local Saint Mary's Press representative or by visiting www.smp.org.

Home Guide

For those programs that encourage parents to become the key educators of sacrament preparation in the home, *Go Seek Find* offers a Home Guide. This guide presents the core content of *Go Seek Find* in a way that is adapted for teaching and learning in the home. Clear instructions, accessible language, and activities that work in a home setting are the focus of this guide, making sacrament preparation at home an easy, fun, and engaging possibility. This free resource is offered online at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books.

Optional Yearlong Program

Some parishes and schools prefer to devote the entire year to preparation for the first reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. *Go Seek Find* can be adapted to a yearlong program by adding appropriate seasonal and liturgical lessons presented in *The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide*. Chapter 10 of this leader guide offers thirteen Scripture-based lessons that include an opening prayer, the reading of a Featured Story, an activity, and a closing prayer, and can easily supplement the lessons in the *Go Seek Find* program.

Godparents and Sponsors

The restored order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation links the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist together very closely. The Church particularly makes an effort, in catechesis and in practice, to emphasize the close link between Baptism and Confirmation. This is reflected in Canon Law. In canon 893, candidates for Confirmation are encouraged to choose their

baptismal godparent or sponsor as their Confirmation sponsor. When the Sacrament of Confirmation is delayed until the teen years, this is not always possible. It may be more possible when the sacraments are conferred more closely together in time, as in the restored order.

However, the option to choose a sponsor other than the baptismal godparents remains. It should always be kept in mind that the sponsor at Confirmation should be someone who is at least sixteen years of age (or the age determined by diocesan guidelines), has been confirmed, is receiving the Eucharist, and is in good standing with the Church.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

There are two main practices regarding the name pronounced by the bishop at the moment of anointing, when he says, “[Name of child], be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (*Order of Confirmation*, 27). The first practice is to use the baptismal name of the candidate. The second is to select a new name. The first option, using the baptismal name, emphasizes the close link between Baptism and Confirmation. Confirmation completes the process of initiation that was begun in Baptism. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation perfects the grace received in Baptism. When Confirmation candidates are confirmed using their baptismal names, the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation is highlighted.

In some parishes and dioceses, candidates have the option of selecting new names or using their baptismal names. In helping children select a new name, consider introducing books and materials highlighting the lives of the saints. A new name should be a source of inspiration in living life as a confirmed follower of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 1

Featured Story

The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost
- to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols
- to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation

Lesson at a Glance

- Go** (10 minutes)
 - Opening Prayer
 - Engage Activity
- Seek** (30 minutes)
 - Featured Story
 - Core Learning Activity
- Find** (20 minutes)
 - God's Treasure of Confirmation
 - Lesson Wrap-Up
 - Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 1 activity booklet
- red crepe paper streamers, one for each child
- lively music and locate the prayer on the page
- pictures of symbols of the Holy Spirit mounted or drawn on cards
- materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- "Holy Spirit, Come," by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- "Breathe (Live)," by Hillsong Kids (Hillsong Church)

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of "father"; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can't forget. Then we realize: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit's presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God's love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God's new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 1 activity booklets.
- Begin prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Choose a child to read the leader's lines, and invite the rest of the children to read the lines for "all." Explain to them that the word *kindle* means "to light or set on fire."

Engage Activity

- Invite the children to share what they know about the Holy Spirit, and record their answers on the board. Give them some examples if they need help. (*Answers might include: The Holy Spirit is included in the Sign of the Cross, the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit helped us prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Spirit is our helper and inspires us to do good.*)
- Tell the children that today they will learn that after Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to help the Church. Explain that Christians celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit each year on a very special and holy day.

✚ Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to find Acts 2:1–6 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1712).
- Tell them that the text between the leaves on page 1714 is a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1712.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on pages 1714–1715. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork.
- Invite a volunteer to read the title on the page, and ask the children to share what the word *disciples* means. (*A disciple is a follower of a teacher. A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus. We are all disciples of Jesus.*)
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask the children several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What do we call this special day when the Holy Spirit came? (*Pentecost*)
 - What did the disciples hear? (*They heard a strong wind blowing*)
 - What did the disciples see? (*They saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread and touched each person.*)
 - What happened to the disciples? (*They were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in other languages.*)

- Remind the children that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.
- Ask the children to pause and make the Sign of the Cross prayerfully and to recall how we mention each Person of the Trinity in this prayer.
- Have the children turn to page 2 of their activity booklets and complete the activity with their Bibles open. *Answers: Pentecost, noise, wind, tongues of fire, Holy Spirit*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1715 to the children, or invite a volunteer or volunteers to read.
- Invite the children to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Explain some of the following points:
 - Jews came from all around the region for the Jewish feast of Pentecost. This is a harvest festival and a time to recall the Ten Commandments being given at Mount Sinai. This feast is still celebrated by Jews today.
 - Mary and the disciples had gathered together and were praying. Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit, so Mary and the disciples were praying and waiting.
 - Suddenly there was a great noise, and the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. The wind and fire were signs of his presence.
 - The Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage to tell others about Jesus.
- Explain to the children that the Holy Spirit has been with the Church to lead and guide God's people ever since that day of Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit will stay with the Church always. Continue by telling them that the Holy Spirit guides the Church through the teaching of the Pope and bishops, and through the faith of all the people.
- Tell the children that Christians celebrate the feast of Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

Live It!

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! on page 1715 or read it aloud to the group.
- Ask the children to pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each line and ask the children to repeat it.
- Ask volunteers to memorize the prayer as suggested. Keep a record of their names. Tell them that you will ask them to recite the prayer aloud at the next session.
- Explain to the children that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit signs and seals us, and strengthens us with his gifts.

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1715.
- Invite the children to find a partner and use the images to retell the Bible reading the best that they can.
- Encourage several volunteers to stand and summarize the Bible reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!

Core Learning Activity**Wind and Fire Dance**

- Choose a lively song or other piece of music ahead of time and have it ready for this activity.
- Prepare the children for the activity by reminding them that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as wind and fire.
- Distribute the crepe paper streamers, one to each child. (For each streamer, take three, 3-foot long red crepe paper strips and staple them together at one end.) Explain that the streamers are red because red is the color of fire and so it is the color of the Holy Spirit. Remind them that red is also the color of love, just like red hearts on Valentine's Day.
- Gather the children in a large circle, with space around each one. Explain that, when the music starts, they are to wave their streamers up, down, and around. Tell them that they will be using the power of the wind to wave their streamers.
- Explain that you will occasionally stop the music. Have the children "freeze" in place until you start the music again.

- Start the music and lead the children in a dance around the circle or the room, stopping and starting the music as you wish. Finish the dance by gathering the children in a circle.

Process the Activity

- Explore the symbol of wind for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - Can you think of a time when the wind is very powerful? (*a tornado, hurricane, or wind-storm*) But wind has power for good things also. How do we use wind for energy and electricity? (*We use windmills to capture the power of the wind to use for energy.*)
 - Wind is also refreshing and cleansing. When is wind refreshing or cleansing? (*a cool breeze on a hot day; wind can blow dust and dirt away and leave things clean*)
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like wind because he is very powerful, but also very refreshing and cleansing.
- Explore the symbol of fire for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - Can you think of a time when fire is very powerful? (*a forest fire, a house fire*)
 - How do we use fire for energy and other good things? (*We use fire for heat, for cooking, for campfires, to light candles in church and at home.*)
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like fire because he is very powerful, but he also gives us energy and light. Remind the children that fire is also a sign of love, and the Holy Spirit gives us the energy and power of love to do good things. Tell them that the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts to understand the love of God the Father for us, and also what Jesus wants us to think and do.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on pages 23–24 in its place.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Use the symbol cards that you have made in advance to show the different symbols of the Holy Spirit as you discuss them. Symbols might include wind, fire, water, cloud and light, dove, finger of God. Some pictures can be found on the Internet.
 - We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we use symbols to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us. A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit. We already know that wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit. (*Hold up the symbol cards of wind and fire.*)
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is water. (*Hold up symbol card.*) Water reminds us of our Baptism. This is when the Holy Spirit first came to us, which we will learn about more in another lesson. When we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross, we are also reminded of our Baptism.
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove (*hold up symbol card*) because, when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove.
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is cloud and light. (*Hold up symbol card.*) When Moses led the Chosen People out of Egypt, God led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of God, she was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, like a cloud may cast a shadow over something below.
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a finger. (*Hold up symbol card.*) The Holy Spirit is often called "the finger of God." We say that the finger of God, the Holy Spirit, writes God's law of love in our hearts.

Note: Further explanations of each of these symbols can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (694–701). Note that the symbolic actions of laying on of hands and anointing will be taught in chapter 3, as they are important elements in the *Order of Confirmation*.

- Explain that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit will come to each one of you personally. So we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day that you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - We rejoice in this and celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit will strengthen you in Confirmation and will be with you always.
 - At Baptism, you received your name. At Confirmation, you will be called again by your name to receive the Holy Spirit. [*Optional: You may also be called by a new name, the name of a special saint that you will choose as a friend in heaven to help you live as a strong follower of Jesus.*]

Note: The Church gives candidates for Confirmation the option of using their baptismal names at Confirmation, to emphasize the connection of Confirmation to Baptism, or of choosing the name of a saint or holy person. For further information, please see page 17 of this teaching guide.

- For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop comes to our parish. The bishop is "the ordinary minister" of Confirmation. This means that, ordinarily or usually, the bishop is the one who **confers**, or gives us, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation starts with the presentation of all of those who have been preparing for Confirmation. Each of you will be called by name and asked to come forward. [*Or, describe the customary procedure in your parish.*]
- Then the bishop gives a little talk, or homily, about the sacrament. In his talk, the bishop will remind us of what the Holy Spirit did on Pentecost and what the Holy Spirit will do in our lives today.
- Invite the children to turn to page 3 of their activity booklets and complete the activity.
Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. a

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take some time to get input from the class, and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost.
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation.
- Ask the children to color in the chapter 1 circle on their Confirmation treasure maps to mark that they have completed the first chapter. Then remind them that the symbols of fire, wind, and the dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit. Invite the children to color in these symbols.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross and saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, come to us. Come upon us, not in wind and fire, but in the love and joy you place in our hearts. Bring us closer to Jesus and to all of God's children." Encourage the children to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.



Additional Activities

Holy Spirit Headbands (15 minutes)

- Distribute the paper strips. Fit them around the head of each child, and staple or tape them together. After fitting the headbands, ask the children to take them off and put them on their desks.
- Distribute a red flame to each child. Ask the children to staple the flame to the front of their headbands.
- Explain that, just as they were called by name in the Sacrament of Baptism, so they will be called by name in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Instruct the children that, when you call their names, they will come up and hand you the Holy Spirit headband.
- Place the headband on each child's head, using these or similar words, "[Name], I place this flame upon your head as a sign that the Holy Spirit will come to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May you follow the Holy Spirit, now and always." Prompt the child to respond, "Amen."
- Play a song about the Holy Spirit to conclude the activity.

The Wind Blows Wherever It Wishes (15 minutes)

Note: Balloons are used in this activity. If any of the children have an allergy to latex, you should choose a different activity.

- Ask the children to open *The Catholic Children's Bible* to John 3:8. Help the children as needed. Read the passage aloud.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit leads us all through life, but we don't always know exactly where the Holy Spirit is leading. Tell them that sometimes God works in mysterious ways, and we just have to follow in trust.
- Explain that we will illustrate this verse now, using our own breath.
- Invite five children to form a line across the front of the room and facing the back of the room. Give each child an uninflated balloon of a different color.
- Explain that the object of this game is to get the balloon to the other side of the room by blowing it up and then letting it go. Tell the children that when their balloon falls to the floor, they should pick it up at the spot where it landed, blow it up again, and then release it again. Instruct them to repeat these actions until their balloon touches the wall in the back of the room.
- Mark the beginning of the race, and invite the rest of the class to cheer for those who are racing. Continue until the last child's balloon has touched the wall. Choose five more children, if time allows, and have the race again.
- Make the connection to the Holy Spirit with the following comments:

Materials Needed

- yellow construction paper, cut into strips lengthwise, one or two for each child
- flames cut from red construction paper
- a stapler, a scissors, and tape

Materials Needed

- balloons in a variety of colors, one for each child

Materials Needed

- a computer with Internet access
- a computer projector
- drawing paper and crayons or markers

- It was difficult to predict or control where the balloons would land, wasn't it?
- In a similar way, we cannot predict or control the Holy Spirit!
- If we are open to the Holy Spirit, we might be led in all different kinds of directions. But with faith and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will reach the finish line, which is heaven, and life forever with God.

The Holy Spirit in Animation (15 minutes)

- Show the video "33 The Holy Spirit Comes," available on YouTube (2:58).
- Invite volunteers to share some of the scenes they remember from the video. You may want to ask the children to draw a memorable scene.
- Tell the children that the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the courage to teach about Jesus and the power to heal, as Jesus had done. The healing of the beggar in the video can be found in the Acts of the Apostles 3:1–10.
- Assure the children that the gifts from the Holy Spirit that they will receive may not be as obvious as the gift of healing, but they will be just as real.

The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us



Background Focus

In this chapter's Featured Story, we find Jesus reading and reflecting on the Word of God in Scripture. After reading from the Scripture verses from the prophet Isaiah, Jesus stated, "This passage of scripture has come true today" (Luke 4:21). Jesus was claiming that he was, indeed, the Messiah and Savior, the fulfillment of the prophetic words of Isaiah.

In this Scripture reading, Jesus understood that the Spirit of God had come upon him with great power. In helping our children prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation, we are helping them to understand that the Spirit of God will come upon them with great power as well. They, too, will be able to say in their own way that "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me" (Luke 4:18).

GO (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 2 activity booklets.
- Begin prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Read the prayer in the activity booklet to the class. Invite all the children to say "Amen," and then close with another Sign of the Cross. Have the children put their activity booklets away for now.

Engage Activity

- Challenge the children with this question: Where do we find God? You may want to write the question and their responses on the board. Some possible answers might include the following: *in our hearts, in God's creation, in the love of others, in Holy Communion.*

Chapter 2

Featured Story

Jesus Says He Came to Save Us (Luke 4:16–19,21)

Chapter 2

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News
- to express that the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word
- to recognize that we are strengthened with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson at a Glance

-  **Go** (10 minutes)
Opening Prayer
Engage Activity
-  **Seek** (30 minutes)
Featured Story
Core Learning Activity
-  **Find** (20 minutes)
God's Treasure of Confirmation
Lesson Wrap-Up
Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 2 activity booklet
- materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- "The Word of God," by Spring Harvest (Elevation)
- "Word of God Speak," by Cedarment Kids (Provident Label Group, LLC)

- Remind the children that we also find God in the Bible. *(Add this to the list.)* Remind the children that another name for the Bible is the Word of God or Scripture. Tell the children that, at Mass, God comes to us in the readings and in the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.
- Tell the children that, in today's lesson, Jesus is reading the Word of God in Scripture. Explain that he is reading about the Holy Spirit. Tell the children that the Holy Spirit was always with Jesus, helping him spread the **Good News**, the message of God's love, to everyone.

† Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to open their Bibles and to find Luke 4:16–22 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1584).
- Tell them that the words between the leaves on page 1586 are a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1584.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on the pages, particularly the picture of Jesus on page 1586. Ask volunteers to describe what Jesus is doing. *(Jesus is reading from a scroll, because that is how people read from Scripture in those days.)*
- Ask a volunteer to read the title of the story, and invite the children to listen for the ways Jesus will save us.
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask them several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What town was Jesus visiting? *(Nazareth)*
 - Why was this town special to him? *(He grew up there.)*
 - Where was Jesus when he was reading? *(in the synagogue)*
 - What is a synagogue? *(It is a building where Jewish people gather for prayer.)*
- What were the words Jesus read from the scroll? *(“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed . . .”)*
- Remind the children that this Bible story shows that Jesus read Scripture at the synagogue in his hometown. When we go to Mass we also listen to Scripture together.
- Have the children turn to page 2 of their activity booklets and complete the activity with their Bibles open. *Answers: 1. Scriptures, 2. Sabbath, 3. the oppressed, 4. synagogue, 5. scroll*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1587 to the children, or invite a volunteer or volunteers to read.
- Invite the children to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review some of the key points with them:
 - Jesus was reading from the first part of the Bible, the Old Testament.
 - Jesus was reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.
 - Jesus said that the words he was reading came true that day, because he is the Savior that Isaiah was writing about.
- Explain to the children that the Holy Spirit also helps us to understand the Word of God and to live it in our lives.

Live It!

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! or read it aloud to the class.
- Ask the children to pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each sentence and ask the children to repeat it.
- Add this line to the prayer: “Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to give us strength to follow you.”

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It!
- Encourage several volunteers to stand and summarize the Bible reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!

Core Learning Activity

“Gift Basket Upset” Game

- Ask the children to recall or think about a special gift they received or would like to receive. Write these gifts on the board. Then narrow the list to about four to seven gifts (four if you have a smaller group, seven if you have a large group).
- Leave the final selection of gifts on the board. Arrange the chairs in the circle, using one less chair than the number of children in the class. Ask the children to sit in the chairs, and choose one child to stand in the middle of the chairs to act as the caller. Assign each child, including the caller, the name of one of the gifts written on the board, and ask them to remember it. Duplicates are needed so that three or more children share the name of the same gift.
- Give directions in these or similar words:
 - In this game, each person represents a gift. When the child in the middle calls the name of a gift, all those who have been assigned that gift need to stand up from their chair. Each needs to quickly sit down in one of the other available chairs as fast as possible. The child in the middle will also try to find a seat. The person left without a seat becomes the caller and will call out the next gift.
 - If the caller chooses, he or she can call “Gift Basket Upset!” and all the children have to move to a new place.
- Practice several times, and then continue the game until each gift has been called at least once.

Process the Activity

- Explain that giving and receiving gifts is something that we do to celebrate special occasions. Tell the children that on the special occasion of receiving Confirmation, they will receive the very special Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Tell the children that they will learn about these special gifts in the next part of this lesson.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on pages 29–30 in its place.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God’s Treasure of Confirmation

- Explain that the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will begin with the first part of the Mass, called the Liturgy of the Word.
 - The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Bible.
 - The Holy Spirit helps us to understand these readings and to live God’s Word in our lives.
- **Note:** If you have time, you may want to have the children read and discuss the Scripture chosen for the liturgical celebration of the sacraments they will receive.
- Tell the children that, at Confirmation, they will receive seven special gifts. Explain that we call these the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit**.
 - The seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel (Right Judgment), Piety (Reverence), Fortitude (Courage), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe).
 - These gifts were written about in the Bible by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 11:1–5, NABRE). This is the same prophet that Jesus read from when he read from the scroll in Nazareth.
- Write the seven gifts on the board. Include the alternate names in parentheses as well.

- Explain each gift briefly. You may want to give an example of each:
 - *Wisdom*: This gift helps us to see God at work in our lives and in the world.
 - *Understanding*: This gift helps us to understand how to live as a follower of Jesus.
 - *Knowledge*: This gift helps us to know Jesus through Scripture and the teaching of the Church.
 - *Counsel (Right Judgment)*: This gift helps us to know the difference between right and wrong, and to choose the right path.
 - *Piety (Reverence)*: This gift gives us a deep respect for God and the Church. We come before God with humility and love.
 - *Fortitude (Courage)*: This gift helps us to follow Jesus by standing up for what is right.
 - *Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)*: This gift is not about being afraid of God. This gift is about being aware of the glory and majesty of God and praising his works in creation, in the goodness of others, and in our own lives.
- Explain that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us to follow Jesus as his disciples and spread the Good News.
- Tell the children that, when we follow Jesus and use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are like trees that grow good fruit. Explain that in the letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians (Galatians 5:22–23, NABRE), Paul describes the **fruits of the Holy Spirit**.
 - The fruits of the Holy Spirit are characteristics that we can see in those who follow Jesus and the results of living by the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.
 - The twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

Note: The earliest Latin translation of the Bible (called the *Vulgate*) included twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Church bases its list of twelve fruits on this early translation. Modern Bible translations only mention nine fruits.

- Explain any of the fruits the children might not understand.

- Invite the children to turn to page 3 of their activity booklets and complete the activity.
Answers: 1. e, 2. c, 3. g, 4. a, 5. d, 6. f, 7. b

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all of the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take some time to get input from the class, and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News.
 - The Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Ask the children to color in the chapter 2 circle on their Confirmation treasure maps to mark that they have completed the second chapter.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross and saying, “Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God,” followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Word of God.
- Pray this prayer aloud: “Holy Spirit, come to us. Speak to us in the Scriptures. Open our minds and hearts to follow Jesus, our Savior. Help us to join him in proclaiming the good news of peace and love to all we meet.” Encourage the children to respond, “Amen.”
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.



Additional Activities

Holy Spirit Scrolls (15 minutes)

- Distribute a length of the rolled paper to each child. This is the scroll.
- Ask the children to open their Bibles to the Featured Story, “Jesus Says He Came to Save Us” (page 1586). Direct their attention to verses 18 and 19.
- Remind the children that these are the verses that Jesus read in the synagogue, and that he said that these very verses had come true in him. Explain that he was the one that the prophet Isaiah was talking about.
- Ask the children to copy the first eight words of verse 18 in pencil on their scrolls. Encourage them to make the lettering larger than usual. At the bottom of the scroll, have the children write, “Holy Spirit, come upon me!” Then have them write their own names.
- Direct the children to go over their penciled lettering with the black marker.
- Ask the children to roll up their scrolls.
- Distribute a red ribbon to each child, and help each one tie the scroll with a bow.
- Allow the children to take the scrolls home, or collect them in a basket to be taken up at the Presentation of the Gifts at the Confirmation Mass.

The Fruits of the Holy Spirit (15 minutes)

- Ask the children to open their *Catholic Children’s Bibles* to the following verse: Galatians 5:22–23 (page 1839). Help the children as needed. Read the passage aloud. Explain that this passage from the writings of Saint Paul tells us about some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Explain that if we use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, we will become like a tree that bears good fruit.
- Choose a few particular fruits for this activity. Arrange the children into teams with a fruit for each team.
- Ask the teams to come up with an example of the fruit being lived in someone’s life and tell them that they should act it out. This can be done in a negative/positive comparison. For the fruit of patience, they could illustrate “impatience” and then illustrate “patience.” Encourage the rest of the group to guess which fruit is being portrayed. When a correct guess is made, a member of the presenting team may tape the fruit to the tree.
- Tape all of the fruits to the tree, even though you did not use all of them in this activity.

