

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 18

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Lesson 18: The Holy Spirit: He Is God

Scriptures:

Psalm 139; Matthew 3:11-12; John 14:15-27; Acts 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Lesson Goals:

To help the learner understand the place of the Holy Spirit in the Trinity
 To help the learner to understand that the Holy Spirit is a gift of God to us
 To help the learner know that he or she decides her or his relationship with the Holy Spirit

Scripture Memory:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. (John 14:16)

The Lesson:

We have said that God is one and God is three. God is the Father. He is also Jesus the Son. Now we are saying that He is also the Holy Spirit. His name is Holy Spirit.

It is important for us to understand His name. The Hebrew word and the Greek word which are translated “Spirit” in the Bible, originally meant “breath.” Later the meaning was enlarged to mean wind. Even later the translation was spirit. The word never meant “ghost,” which is used in some translations of the Bible, at least not as we understand that word today. When the word “spirit” refers to the breath of God, it becomes holy. So, when God breathes, it is done in the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is also called, among other things, Spirit of God, Spirit of Jesus, and Spirit of Truth.

As “spirit” is used in the Bible it is understood to have power or force. You can blow something with your breath. The wind moves things sometimes, and when it is a tornado or hurricane, it can move very big things. So, the breath of God, the Holy Spirit, is God’s power at work. Most often when God chooses to work on this earth His Holy Spirit is involved. God’s Holy Spirit has the same power and ability to be present everywhere as does God, since He is God.

God’s Holy Spirit is sent by God the Father, and Jesus the Son, to earth to do specific tasks. Jesus, just before He left the earth, promised His disciples that He was going to send someone special to be with them. This someone would come to comfort them, to teach them, and to help them as they needed Him. Just as God the Father came in the person of Jesus the Son to the world to live, die, be resurrected and ascend into Heaven, God also came to believers as the Holy Spirit, to be in us and with us as we live our lives.

Maybe it will help to think of it this way. Let’s say that you get very ill. Your parents take you to the doctor. He is a very good doctor who finds out what caused your illness and prescribes medicine that will treat the problem. After a short time in the hospital, you are sent home. You must continue to take the medicine. You must rest quite a bit. You must eat certain foods. You cannot do some things that you need to do so, your parents, along with the doctor, find a nurse who will be with you at all times, especially when your parents can’t be there. That nurse makes sure that you rest as you should, eat as you should, take the medicine as you should, and do all the things necessary to see that you fully recover from your illness.

The nurse is for you what the Holy Spirit is for all believers. The nurse is the representative of the doctor and your parents to see that their wishes are carried out. The Holy Spirit makes sure that we follow God’s plan for our lives, do the things that are best for us, and He points out things we do that are harmful.

As we've said, God's Holy Spirit is everywhere. There is no place in all of creation that we can go to get away from Him. He also comes to us as individuals. The Holy Spirit is not something or someone God created sometime in the past. He is God, and He is the very presence of God.

The Bible says that humans can resist the Holy Spirit. We can say that we don't want a nurse to help us get along in life, even when we are sick. We can decide that we don't want the Holy Spirit in our lives, but God wants us to have Him. We do that by asking Jesus to be our Savior and Lord, and at the very moment we ask for that, God's Holy Spirit comes into our heart forever.

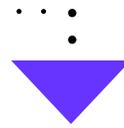
Life Application:

Just as we can refuse help, we can refuse the Holy Spirit. He is a gentleman and will not force Himself on anyone. We can decide that we don't want the Holy Spirit in our lives. God wants us to ask for the Holy Spirit. We do that by asking Jesus to be our Savior and Lord, and at the very moment we ask, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts. Have you ever asked Jesus to be your Savior and Lord? Have you invited Jesus to be in control of your life, to guide you? If not, then you are not a believer and the Holy Spirit doesn't live in you to guide and help you. And as much as Jesus wants a friendship with you and wants to send the Holy Spirit to help you, He will not unless you ask. Will you ask Him for help today?

And if you have invited Jesus to be in control of your life, you have received the Holy Spirit. He is given to all believers. He wants to teach you and guide you into what is right. He even prays for you when you don't know quite how to pray. And even though the Holy Spirit is in you, guiding you, He will not force you to do what is right. But when you truly love Jesus, you will want to obey. The two go hand in hand. How are you doing?



Planning for Lesson 19
The Holy Spirit: God's
Gift to Us



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the verse, practicing it for memory. Copy the verse onto 3x5 cards to carry home. Discuss the verse as well. Talk about **who** is mentioned in the verse. (God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit) Discuss **what** will take place and **how long** it will last.
- ◆ Review analogies. An analogy is a comparison of similar qualities between two things. For example, “cat is to meow as dog is to _____” with the answer being “bark.” The comparison is the sound made by different animals. You will often find the same analogy written as follows, cat:meow::dog:____. Offer others and spur your students to create their own. Then, discuss an analogy from the lesson: Nurse is to sick as Holy Spirit is to all believers.
- ◆ Have a Ping Pong Relay! You will need ping pong balls and straws. Mark off lanes with a start and finish line. Instruct students to begin on their knees with a ping pong ball in front of them and a straw in hand. The object of the game is to blow your ping pong ball to the finish line using the straw. After the relay, discuss the meaning of the name “Holy Spirit.” Talk about the power and force attributed to Him. Ask for examples either from Scripture or your students’ current daily lives.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Psalm 139 together as a group. Discuss the implications of this psalm.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Practice finding word meanings in various word study books. Take the opportunity to bring several word study helps to class. For example, Strong’s Concordance, Spiros Zodhiates’ Complete Word Study Dictionary, etc. Online tools are available as well. Begin by looking up the meaning for “Holy Spirit” as used in John 14:26. Stress the root meaning of “breath.” Using the same verse, study the meaning of “Comforter” as discussed last week. If possible, make study helps like these available to your students for those who desire to dig deeper.



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the Spirit of truth.
John 14:16**

The breath of God, the

Holy Spirit

is God's power at work

Word Search



O	U	E	C	N	H	G	T	H	E	I	H	S
C	D	T	L	P	T	I	R	I	H	N	S	T
M	F	A	T	O	U	C	L	P	N	T	I	A
O	T	C	E	R	R	H	E	L	R	E	T	N
C	E	O	M	C	T	G	N	E	O	R	S	D
O	V	V	O	R	F	I	N	H	L	C	R	B
M	D	D	C	A	O	G	T	E	E	E	T	Y
F	M	A	O	S	T	A	N	H	S	S	H	O
O	L	Y	L	H	I	O	U	E	N	S	P	I
R	I	O	E	T	R	T	S	L	U	O	L	E
T	C	N	A	V	I	D	C	P	O	R	T	P
E	E	E	N	T	P	R	T	E	C	H	V	D
R	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T	R	E

The following names for the Holy Spirit can be found by reading John 14 in the Amplified Bible.

Comforter

Counselor

Helper

Intercessor

Advocate

Strengthener

Standby

Spirit of Truth

Holy Spirit

Word Search



O	U	E	C	N	H	G	T	H	E	I	H	S
C	D	T	L	P	T	I	R	I	H	N	S	T
M	F	A	T	O	U	C	L	P	N	T	I	A
O	T	C	E	R	R	H	E	L	R	E	T	N
C	E	O	M	C	T	G	N	E	O	R	S	D
O	V	V	O	R	F	I	N	H	L	C	R	B
M	D	D	C	A	O	G	T	E	E	E	T	Y
F	M	A	O	S	T	A	N	H	S	S	H	O
O	L	Y	L	H	I	O	U	E	N	S	P	I
R	I	O	E	T	R	T	S	L	U	O	L	E
T	C	N	A	V	I	D	C	P	O	R	T	P
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