

Lesson 1

Introduction to the Holy Spirit

Weekly Exercise Reminder

Getting to know the Holy Spirit may take some purposeful actions on our part. We want to invite the Holy Spirit into all of our daily tasks and be intentional about it. At the end of the first lecture you were given a small string bracelet to wear for a week. Every time you glance at your wrist and see the bracelet, say “Welcome, Holy Spirit.” This small act of welcoming Him will begin the journey of drawing your spirit closer to His.

(If you did not receive a bracelet at the first class, then make one for yourself out of string or yarn tied around your wrist.)

*“Who is like Thee
among the gods, O
Lord? Who is like Thee,
majestic in holiness,
awesome in praises,
working wonders?”*

Exodus 15:11

Names for the Holy Spirit

1. The names we are known by tell a lot about our character, who we are. This is especially true in the Bible. Write down the different names that are given to the Holy Spirit in the Bible from the following verses.
 - ❖ Genesis 1:2
 - ❖ Judges 6:34
 - ❖ Matthew 10:20
 - ❖ John 14:17
 - ❖ John 15:26
 - ❖ Acts 1:5
 - ❖ Acts 16:7
 - ❖ Romans 1:4
 - ❖ Romans 8:2
 - ❖ Romans 8:15
 - ❖ Revelation 19:10
 - ❖ Revelation 22:17

Qualities of the Holy Spirit

2. Match the following statements about the Holy Spirit with the corresponding verse. Some of the verses will match with the same quality.

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|---|--------------------------|
| ___ The Holy Spirit has a will | A. Psalm 139:7 |
| ___ The Holy Spirit is intelligent | B. I John 5:6 |
| ___ The Holy Spirit has feelings | C. Isaiah 40:13-14 |
| ___ The Holy Spirit is omniscient (all-knowing) | D. Psalm 104:30 |
| ___ The Holy Spirit is omnipresent (everywhere) | E. I Corinthians 12:11 |
| ___ The Holy Spirit is the truth | F. Ephesians 4:30 |
| ___ The Holy Spirit has the power to create | G. I Corinthians 2:10-11 |

Symbols for the Holy Spirit

Because it is hard for us to understand who the Spirit of God is, the Bible uses metaphors to paint a picture of what He is like. As we consider these metaphors we will begin to understand more about the Holy Spirit.

1. Wind

In John 3 Jesus has an encounter with a man named Nicodemus. This is a famous Biblical passage because in it Jesus teaches that we must be born from above or born again. But in this teaching, He also tells us what the Spirit of God is like.

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of the wind. Write below the characteristics that you want to share.
- B. Read John 3:1-10 and discuss what you learn about the Spirit of God from this passage.

In Greek, the word for spirit is *pneuma*, which means both wind and spirit. In Hebrew, the word is *ruwach*, which means wind, breath, spirit.

- C. What does Jesus do in John 20:19-22? Compare Jesus' actions to God's in Genesis 2:7 when He breathed the breath (spirit) of life into Adam. What can you conclude about the Spirit of God from these verses?

- D. What happened in Acts 2:1-13? (Focus upon the wind aspect here)

- E. On a windy day, do you let the wind blow directly in your face, blowing your hair back? Or do you turn your back so the wind blows past you? How do you feel about positioning yourself to “catch” the Spirit?

2. Dove

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of doves. Write below the characteristics that you want to share.

- B. Read Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21-22 and discuss.

- C. What is the symbol for the Holy Spirit in the above scene? What does this symbol mean to you?

- D. What were doves acceptable for in the Old Testament according to Luke 2:24 and Leviticus 5:11 and 12:8?

- E. In Matthew 10:16 Jesus mentions doves. What does He say is a characteristic of doves in this verse?

- F. If doves are known for their sensitivity to their surroundings, how can you make your life a comfortable place for the Holy Spirit to dwell?

3. Water

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of water. Write below the characteristics that you want to share.

- B. Read John 4:1-34 to understand the background of Jesus' teaching here. Discuss what you learn from this scene.

- C. Focus upon and discuss verses 13 and 14 in the above passage.

- D. Read John 7:37-39. What does Jesus teach that the Holy Spirit is like?

- E. How does Isaiah 44:3 picture the Spirit of God?

- F. What happens to us when we go without water? How does it feel to be thirsty? How do you satisfy your thirst?

- G. If you are not thirsty for the living water that Jesus offers us, will you ask Him to make you thirsty? If you are thirsty, will you ask for the living water?

4. Oil

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of oil. Write below the characteristics that you want to share.

- B. What was done in the following verses and why? Exodus 27:20, 29:7, 30:30 and Psalm 133:2?
- C. What happens in I Samuel 16:11-13?
- D. Discuss the mention of anointing in Isaiah 61:1-2. This is the passage that Jesus quoted when He began His ministry in Luke 4:18. The Greek word for *Christ* means *the Anointed One*. The Hebrew word that means *anointed* one is the word that we translate *Messiah*.
- E. If you think of oil as a symbol for the Holy Spirit, what does the parable of Jesus in Matthew 25: 1-13 teach?
- F. What happened when oil was used by the disciples of Jesus in Mark 6:13?
- G. Read the story in II Kings 4:1-7 about the widow and Elisha. How much oil was available to her? What was her part in receiving the oil? From this story discuss how we can limit the activity of the Holy Spirit in our lives and how can we encourage His activity in our lives.

5. Lamp

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of lamps. Write below the characteristics that you want to share.
- B. How do Revelation 1:4; 1:12; 3:1 and 4:5 picture the Holy Spirit?

- C. Look at Isaiah 11:2, a verse that many believe depicts the seven-fold Spirit resting upon the Lord Jesus Christ. List the seven characteristics of the Spirit of God in this verse, with the first point being “the Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him.” (He comes upon people).

6. Fire

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of fire. Write below the characteristics that you want to share.

- B. Discuss what John the Baptist teaches in Matthew 3:11.

- C. How is the Spirit of God pictured in Acts 2:3-4?

- D. What is the picture that is given in Hebrews 12:29?

- E. Read Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19-20. How is the image of fire comforting to believers and not so comforting to unbelievers?

7. Wine

- A. Brainstorm with your group about characteristics of being controlled by wine.

- B. What happens when the disciples are filled with the Spirit according to Acts 2:1-15? What did others say about them?

- C. How is the Holy Spirit compared to wine in Ephesians 5:18?
- D. Read Matthew 9:16-17 and Mark 2:21-22. Many Bible scholars feel that the “old garment” represents the Pharisaical tradition of keeping the law in order to try to please God, and the new garment is a way of life that pleases God by obeying the Holy Spirit. The new wine may represent the Holy Spirit coming to live within believers. This was a huge paradigm shift. Consider and discuss.
- ❖ Take some time to consider all of the names, qualities and metaphors for the Holy Spirit that we have looked at this week. What stands out to you about Him? Do you want to know Him more? Write out a prayer letting the Holy Spirit know how you feel.

Weekly Exercise for Our Spirits

This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.
Psalm 119:50

The psalmist above knew that God’s word has the power to revive us. Sometimes our spirits become worn out and need reviving. Each day this week, speak directly to your spirit saying the words in Ephesians:

“Awake, sleeper,
And arise from the dead,
And Christ will shine on you.”
Ephesians 5:14

If you find it hard to speak directly to your own spirit, then ask a family member or trusted friend to help get you started.

You can keep your string bracelet on your wrist for this week too as a reminder to wake up your spirit.

Lecture Notes: