

Lesson Plan for Lesson 12

The Holy Spirit

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 12, “The Holy Spirit,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles, one for each group of three or four; strips of construction paper and markers, one of each for each participant; and a fan (or two if you have a large group).
- Make several copies of the handout “Images of the Holy Spirit in Scripture” (Document #: TX003383), and cut it apart along the dotted lines. You should end up with at least one section for each group of three or four.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. **Direct** them to the Pray It! “Prayer to the Holy Spirit,” on page 131 in the handbook. **Ask** everyone to say the first part of the prayer together, and close by **reading** the last part yourself.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. The Holy Spirit’s Mission

1. **Invite** the participants to think about the Church’s various images of the Holy Spirit. Lead a discussion on the following questions:
 - What image comes to mind when you think about the Holy Spirit?
 - Do you associate the Spirit with a particular gender? Why or why not?
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the section “The Holy Spirit’s Mission,” on pages 124–126 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 3 on the handout “Lesson 12 Summary” (Document #: TX003382).
3. **(Optional) Direct** the young people to the Reflect directions on page 126 in the handbook. **Ask** them to record their answers to the questions on paper. **Invite** the participants to each write a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and courage they need to defend and live out their beliefs.

B. The Holy Spirit and Pentecost

1. **Give** each participant a strip of construction paper and a marker. **Ask** them to each print on the strip their name and one quality that they think helps to define them as a person. **Tell** them to tape one end of their strip of paper to the front of the fan so that the strips will blow out toward the room



when the fan is turned on. **Tell** the young people that wind is a common image for the Holy Spirit.

Turn on the fan at low speed, and **ask** the participants to respond briefly to the following questions:

- What are some ways that God or God’s activity in the world might be compared to a breeze or wind? (*Look for answers related to God’s invisible work, and ways that we know of God’s presence by its effects.*)
 - How were the strips of paper affected by the breeze? (*Look for answers such as movement or change from being inactive to being active.*)
 - Assuming that the fan represents the Holy Spirit and the strips of paper represent us, how does turning on the fan symbolize the effects of the Holy Spirit on individual persons? (*Look for answers suggesting that the Holy Spirit moves people and activates the gifts they already possess.*)
2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “The Holy Spirit and Pentecost” and “Titles and Symbols of the Holy Spirit,” on pages 127–130 in the handbook. The content covers points 4 through 9 on the handout “Lesson 12 Summary.”
 3. (*Optional*) After the young people have finished the reading, **distribute** the Bibles and **direct** the young people to the Scripture Connection “The Resurrection Accounts,” on page 128 in the handbook. **Tell** them to look up and read the Scripture passages in the Gospel of John and answer the last two questions in the sidebar.

C. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Direct the participants to read the section “The Gifts of the Holy Spirit,” on pages 130–132 in the handbook. The content covers point 10 on the handout “Lesson 12 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups of three or four, and **assign** a symbol to each group. **Distribute** a Bible and a section from the handout “Images of the Holy Spirit in Scripture” (Document #: TX003383) to each group. **Explain** the task as follows:
 - Read the Scripture passages that relate to your symbol, and then discuss what the passages tell us about how the Holy Spirit works.
 - Plan a short presentation to teach the rest of the class about the symbol your group has studied and what it tells us about the Holy Spirit.
 - Your presentation should address the following questions:
 - How do we encounter or use the symbol in ordinary life?
 - What does the human experience of the symbol tell us about the Holy Spirit?
 - How is the Holy Spirit depicted in Scripture passages that use the symbol?
2. After the groups finish planning their presentations, **allow time** for them to share with the rest of the class.



3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:

- The title that Jesus uses for the Holy Spirit in the Gospel of John is Advocate, which means “someone who stands by your side.”
- The early Christians clearly identified the Holy Spirit with the work of God the Father and Jesus Christ.
- The Church uses a number of symbols to identify the work of the Holy Spirit: water, fire, a cloud and light, a dove, anointing, and the laying on of hands.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, close by **praying** the “Confirmation Consecratory Prayer,” on page 449 in the handbook.