Materials Needed

- rolled white paper, cut into lengths of about 12 inches, one for each child
- a pencil (with an eraser) and black marker for each child
- a 12-inch length of red ribbon for each child

Materials Needed

- a large tree cut from construction paper, pinned to a bulletin board or taped to a wall
- twelve circles of various colors, each marked with one of the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit
- tape

Materials Needed

- a computer with Internet access
- a computer projector

Jesus Proclaims the Scriptures (15 minutes)

- Show the YouTube video “English-Jesus Proclaims His Fulfillment of Scripture and is Rejected” (3:08). This video illustrates this week’s Featured Story, but also shows that Jesus’ message was not accepted by the people of his hometown.
- Remind the children that in Confirmation we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Explain that having these gifts does not mean that our good words or good actions will always be accepted by others. Tell the children that we must do what our faith calls us to do, what we know is right, even if others do not agree with us or might tease us.
- Invite the children to share a time that they were courageous, or have them draw an event that involves courage. Remind them that courage to stand and speak for what is right is one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that they will be strengthened with in Confirmation.

We Are Born Again



Background Focus

When parents choose to have a child baptized, they answer this question: “What do you ask of God’s Church for [Name of child]?” The answer is “Baptism” (*The Order of Baptism of Children*, 37). The parents ask that their child be set upon the road to full initiation into the Catholic Church. The choice to accept Jesus Christ as Savior, to be born again, is made by the parents at that moment. The Sacrament of Confirmation continues the process of rebirth begun at Baptism, and this is symbolized by the Renewal of Baptismal Promises included in the *Order of Confirmation*. This renewal, also made by the entire Church at Easter, is a direct link between the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Confirmation strengthens the presence of the Holy Spirit, first received at Baptism, through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism. Through these actions and prayers, the candidate is *sealed* with the Gift of the Holy Spirit. A seal is a symbol of authenticity. It is a verification that something (like a letter or a signature) is true and valid. Through Confirmation, the Holy Spirit seals us and verifies us as members of the Church and witnesses to Christ.

GO (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 3 activity booklets and locate the prayer on the page.
- Begin prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross, then say, “Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.” Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Read the prayer in the activity booklet to the class. Invite all of the children to say “Amen,” and then close with another Sign of the Cross. Have the children put their activity booklets away for now.

Chapter 3

Featured Story

We Are Born Again through Baptism (John 3:4–6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that we first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism
- to recognize that in Confirmation we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to renounce sin
- to summarize that in Confirmation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism

Lesson at a Glance

- Go** (10 minutes)
 - Opening Prayer
 -  Engage Activity
- Seek** (30 minutes)
 - Featured Story
 -  Core Learning Activity
- Find** (20 minutes)
 - God’s Treasure of Confirmation
 -  Lesson Wrap-Up
 - Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children’s Bible* and chapter 3 activity booklet
- a pitcher of water, a clear glass bowl, a small plastic doll, a white towel
- drawing paper, crayons
- a clear glass bottle of olive oil, a small glass dish
- materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- “Holy Spirit Come,” by Roots Kids Worship (Roots Kids Worship)
- “One in the Spirit,” by Ronnie Caldwell (Ronnie Caldwell)

Engage Activity

- Have ready a pitcher of water (preferably clear glass or plastic so the water can be seen) and a clear glass or plastic bowl. Also have available a small plastic baby doll, dressed in a diaper, and a white towel.
- Explain to the children that we will be having a “pretend” Baptism right now, to remind us of what happened to most of us when we were babies. Remind the children that our parents brought us to church to be baptized and to become children of God. Explain that this is when we received the Holy Spirit for the first time.
- Ask two volunteers to be parents, and two more volunteers to be godparents. Explain that godparents are two people who promise to help the parents in raising this child as a Christian.
- Ask the parent volunteers what name they would like to give this child. Explain that part of the name must be a name of a saint.
- With one “parent” holding the doll, pour water over the doll’s head three times (or immerse the doll three times), saying, “ _____, I baptize you in the name of the Father (*pour water or immerse*), and of the Son (*pour water or immerse*), and of the Holy Spirit (*pour water or immerse*)” (*The Order of Baptism of Children, 60*).
- Give the towel to one of the “parents” and have the “parent” wrap the doll in it.
- Explain that the day of Baptism is a wonderful day for the whole family and for our Church family.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to open their Bibles and to find John 3:1–21 in *The Catholic Children’s Bible* (pages 1651 and 1656).
- Tell them that the words between the leaves on page 1658 are a shortened version of the Scripture story on pages 1651 and 1656.

- Ask the children to look at the artwork on the pages. Ask:
 - What time of day does this event take place? (*at night*)
 - How can you tell? (*The sky is very dark blue. There are many stars. Jesus and the man are talking by the light of a candle.*)
- Ask a volunteer to read the title of the story. Ask the children to listen carefully for the question that the man, Nicodemus, asks.
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask the children a few questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What was the man’s name who came to see Jesus at night? (*Nicodemus*)
 - What question did he have? (*“How can a grown man be born again?”*)
 - What did Jesus say about being born again? (*We must be “born of water and the Spirit.”*)
 - What are the two ways we are born? (*We are born physically and we are born spiritually of the Spirit.*)
- Explain that being born “of water and the Spirit” means being baptized and confirmed. In Baptism and in Confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit, which helps us to grow and to be strong in following Jesus.
- Have the children turn to page 2 of their activity booklets and complete the activity with their Bibles open. *Answers: 1. parents, 2. Spirit, 3. physically, 4. womb, 5. spiritually*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1659 to the children, or invite a volunteer or volunteers to read.
- Invite the children to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review some of the key points with them:
 - What puzzled Nicodemus? (*Jesus said that we must be born again. Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant.*)
 - How are we born again? (*We are born again in Baptism. In Baptism, we receive spiritual life.*)

- What is spiritual life? (*Spiritual life is life with God. We cannot see it, but it is real.*)
- What does Baptism do for us? (*It makes us children of God and members of his family, the Church. It makes us Christians who will one day live with God forever in heaven.*)
- Expand Understand It! to link the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation by adding:
 - At Baptism, our parents and godparents made **baptismal promises** for us—promises that we would follow Jesus by living a Christian way of life.
 - At the time of Confirmation, we renew our baptismal promises. Now we can say them for ourselves! We promise to follow Jesus and to stay away from sin. In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit comes to us to help us to grow and to be stronger followers of Jesus.
 - We renew these baptismal promises, with the entire Church, every year at Easter.

Live It!

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! or read it aloud to the class.
- Distribute a piece of drawing paper and crayons to each child. Explain to the children that instead of drawing on two sides of the paper, they are going to think of and share out loud different ways water helps us physically. Then have them write the word *Baptism* at the top of one side of the paper and draw a picture of a baby being baptized on that side of the paper.
- Lead the group in a short prayer, “Thank you, God, for the gift of water and the gift of Baptism.”

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It!
- Ask the children to form in pairs. Ask them to choose one of their pair to be Jesus and the other to be Nicodemus. Ask them to read the first two frames to each other.
- Remind the children that the third frame shows the Sacrament of Baptism in a lake or river. Explain that most of us were baptized in a church where we gather for the Eucharist.

