

Confirmation Session 5

Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God at work on earth. Jesus said it would be better for us to have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is poured out on all people, filling the hearts of God's children with His love and confirming their identity as part of His family.

"God is the best at giving gifts. He knows our deepest heart's desires, and He knows exactly what to give us. We're going to devote the next two sessions to talk about the gift that God gives His people: the Holy Spirit." - Ben

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

+ The Holy Spirit is God at work on Earth.

+ The Bible describes Him in many ways:

<i>Comforter</i>	<i>Advocate</i>	<i>Spirit of Wisdom</i>	<i>Guide</i>	<i>Spirit of Jesus</i>
<i>Teacher</i>		<i>Gift of God</i>		<i>Helper</i>

+ "The Holy Spirit has been working on earth since the day of creation. He's God present at the beginning, and God present with us now." - Jason

+ "There is one God who exists eternally as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One divine Essence, three distinct Persons. The teaching of the Trinity is a mystery that goes beyond reason without opposing it." - Chris Price

+ Can you imagine how awesome it would be to have Jesus by your side? And yet, Jesus told His disciples, "It is best for you that I go away because if I don't, the Holy Spirit won't come, but if I do go away, then I'll send him to you."
- John 16:7 (paraphrased)

The Day Of Pentecost

+ Acts 2 describes the Holy Spirit coming in power on the Day of Pentecost (a festival in Israel).

- + “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.” - Acts 2:17-18
- + “When the Holy Spirit fell on Pentecost, this changed everything; God was fulfilling His promise to pour out His Spirit on all people who believed.” - Jason

Questions:

- What questions come to mind when you hear about the Holy Spirit?

- What do you think about the idea that the Holy Spirit is not a force, but a distinct being (in other words, has a personality)?

- The Bible uses many names when referring to the Holy Spirit (refer to the list on the front page). Do any of them stand out to you?

What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

He Fills Our Hearts With God’s Love

- + “God doesn’t want us to be unsure of His love for us from one day to the next.”
- Jason

He Assures Us That We Are Part Of God's Family

+ "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." - Romans 8:15-16

He Makes Us More Like Jesus

+ "The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." - Galatians 5:22-23

He Gives Us The Power To Overcome Sin And Addiction

+ Christians don't have to find the power inside themselves to overcome destructive habits.

He Empowers Us With Spiritual Gifts

+ "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. *To one person the Spirit gives the **ability to give wise advice**; to another the same Spirit gives a **message of special knowledge**. The same Spirit gives **great faith** to another, and to someone else the Spirit gives the **gift of healing**. He gives one person the **power to perform miracles**, and another the **ability to prophesy**. He gives someone else the **ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit**. Still another person is given the **ability to speak in unknown languages**, while another is given the **ability to interpret what is being said**. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have." - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (emphasis added)*

Questions:

- Have you ever heard of, or had any experience with God's supernatural gifts?

- Have you ever had someone pray with you? How did it go?

