

## Lesson #8 – One Interpreter (Holy Spirit)

Teacher Prep: Of all the things to teach about, the Holy Spirit seems like one of the most ethereal topics we could choose. But there are plenty of straightforward, Biblical facts that we can know about the Holy Spirit, and we are going to sort out some of these today... with our trusty Bibles in hand. One fact is that since the Bible was written by men, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, certainly it is the Holy Spirit who can best interpret it for us.

Major Points: **God Inspired Men to Write the Bible**  
**The Holy Spirit was Given to Believers**  
**The Holy Spirit Indwells Believers**  
**The Holy Spirit Reminds us of All that Jesus Said**  
**The Holy Spirit Helps Us Interpret God's Word**

Scripture Ref: **2 Peter 1:20-21** *...know this... that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

**Luke 24:49** *...behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

**Ephesians 1:13-14a** *...you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...***

**John 14:26** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***

**1 Corinthians 2:10-11** *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. **...the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.***

**1 Corinthians 2:12** *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...***

**1 Corinthians 2:14** *...a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

**Before Class:** Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

**Lesson:**

### **God Inspired Men to Write the Bible**

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- We have learned that the Bible is the inspired Word of God!
- God used men to write down the words in the Bible.
- He did this through His Holy Spirit.
- **Read 2 Peter 1:20-21** ...*know this... that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***
- This tells us that the men, who wrote down God's words in the Bible, were moved to do so by the Holy Spirit.
- Since Holy Spirit moved men to write down the Scriptures, He is the One, who will help interpret them for us!
- But how do we connect with the Holy Spirit?

### **The Holy Spirit was Given to Believers**

- Before Jesus went back to Heaven (or "ascended") to His Father, He gave His Disciples some instructions.
- He told them to go and make disciples of all the nations.
- **Matthew 28:18-20** (The Great Commission) Jesus said, "*All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*"
- That is one BIG JOB!!
- He also told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received "power from on high". (The Holy Spirit)
  - **Luke 24:49** ...*behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.***"
- 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into Heaven
- 50 days after Easter, (10 days later) was the Feast of Pentecost
- On that day, the Holy Spirit came on the followers of Jesus.

- They received great power for preaching and for speaking to people about Jesus. It was a miraculous time!
- Many people believed on Jesus and received the Holy Spirit.
  - Later on, when the Good News about Jesus was preached to those who weren't Jewish (the Gentiles) the Holy Spirit came on them in the same way!
- God had given the Holy Spirit to Believers so that they would have the POWER needed to accomplish that BIG JOB Jesus had given them! (The Great Commission)

### **The Holy Spirit Indwells Believers**

- From then on, the Holy Spirit has been given to all who believe.
- Read **Ephesians 1:13-14a** *...you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...***
- He lives in us, or indwells us. This means that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

### **The Holy Spirit Reminds us of What Jesus Said**

- Jesus told His Disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach us all things and remind them of all He had told them.
- Read **John 14:26** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***
- The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus and all that He has accomplished for us (our salvation)

### **The Holy Spirit Helps Us Interpret God's Word**

- The Holy Spirit helps us understand spiritual things.
  - **1 Corinthians 2:12** *...we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...*
- People who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior often have trouble understanding the truths of God
  - **1 Corinthians 2:14** *...a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*
- The truths of God must be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word.
  - We can pray and ask God for the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we are reading.
- The Holy Spirit reveals the meaning of the Scriptures to us.

- He brings to mind things we have learned from the Bible.
- Each time that we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit can reveal new things to us. Even when we read over familiar verses.
  - **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*
- It is like there are “layers” of learning in the same scripture verses.
- So, never quit reading God’s Word! You always learn something new!

Let’s pray and thank God for sending us the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Dear God,  
Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us.  
Thank you that He helps us understand your Word.  
Thank you that He leads us into all Truth.  
Thank you for loving us.  
We love you back.  
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

**Bible Verse Look Up** – *The children will look up (and may write down) Bible verses from the NT that refer specifically to the Holy Spirit and how He interacts with us.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles for the children to use. Also provide paper and pencils and a hole punch, as needed, for them to write down the various verses and put the papers in their Bible replicas.

During Class: Give the children the following list of Bible verses. Work with them to look them up and read them. After they have read them, have the children choose some of the verses to write down and place in their Bible replicas.

**John 3:8** *The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*

**Ephesians 1:13-14a** *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,*

**Ephesians 4:30** *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

**1 Corinthians 2:12** *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...*

**1 Corinthians 2:14** *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

**Songs** – *The children will listen to music, or read lyrics, that refer to the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Look up the following songs in a hymnal or Online, to give children the opportunity to hear hymns that talk about the Holy Spirit and how He interacts with us. Provide a means for the children to hear the songs, if possible. Most will be available Online, or find someone to play or sing them to the students.

During Class: Discuss how over the years it has been difficult at time to describe how the Holy Spirit interacts with us. Sometimes people have felt it easier to express their experiences in song. We are going to look up and listen to some of these songs. Play or read the lyrics of the songs to the children. Let them respond to the music. If you have a hymnal, review how to find songs in it. Look up online where to find contemporary Christian music, as well as other places with older hymns.

Suggested songs:

Hymns:

**Open My Eyes, that I May See** by Clara H. Scott

**Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me** by B. B. McKinney

**Spirit of the Living God** by Daniel Iverson

Contemporary Christian Music:

**(It's Just a) Spirit Thing** by the Newsboys

**The Key to a BIG JOB!** – *The children will learn more about the Great Commission.*

Before Class: Write the words to the “Great Commission” on the board, so that the children will be able to see them easily. Provide paper and pencils and a hole punch.

**Matthew 28:16-19** *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

During Class: Point out the words of the Great Commission. Talk about each portion of it and what it means. Explain that this was a very BIG JOB! To go and make disciples of all the nations is a HUGE JOB! How were the disciples supposed to be able to do this? The answer is found in the first few and the last few words of the Great Commission. “All power and authority in heaven and on earth have been given to Me” Who? To Jesus! And Jesus says that He will be with us always, even to the end of the age. So, Jesus is WITH US in this BIG JOB! Another part of the answer is found in **Luke 24:49** *...behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

This talks about the coming of the Holy Spirit! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from on high and He indwells us as Believers and enables us to do this very BIG JOB!

**The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament** – *The children will look up Bible verses in the Old Testament about the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles.

During Class: Talk to the children about the Holy Spirit in OT times. Remind them that in the NT times, after Jesus went back to His Father in Heaven, He sent the

Holy Spirit to Believers to live in us and to be with us always. But in the Old Testament, the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) had not yet been given like that. At that time, the Holy Spirit might rest on one person or another for a period of time. (For example: On the Prophets, Kings, or Patriarchs.) Now, however, the Holy Spirit indwells each Believer. The Holy Spirit is mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. Look up the following verses. Point out on the Time Line when some of these verses would have taken place. Hints for when they occurred are in the parentheses in each example.

**Genesis 1:2** (The Creation)

*The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters.*

**Exodus 31:2-5** (The Building of the Tabernacle, during the Exodus)

*“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the **Spirit of God** in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.*

**1 Samuel 10:10** (This talks about Saul, when he became the first king of Israel.)

*When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the **Spirit of God** came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them.*

**2 Chronicles 15:1-2** (The Prophet Azariah speaks to King Asa of Judah; long after the division of Judah and Israel.)

*Now the **Spirit of God** came on Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him...*

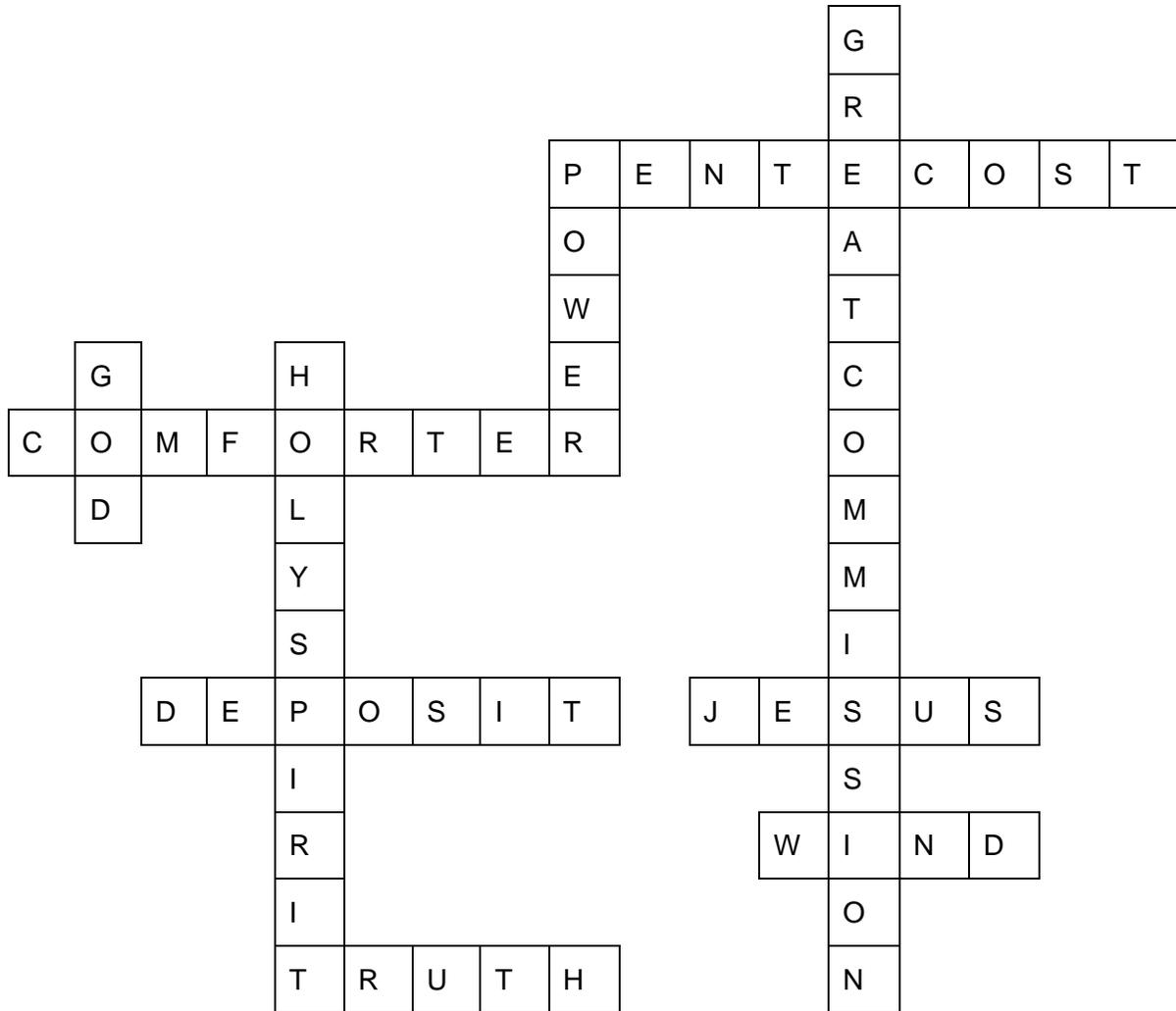
**Crossword Puzzle** – *The children will do a crossword puzzle using words that refer to verses in the Bible about the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Make copies of the Activity Sheet for the children. You will also need ONE copy of the Teacher’s Answer Key for the activity. Provide pencils/erasers.

During Class: Pass out the activity sheets and pencils. Have the children fill in the words that go in the blanks. **Work in pencil**, so that it is easier to correct mistakes. Note that some words will fit into more than one blank! Spaces between words in a phrase do not count. (Ex: “Great Commission” fits in the space with 15 letters.)

HINTS: Start with the longest phrase (Great Commission). It fits into the longest space, with the most boxes. Then go to the second longest phrase (Holy Spirit) which goes into the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest space. Use the letters where the words cross, as well as the length of the spaces available, to figure out which of the other words go where.

TEACHER'S ANSWER KEY:



Place the following words or phrases in the blank spaces. (HINT: Start with the longest phrase!)

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Pentecost        | Holy Spirit |
| Deposit          | Truth       |
| Jesus            | God         |
| Wind             | Power       |
| Great Commission | Comforter   |

