

GOT SPIRIT? [Holy Spirit]

THIS WEEK

Some of your kids can relate to God the Father and God the Son—but what about God the Holy Spirit? It's hard to understand why or how God can be three different people at the same time. This TalkSheet gives you the chance to discuss the role the Holy Spirit plays in the life of a Christian.

OPEN

The Holy Spirit is a storehouse of power who can enable your kids to live the Christian life. To illustrate this point and introduce this session, empty a small pressurized can of shaving cream onto a table in front of the group. Look at how much a small container can hold! Point out something similar is true for the Holy Spirit living in us. As Christians, we have the power of God's Holy Spirit inside us—waiting to be released.

To get a bit deeper, ask the group how they can know the Spirit. How does God use the Spirit in their lives from day to day? Can they feel him? See him? What makes the Spirit different from Jesus? Or different from God?

THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. On a whiteboard or poster board, list all the words or phrases that the group listed. Why did they choose the ones they did?
2. How would your kids explain the concept of the Holy Spirit? Try to arrive at a definition of the Holy Spirit with your group. This definition should include the fact that God the Holy Spirit is as real and as important as God the Father or God the Son. You may want to consult your church's statement of faith or look up some of the following Scripture passages: John 14:15-31, Romans 8:1-17, 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.
3. Invite your group to share their choices. While all of the items on the list are things that the Holy Spirit can do, you may want to emphasize the things that are mentioned specifically in Scripture: comforts (John 14:16-17); convicts of sin, (John 16:8-11); teaches and guides (John 16:13); prays for us (Romans 8:26); gives spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7); leads (Galatians 5:18). If possible, take this opportunity to share specific examples of how you have experienced or witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. Ask some of the young people to do the same.
4. Read Acts 2:1-4, then have the group discuss their opinions. Other references in Scripture you may want to consider are Acts 4:8; 6:3-5; 9:17; 11:24; 13:9, 52; 1 Corinthians 12:13; or Ephesians 5:18.

5. What do these verses say about the Holy Spirit? Do they think differently of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? You may want to ask for volunteers to share their sentences.

THE CLOSE

The Holy Spirit plays a vital role in the life of Christians. The Holy Spirit encourages us, strengthens us, and fills us with all the fruits—love, patience, kindness, self-control, and so on. What are your kids missing in their lives?

Challenge your kids to ask God to take more control of their lives and to fill them with his Spirit. The closer they are to God, the more his Spirit works in them. What can they do today to get closer to God and get filled with the Spirit?

MORE

- What are the top three questions that your group has about the Holy Spirit? You may want to discuss these questions with the group and invite your senior pastor to help, too. Or have groups of your kids find one piece of information on the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to ask a parent, teacher, pastor, sibling, look through their Bible, or look on the Internet, and bring in the info next meeting.
- Or dig into the Bible to find some info! Break your group up into three groups and have each group find verses that describe each part of the Trinity—God, Jesus, and the Spirit. Compare these verses and descriptions of each part. How does the Bible describe each one? Is each part the same? What are the differences between them? Is one more powerful than another?