

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 3 – God, The Spirit (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Ask and discuss the question at the opening of the Student Lesson. Explain that the way in which we answer this question says a lot about our personality. Some of us tend to be thinkers, while others tend more toward action – but none of us is totally one or the other. Of the three persons of the Trinity, we can say that the Holy Spirit is more than a doer. He puts the plans of God in action.

God, The Holy Spirit

Study Notes:

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

This Scripture identifies the Holy Spirit with the title “The Lord.” From the context, we can understand that Paul is indicating the unity of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The Spirit also gives liberty. The liberty mentioned in this passage is the liberty (freedom) to live a life that pleases God (see Galatians 5:13, 1 Peter 2:16). In other words, the Spirit frees us from the slavery of sin (Romans 8:2), something that only God can do.

Genesis 1:1-2

Some say that the Holy Spirit didn't exist until the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), but this Scripture shows that He was there in the beginning, exactly the way the Son was (John 1:1-3). The title “the Spirit of God” or “the Spirit of the Lord” is the most common title for the Spirit in the Old Testament.

Acts 5:1-4

In this passage, lying to the Holy Spirit is the same thing as lying to God. The Holy Spirit totally identifies Himself with God. Also, you cannot lie to a force, you can only lie to a person.

1 Corinthians 2:11

Only God can know his own thoughts. What the rest of the passage says, though, is that He shares his thoughts with us by the indwelling of the Spirit in us. It is through Him that we receive spiritual understanding. (1 Corinthians 2:13-16).

Summary: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is completely God and totally personal. He exists in relation with the Father and the Son, and He dwells (lives) in the lives of believers.

Study Notes:

Job 33:4

We have seen in Genesis 1:1-2 that the Spirit was present and active in creation. These verses also teach that the Spirit is instrumental in sustaining creation. The Son also has a part in this work (Colossians 1:15-17). While the three persons of the Trinity are separate and distinct, we should remember that they are also One.

2 Peter 1:20-21

The Bible is more than a collection of stories and teachings from wise men. It is the Word of God. The Spirit revealed it to men and inspired them to write their words to build up God's people (see also 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

John 14:26

The Spirit is our teacher and guide. His work of reminding the Apostles of His words also gives authority to the written testimony of the life of Christ that we have in the four Gospels. They are precise documents because the Holy Spirit would "remind them of everything" Jesus said and did.

John 16:7-15

The Holy Spirit convinces people of their sin and enables them to come to repentance. He communicates the truth to His people.

Summary: The Holy Spirit does things that only God can do – more evidence of His divinity. He relates intimately with people – more evidence of His humanity.

1 John 4:1

The Holy Spirit will speak with His people, that is how we can discern His voice from many other "spirits" that are in the world. The way we know this is because we know the Bible. The Scripture was inspired by the Spirit (see above), and He will never contradict Himself. As believers we have the responsibility to be like the people of Berea and examine the Scriptures. (Acts 17:11)

Application: See the Student Lesson

*** Extra ***

What is the doctrine of the Trinity and where did it come from?

The word "the Trinity" is not found in the Bible, but the concept is biblical. The word was invented in the councils of the first church of the fourth and fifth centuries. The challenge is that the Bible clearly states that there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). However, as we have seen in this lesson and the two previous, the Bible also refers to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as God. Since we believe the Bible to be true (John 17:17), these three distinct persons must be one God. He is a "triune" or Trinity.

Lesson 3 – God, The Spirit

Doer or Thinker?

Do you usually act without thinking or think without acting?

Who, (Not What), Is the Holy Spirit?

Many people don't completely understand the personal nature of the Holy Spirit. Many think of Him like a force in the Star Wars movies, but He is not an impersonal force. He is the third person of the Trinity, completely God, exactly as the Son and Father are. Read the Scriptures below and discover what they say about the personal and divine nature of the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 –

Genesis 1:1-2 –

Acts 5:1-4 –

1 Corinthians 2:11 –

What Does He Do?

What you do is not who you are, but it reveals a lot about you. We can learn more about the nature of and work of the Holy Spirit by what He does. Write a one to two word description about the activity of the Spirit that is described in each one of the following verses.

Job 33:4 –

(The Bible uses the same word for “breathe,” “wind” and “Spirit.”)

2 Peter 1:20-21 –

John 14:26 –

John 16:7-15 –

As we see in the verses we have studied, the Holy Spirit is completely God. He does things that only God can do. He is also a person who desires intimate communion with people. The Holy Spirit wants to communicate with us, but we should be careful so that we can know when He is speaking to us.

Not Just Any Spirit

Just because someone claims to be led by “the Spirit” doesn’t mean that his words are the words of God. Many in the Bible and throughout history have claimed to speak for God, but weren’t. Read 1 John 4:1 and fill in the blank below.

We should _____ the spirits to see if they are from God.

Write below how we can determine if someone speaks for God or not.

To know if someone speaks for God, we need to know what God has already said. We need to know and be obedient to His Word, the Bible. What are some things in your life that keep you from knowing and obeying the Word of God.

What are three specific actions you can take this week to remove those obstacles.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Scripture to memorize:

Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.
Galatians 6:8