Core Learning Activity

Asking God’s Blessing with Oil

- Remind the children of the practice of dipping our hand in holy water and blessing ourselves. Explain to them that we do this as a reminder of our Baptism. Remind them that we bless ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Tell the children that sometimes, in families, parents bless children before they go to bed or before they leave the house in the morning. Explain that we are all God’s children, and we can ask God’s blessing on one another.
- Explain that, in Confirmation, we are blessed with holy oil as a sign of the Holy Spirit. Explain that today, the children will be blessed using olive oil. Explain that this oil is not “holy oil,” as it has not been blessed by the bishop, but that you will use it in a blessing to help them prepare for Confirmation.
- Have a clear glass bowl of olive oil prepared on a desk or other prominent place. Put a stack of napkins or paper towels near the bowl for wiping hands after the blessing.
- Ask each child to come forward as you call each name. Ask the children to extend their right hands, palm up, to you.
- Stand next to the bowl, dip your thumb into the oil, and then trace the Sign of the Cross in the palm of the child’s hand as you say, “_____, I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”
- Conclude with this prayer after all have been blessed: “Holy Spirit, in Confirmation you will come to us under the sign of holy oil. Help us to prepare for your coming to us in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Amen.”

Process the Activity

- Invite the children to touch the place where their hands were marked by the Sign of the Cross in oil. Ask them to remember what this felt like. Invite volunteers to describe the feeling: Was it smooth? soft? soothing?
- Ask the children to think about the oil that might have been used when they had a cut or that was rubbed on their chests when they had a bad cold. Explain that oil helps us to heal from illness. Ask:
 - Can you think of other good things that oil does? (*Oil helps mechanical things like locks work better and go together more easily; motor oil helps cars run smoothly; oil keeps metal from rusting; sunscreen is an oil that protects us from too much sun.*)
- Tell the children that oil is a gift from God, just as water is a gift from God, and that both oil and water are signs of the Holy Spirit. Explain that, in Confirmation, the bishop will **anoint** them with holy oil as a sign that the Holy Spirit is with them.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on pages 36–37 in its place.

✕ Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

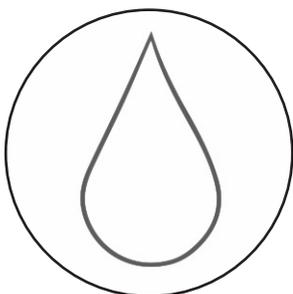
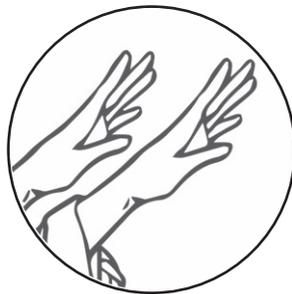
- Remind the children that they will renew their baptismal promises in the Sacrament of Confirmation. (*You may want to have the children practice the renewal of baptismal promises. A copy of these can be found on pages 2–3 in the last activity booklet.*) Explain that after the renewal of baptismal promises, the bishop will raise his hands over all those to be confirmed and will pray a prayer that asks the Holy Spirit to come and give his seven gifts to each one of those to be confirmed. This action is called the **laying on of hands**.
- Explain that the bishop will then go to each person and make the Sign of the Cross with holy oil

on each person's forehead; that is, he will anoint each person with the holy oil, called **Sacred Chrism**.

- Oil is a sign of the Holy Spirit. Just like oil can help us feel better when we are sick, the Holy Spirit can comfort us when we are sad; the Holy Spirit can heal us in body and in spirit.
- Just as oil helps mechanical moving parts work together, the Holy Spirit helps us work together with others to bring the Good News of Jesus to the world.
- Just as oil helps keep tools from getting rusty, the Holy Spirit protects us and helps us always. The Holy Spirit keeps us active in loving others, so we don't just sit around and get rusty!
- Explain that when the bishop anoints each person, he will say the individual's name followed by, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit," and the person anointed will then say, "Amen" (*Order of Confirmation, 27*). Tell the children that when they are sealed with the Holy Spirit, they receive an invisible and permanent spiritual mark on their soul that means the Holy Spirit will be with them forever to guide and strengthen them.
- Tell the children that the bishop will then give the newly confirmed person the sign of peace, saying "Peace be with you," and the newly confirmed person will then say, "And with your spirit" (*Order of Confirmation, 27*). Remind the children that the sign of peace is a sign that we are all united in God's family, the Church.
- Ask the children, if time permits, to get out their drawings of Baptism. Have them turn the paper over and write "Confirmation" on the top of the page. Then have them draw a simple cross. Around the cross, ask them to draw the outline of a large circle or "drop of oil" to symbolize the anointing with oil in the Sign of the Cross that the bishop will mark on their foreheads in Confirmation. Ask them to color the drop of oil with their yellow or gold crayon or marker.
- Write the following words on the board that the bishop says during the anointing: "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit" (*Order of Confirmation, 27*). Invite the children to turn to page 3 of their activity booklets and complete the activity.

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all of the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take some time to get input from the class, and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - We first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism.
 - In Confirmation, we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to stay away from sin.
 - In Confirmation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism.
- Ask the children to color in the chapter 3 circle on their Confirmation treasure maps to mark that they have completed the third chapter. Then have them color in the symbols of water, laying on of hands, and anointing.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by leading the group in the Sign of the Cross and saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, come to us. We look forward to receiving the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with holy oil in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May we carry the goodness of Jesus Christ with us always." Encourage the children to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

Materials Needed

- a set of seven index cards with a gift of the Holy Spirit written on the front of each card and the definition written on the back

Materials Needed

- a plastic or wire hanger for each child
- strings or red ribbon strands of varying lengths, seven (or fewer) for each child
- white paper doves, precut from white construction paper, seven (or fewer) for each child
- a hole punch



Additional Activities

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Bee (15 minutes)

- Make a set of seven index cards, with a gift of the Holy Spirit written on the front of each card and a short definition on the back. (You may want to use the definitions given in the Find! section of the lesson for chapter 2.)
- Line the children along the front or side of the room. Explain that you will read the definition of each gift, and each child will answer in order by saying the name of the gift. (You may want to have them answer in the form of a question—for example, “What is *Understanding*?”—as on the TV game show *Jeopardy*.) When the correct answer is given, go on to another gift.
- Ask the children who do not know the answer to go to the end of the line and allow them to try again when a new turn comes around.
- Continue until all the children have had a turn and all gifts have been named at least once.
- Begin a second round of the game by announcing the gift and asking the child to give the definition. As this is much harder, the children may ask a “helper” from among the group to aid them in giving the definition.

A Confirmation Mobile (15 minutes)

- Distribute seven precut, white construction paper doves to each child. If you don’t have time, you can modify this to include only three or four doves. A hole should be punched into the middle back of each dove.
- Write the following seven (or fewer if necessary) items on the board:
 1. baptismal name
 2. Confirmation name
 3. date of Confirmation (month, day, and year)
 4. church of Confirmation
 5. name of sponsor
 6. name of bishop
 7. “Come, Holy Spirit!”
- Instruct the children to write each item on a separate dove (personalizing them for numbers 1, 2, and 5). If you use all seven doves/items, have the children write the name of one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit on the other side of each dove. If using fewer doves, ask the children to write one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on the each remaining dove and the rest on the backs of the others.

- Distribute string or red ribbon in varying lengths to the children. Help them to tie each dove to a string or ribbon.
- Distribute a hanger to each child. Help them tie the doves to the hanger.
- Allow the children to take the Confirmation mobiles home as reminders of their upcoming celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Why Is Confirmation Important? (15 minutes)

- Show the YouTube video “C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith – Why is Confirmation Important?” (2:17). In this video, a bishop offers a brief description of the Sacrament of Confirmation and discusses the important tie between Baptism and Confirmation.
- Invite volunteers to share some of the key points they heard in the video. Then encourage the children to draw a picture of themselves being anointed by the bishop on their Confirmation day.
- Remind the children that we are born again in the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation. Explain that these sacraments give us a new life, a spiritual life. Tell the children that this new life is like the wind: we cannot see it, but we know it is there, especially in the seven gifts we have received.

Materials Needed

- a computer with Internet access
- a computer projector
- drawing paper and crayons or markers

Chapter 4

Featured Story

Jesus Wants Us to Help Others to Know Him (Matthew 28:16–20)

We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives



Background Focus

Jesus' Great Commission to go and make disciples and spread the Good News is recounted at the very end of Matthew's Gospel. Yet we know that this Great Commission was not an end but a beginning. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Good News exploded into the world.

The Greek word for "good news" is *evangelion*, from which we get our word *evangelization*, meaning "spreading the Gospel." If we see our faith as the treasure that it is, we can't help but become evangelizers—people who share the Good News that we have received. And we do this, in big or small ways, by being attentive to and intentional about our words and our actions and the example they set for others.

The Sacrament of Confirmation confers the gifts necessary to become strengthened as active disciples and full participants in the great mission of love that Jesus began so many years ago. Let's celebrate the fact that our children are becoming an important part of this mission through their preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, and let us renew our own efforts to be people who share the Good News in all that we do.

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 4 activity booklets and locate the prayer on the page.
- Begin prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Read the prayer on page 1 of the activity booklet to the group. Invite all of the children to say "Amen," and then close with another Sign of the Cross. Have the children put their activity booklets away for now.

Lesson Goals

- to recognize that Jesus wants us to spread the Good News everywhere
- to recall that Jesus is with us always through the Holy Spirit
- to express that the Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus in his mission of love

Lesson at a Glance

-  **Go** (10 minutes)
Opening Prayer
Engage Activity
-  **Seek** (30 minutes)
Featured Story
Core Learning Activity
-  **Find** (20 minutes)
God's Treasure of Confirmation
Lesson Wrap-Up
Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 4 activity booklet
- a large wall map of the world; paper stars or stickers
- card stock or plain white paper, crayons
- materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- "Go Out In the World," by Ed Bolduc (World Library Publications)
- "I Send You Out," by John Angotti (World Library Publications)

Engage Activity

- Display a large wall map of the world, and then ask the following questions:
 - Who knows someone living in another country? What country is it? (*Write the names of these countries on the board, or give each volunteer a sticker or star to place on the country named.*)
 - Who has visited another country to see relatives or to take a vacation? What country was it? (*Write on board or ask volunteers to mark with stars or stickers.*)
 - All Americans, unless we are Native Americans, came from another country to live in the United States. What country did your family come from? (*Write on board or use stars or stickers to mark these countries.*)
 - Jesus told us to spread the Good News. The Good News is the message of God's love. Jesus wants us to spread the Good News of his love all over the world, to all people of every country. To help us do this, he sent the Holy Spirit, whom we receive in a special way in Confirmation.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to find Matthew 28:16–20 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1522).
- Tell them that the words between the leaves on page 1520 are those that are found in the Scripture story on the following page.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on pages 1520–1521. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork. Ask them to count the number of disciples climbing the hill. Help them to identify Jesus by his white clothing and red sash around his shoulder and waist.
- Invite a volunteer to read the title on the page.
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask the children several questions to check for comprehension, such as:

- How many disciples went up the hill? (*eleven, because Judas, who had betrayed Jesus, had given in to despair and had killed himself*)
- Who was waiting for them at the top of the hill? (*Jesus*)
- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (*Go to all peoples, make disciples, and baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*)
- How long will Jesus be with us? (*always*)
- Explain that Jesus will be with us always in the Eucharist and through the Holy Spirit.
- Have the children turn to page 2 of their activity booklets and complete the activity with their Bibles open. *Answers: disciples, eleven, Son*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1521 to the children, or invite a volunteer or volunteers to read.
- Invite the children to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Review some of the key points with them:
 - We know Jesus today because of the work of the disciples.
 - Jesus told his disciples to tell everyone about him and to teach everyone what he taught.
 - Jesus still wants his followers, his disciples today, to bring people to him.
 - We can learn more about Jesus, talk about him, and live the way he taught.
 - Jesus is with us always.

Live It!

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! on page 1521 or read it aloud to the group.
- Distribute card stock or plain white paper and crayons. Invite the children to make a thank-you card for someone who has taught them about Jesus.

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1521.

- Invite the children to find a partner and use the images to retell the Bible reading the best that they can.
- Encourage several volunteers to stand and summarize the Bible reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!

Core Learning Activity (15 minutes)

Tell the Good News!

- Gather the children in a circle, and tell the children that this game will help us spread the Good News of Jesus' love to one another. Explain that each child will repeat what is whispered to them until the message gets back to you.
- Begin the game by whispering clearly, "Jesus loves you," into the ear of the child on your right.
- Ask that child to repeat the message into the ear of the child to the right. Continue until the message gets back to you. If the message is garbled, reveal the original message. Explain that sometimes we do not get Jesus' message across to others perfectly, but we keep trying!
- Repeat, as time permits, other similar messages: "Share the Good News of God's love," "The Holy Spirit is with you," etc.
- Close the activity by gathering the group in a circle and joining hands. You may want to pray a short prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking for help in loving others and showing them Jesus, or play the song, "One in the Spirit (They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)." (See chapter 3 Music Suggestions.)

Process the Activity

- Tell the children that Jesus wants us to tell others about him as best we can. Remind them that we can use words and we can use actions.

- Ask the following questions for recall:
 - What did Jesus tell the eleven disciples? (*To go to all peoples everywhere and tell everyone about him.*)
 - Jesus gave us a mission, to share his love. How can we tell people about the love of Jesus? (*We can tell people that Jesus loves them. We can be kind and loving. We can give to others. We can write notes of encouragement. We can pray for people everywhere.*)
 - How will the Gifts of the Holy Spirit help us? (*They will help us go to all peoples, near to us or far away, and help us show them Jesus' love.*)
- Conclude with the following points:
 - We can help others know Jesus by our kindness and love. Even if people live in another country, we can pray for them. Sometimes we can send them things they need, like donations of money or clothing.
 - The Gifts of the Holy Spirit will help us to find ways to help others know Jesus and to share in his mission of love.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on pages 42–43 in its place.

X Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

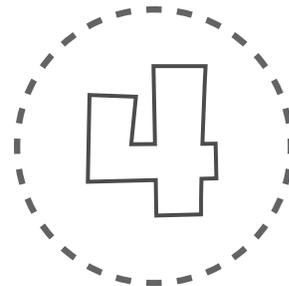
- Remind the children of the Scripture account in the first Confirmation lesson, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Tell them that this account meant that Jesus kept his promise to the disciples, to be with them always. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the courage necessary to go out to the whole world and tell everyone about Jesus.
- Remind the children that in the Sacrament of Confirmation the bishop will extend his hands over them in the laying on of hands and anoint them with Sacred Chrism. Recall that it is at this point that they are sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Tell the children that at Confirmation the Holy Spirit will come to them, to give them courage to follow Jesus and to lead others to Jesus. Explain that the Holy Spirit will be with them always to help them share the Good News and carry out Jesus' mission of love.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit will come with joy and peace, and that the day of Confirmation and First Eucharist will be filled with joy and peace for them and for their families.
- Tell the children that during the liturgy when they celebrate First Eucharist and the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Church will pray for several intentions during the General Intercessions, which is also called the **Prayer of the Faithful**.
 - We will all pray for those who have been confirmed and will receive their First Eucharist—that is, we will all pray for you!
 - We will all pray for the parents and godparents or sponsors of those who have been confirmed and will receive First Eucharist.
 - We will all pray for the Church. We will pray for our Holy Father, the Pope, for all the bishops, for our bishop here, and for our Church family all over the world, especially those who help lead others to Jesus.
 - We will pray for the whole world, especially for those in need of food, clothing, or shelter.
- Tell the children that at the end of Mass the priest or deacon will sing or say the words of **Dismissal**. Explain that this is not only a statement that the Mass is over and we can now leave. Then continue with the following points:
 - The Dismissal of the Mass is an invitation to take Jesus with us into the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - The Dismissal reminds us that the end of the Mass is really the beginning of living our faith in our everyday lives. We can do this because we have the Holy Spirit with us always. Each one of us can be a **witness** and disciple of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - A witness is someone who sees something or experiences something, and then tells others about it. We are witnesses for Jesus when we spread his message of love to others through our words and actions.

- Review the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude (Courage), Piety (Reverence), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe).
- Invite the children to turn to page 3 of their activity booklets and complete the activity. *Answers: 1. Chrism, 2. witness, 3. courage, 4. Intercessions, 5. Dismissal*

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take time to get input from the class and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - Jesus wants us to spread the Good News everywhere.
 - Jesus is always with us through the Holy Spirit.
 - The Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus in his mission of love.
- Ask the children to color in the chapter 4 circle on their Confirmation treasure maps to mark that they have completed the fourth chapter.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross and say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, you are with us always. Help us to use your seven gifts. Help us to follow Jesus and to bring others to know his love." Encourage the children to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.



Additional Activities

Materials Needed

- a ruler, stick, or branch for each child
- light-colored construction paper
- a scissors, tape, and markers

A Good News Procession (15 minutes)

- Prepare by cutting a triangular flag or pennant from each piece of light-colored construction paper, one for each child.
- Distribute a ruler, stick, or branch to each child as well as a flag and a marker.
- Brainstorm words describing the Good News that Jesus brings and wants us to share, such as *love, peace, joy, forgiveness*, etc. Write these on the board.
- Ask the children to choose a word to write on their flag. The words should start at the straight end of the flag and end at the pointed end. Encourage a variety of choices.
- Help the children tape their flags to their rulers or sticks.
- Process around the room, around the school, or to another classroom.
- Lead the children in a simple four-phrase chant while they are walking by having the children repeat each short phrase after you: "Go into the whole world! / Go and share the Good News! / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! / Love, peace, joy!"
- Allow the children to take their flags home as a reminder of the Good News that the Holy Spirit gives us the courage and joy to share with others.

Materials Needed

- a computer with Internet access or a digital device to play iTunes song

The Joy of the Holy Spirit (15 minutes)

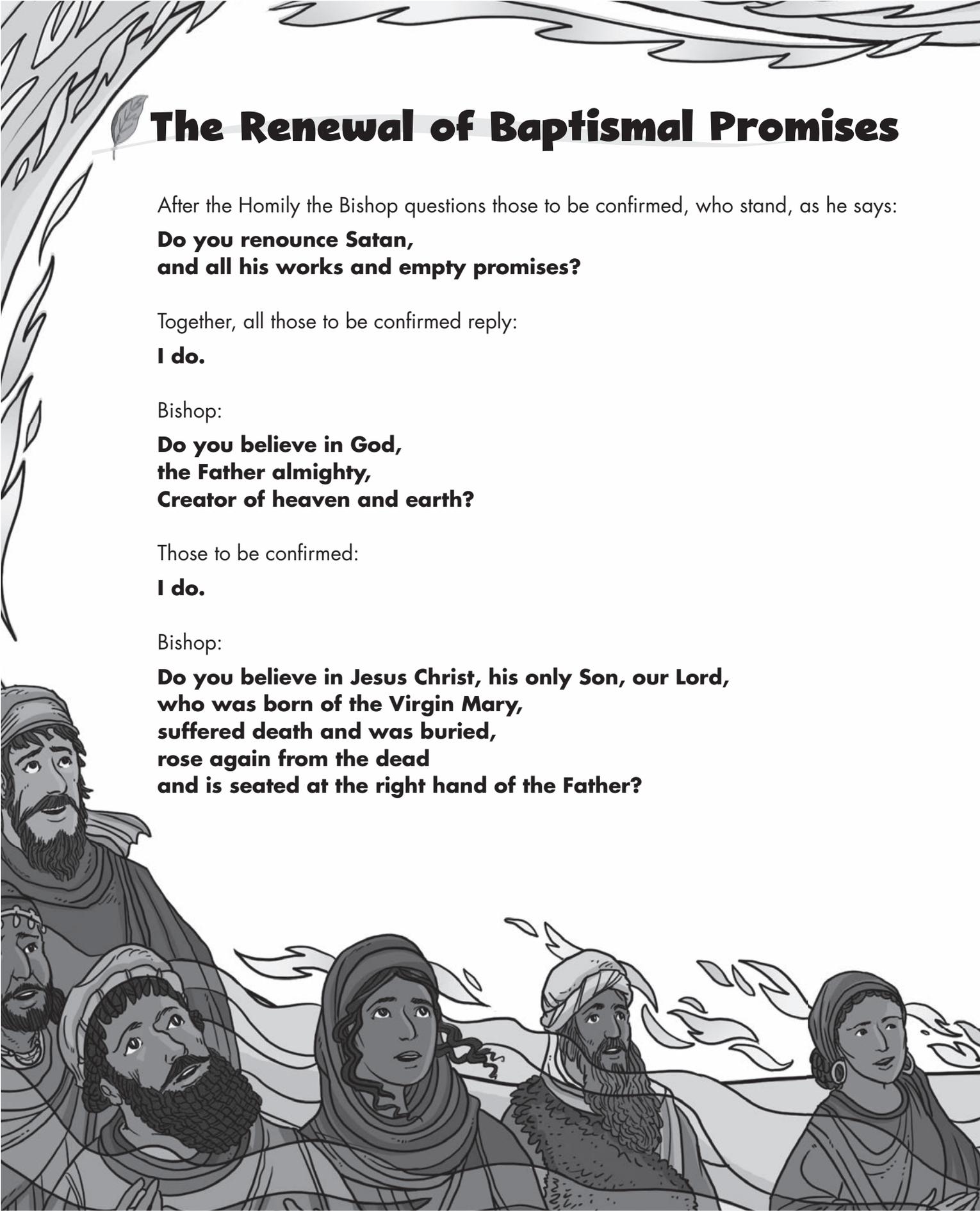
- Explain that we can bring joy and peace to others by living joyfully and peacefully ourselves. Tell the children that this song activity will help us to express the joy of the Holy Spirit.
- Gather the group into a circle of even-numbered participants. Make sure that each child has a partner. If there is an odd number of children, take the remaining child into the center with you as your partner.
- Play the song "I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy," by HumptyFell, available on YouTube (2:11).
- Note that the song usually has three verses with a refrain.
- Instruct the children to stand in the circle and clap and sing during the verse. At the refrain, "I'm so happy," they are to swing their partner in one direction until "in my heart." At the repeated words, "I'm so happy" they are to swing their partner in the other direction and stop after "in my heart." Then they are to clap and sing along with the next verse.
- Conclude the activity by asking the children how they will bring joy and peace to their families, their friends, their neighbors, and all those they meet.

The Holy Spirit in Animation (15 minutes)

- Show the video “Tell the World - Hillsong Kids (with Lyrics/Subtitles) (Worship Song)” (3:23). Ask the children to pay attention to the words.
- Invite the group to dance with the video as you play it again.
- Discuss the following challenges in the song and how they can be lived in our lives, in our words, and in our actions:
 - “I’ll stand for you [Jesus] if it’s all I do.”
 - “Tell the world that Jesus lives.”
 - “No longer I but Christ in me.”
 - “We’ll tell the world about you [Jesus].”

Materials Needed

- a computer with Internet access
- a computer projector



The Renewal of Baptismal Promises

After the Homily the Bishop questions those to be confirmed, who stand, as he says:

**Do you renounce Satan,
and all his works and empty promises?**

Together, all those to be confirmed reply:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered death and was buried,
rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who today through the Sacrament of Confirmation
is given to you in a special way
just as he was given to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?**

Those to be confirmed:

I do.

Bishop:

**Do you believe in the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting?**

Those to be confirmed:

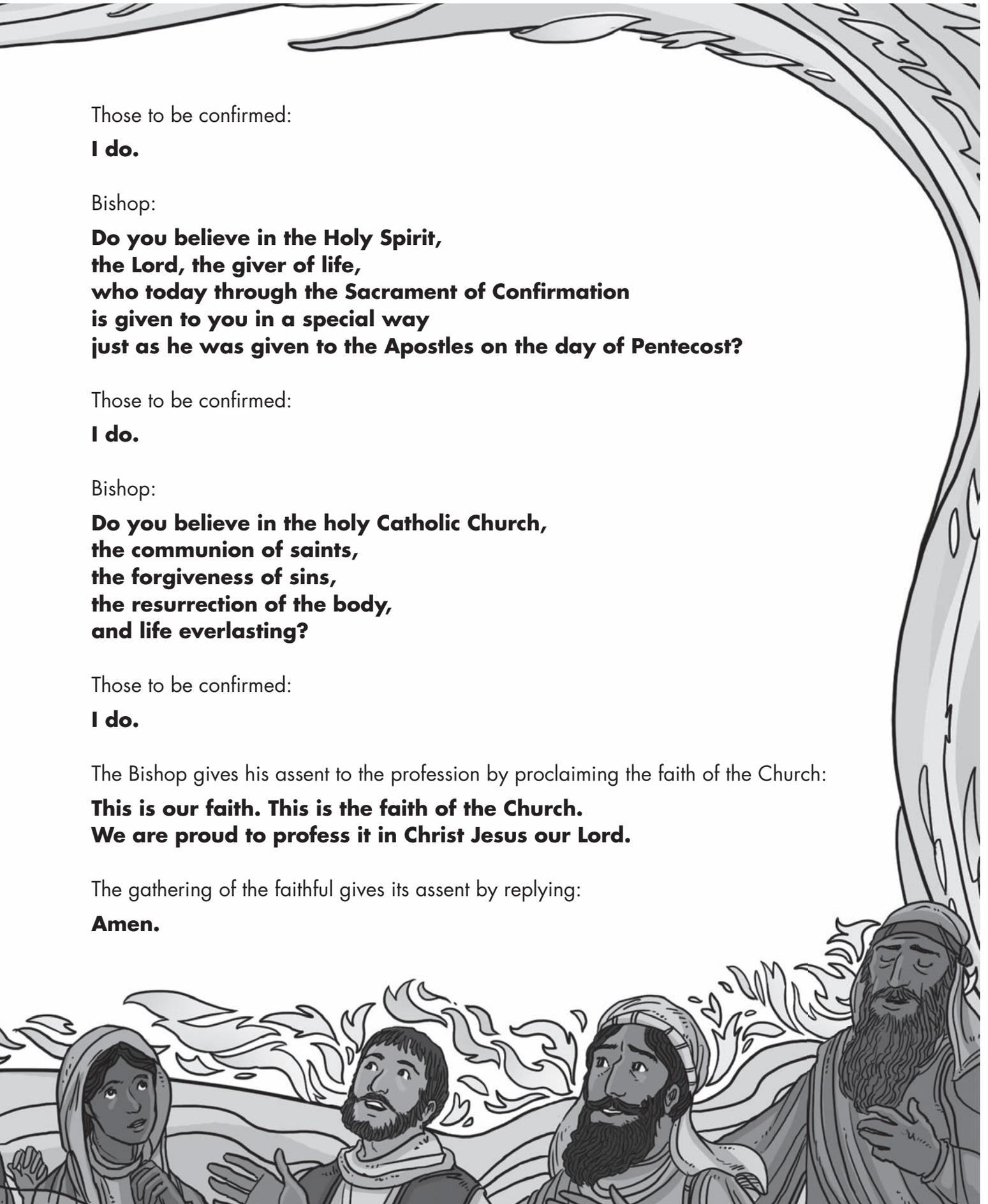
I do.

The Bishop gives his assent to the profession by proclaiming the faith of the Church:

**This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church.
We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

The gathering of the faithful gives its assent by replying:

Amen.





Confirmation Key Words

A

anoint to mark someone or something by making the Sign of the Cross with holy oil

B

baptismal promises promises made for a child at Baptism and renewed at Confirmation, First Eucharist, and every year at Easter

C

confer to give

D

Dismissal the part of the Mass where we are called to go forth to spread the Good News of the Gospel

F

fruits of the Holy Spirit characteristics that result from living by the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity

G

General Intercessions prayers for the entire Church, the world, and those in need; also called the Prayer of the Faithful

Gifts of the Holy Spirit seven gifts received in fullness in Confirmation: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Counsel (Right Judgment), Piety (Reverence), Fortitude (Courage), and Fear of the Lord (Wonder and Awe)

Good News the message of God's love; the message of the Gospel

L

laying on of hands the raising of the bishop's hands in prayer over all to be confirmed

S

Sacred Chrism holy oil made of olive oil and balsam, blessed by the bishop

symbol something that stands for something else

W

witness someone who sees or experiences an event and tells others about it

Acknowledgments

The scriptural quotations in this guide are from the *Good News Translation*® (*Today's English Version, Second Edition*). Copyright © 1992 by the American Bible Society. All rights reserved. Bible text from the *Good News Translation (GNT)* is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023 (www.americanbible.org).

The quotations on pages 17 and 34 are from the English translation of *The Order of Confirmation* © 2013, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL), number 27. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Texts contained in this work derived whole or in part from liturgical texts copyrighted by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) have been published here with the confirmation of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. No other texts in this work have been formally reviewed or approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The excerpts on pages 31 and 32 are from the English translation of *The Order of Baptism of Children* © 2017, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation (ICEL), 37 and 60. All rights reserved. Used with permission of the ICEL.

To view copyright terms and conditions for Internet materials cited here, log on to the home pages for the referenced websites.

During this book's preparation, all citations, facts, figures, names, addresses, telephone numbers, Internet URLs, and other pieces of information cited within were verified for accuracy. The authors and Saint Mary's Press staff have made every attempt to reference current and valid sources, but we cannot guarantee the content of any source, and we are not responsible for any changes that may have occurred since our verification. If you find an error in, or have a question or concern about, any of the information or sources listed within, please contact Saint Mary's Press.