

Lesson 1 | June 5, 2022

Why the Holy Spirit Came

Study Text: John 14:15–26; 15:26–27; 16:7–14; Acts 2:1–4; Romans 8:26–27

Central Truth: The Holy Spirit enables us to live for Christ and make the gospel known to the world.

Key Verse: John 15:26

When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me (KJV).

“I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me” (NLT).

Learning Objectives

- Students will articulate the importance of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- Students will recognize the various roles the Spirit fulfills in the lives of Christians.
- Students will appreciate the Holy Spirit’s work in convicting and convincing the lost, drawing them to Christ.
- Students will seek to be filled with the Spirit.

Introducing the Lesson

Say: Today, we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the day on which God poured out His Spirit on the early disciples, giving them boldness to speak for Him and changing their lives forever! Like other celebrations within the Church, it’s easy to look back at this event as a moment in history without fully understanding its meaning for us individually or for the Church in our day.

What is the purpose of Memorial Day? Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas?

Opening Activity—HELP!

Ask: What activities or tasks have you attempted only to learn that you would need help to accomplish them? **Human resources are not sufficient enough to empower us to carry out our spiritual responsibilities God has laid on us. David put his focus on earthly resources and made his leaders perform a census.**

Say: When Jesus told His disciples to “go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone” (Mark 16:15, NLT), He knew that He was asking them to do a task that would be impossible for them. He knew they would need supernatural empowerment to

help them do what He was calling them to do. But He had already promised them the Helper who would come alongside of them and empower them. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Pentecost has its roots deep in the Old Testament where it was known as the “Feast of Weeks” or the “Feast of Firstfruits.” It was a time when Jews from all over the known world came to Jerusalem for a joyous celebration. It is only fitting that God chose that time to empower His people for the task of reaching the whole world for Him. The Holy Spirit is present today, ready to empower us just as He did those first disciples.

Part 1—The Spirit Came at Pentecost

The Spirit Promised

John 14:15-18

[Jhn 14:15-26 KJV] 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Say: The Bible reveals to us that God exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is present in events in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament, though once we come to the New Testament we see the Spirit’s involvement with more clarity. After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, the Spirit became central and active within the Church as well as the lives of individual Christians. The Spirit was always present, yet He arrived in a dramatic way on what is now referred to as the Day of Pentecost. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

On the night of the Last Supper, Jesus had a long discussion with His disciples (see John 13–16). During this time Jesus instructed them to obey what He commanded, and do so out of love (John 14:15). **While His disciples did love Him, they would not always find it easy to do what He commanded. Jesus knew they would need help, so He was going to provide that help for them. He promised that, once He was gone, He would send them a Helper, the Holy Spirit. Scripture describes the Spirit as a Comforter (verse 16, KJV) or Advocate (NLT).**

Advocate: One that comes along side and gives comfort and defends us. One who helps another by defending or comforting him or her. Advocate was the name given by

Christ. The Holy Spirit, serving as our Advocate, teaches us about God, testifies about Christ, enables us to testify, and convicts the world of guilt.

Jesus also identified the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of truth” (verse 17, KJV). This points to the essential role of the Spirit in guiding Christians into truth and exposing falsehood. Although Jesus was to soon die, rise again, and ascend into heaven, the Holy Spirit would be with them always. The Spirit is sent for all believers. He indwells all who know Christ and empowers them for service (Acts 1:8). Yet the Spirit has a message for the world as well: New life is available through Christ.

Jesus noted that the world cannot accept the Spirit because it does not know Him (John 14:17, KJV; “recognize him,” NLT). Note that this refers to experiential knowledge. We come to know the Spirit because the Spirit lives within us and is at work within us.

Jesus also assured the disciples that He would not abandon them or leave them as orphans. In Bible times, orphans were often mistreated and sometimes even sold as slaves because they had no one to protect them. This reaffirms the truth that Jesus would never truly leave His people alone. Just as Jesus had been their Friend and Guide, the Spirit would fill that role as well.

Resource Packet Item 1: Comforter and Truth-Giver

Distribute the work sheet and encourage students to complete it on their own. Encourage them to look for opportunities to tell others about the times when the Holy Spirit has been at work in their lives.

Discuss

? Why was it important for Jesus to teach His disciples about the Holy Spirit before His coming crucifixion?

? How does the Holy Spirit’s presence give you comfort?

The Spirit’s Arrival

Acts 2:1–4

[Act 2:1-4 KJV] 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Say: When God makes a promise, we can be certain that He will fulfill it. During His last days on earth, Jesus had taught His disciples regarding the promised gift that would come from the Father. We have the advantage of hindsight so we can see the fulfillment of that promise, both for the first disciples and for us. No doubt, those first disciples were puzzled by this promise, as they were by many of Jesus' words. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Holy Spirit has always been present, but the events recorded in Acts 2:1–4 fulfilled the promise of Christ from John 14 and ushered in the Spirit-empowered Early Church. Luke provided a number of significant facts that led up to this event. Those present were in “one accord” (Acts 2:1, KJV). That is, they were unified and of one mind. Suddenly, miraculous events took place that could be seen and heard through their physical senses: the sound of rushing wind and the appearance of what looked like tongues of fire resting on each of them (verses 2–3). These two miraculous scenes were not repeated in future manifestations of the Spirit. However, the third manifestation was. They all miraculously spoke in languages they had never learned (verse 4).

Speaking in tongues is still the immediate, outward sign that someone has been filled with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is not the gift, but a sign the person has received this gift. We are not to seek tongues, but to seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. This experience enables Spirit-filled believers to effectively participate in the mission of God. Luke made this clear in the Book of Acts. Every believer needs to obey Christ's command and seek to be filled with the Spirit (Acts 1:4–5).

Discuss

? Why was it important that the believers be in one accord when the Spirit was given?

? Question ?

Resource Packet Item 1: Comforter and Truth-Giver

What observable signs accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think these were important.

Part 2—The Spirit Helps Believers

Our Teacher and Guide

John 14:26; 16:12–14

[Jhn 14:26 KJV] 26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

[Jhn 16:7-14 KJV] 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. **12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.**

Say: Jesus had been walking with His disciples and teaching them for more than three years. His time with them was coming to a close, and there was more for them to learn, especially as their future unfolded. He was not going to leave them without a teacher. He would send the Holy Spirit to teach them and guide them in completing the task Jesus was leaving for them. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Jesus stated that the Spirit would teach believers (John 14:26). This takes place in two ways. First, He will teach “all things.” He helps believers understand everything they need to know to live for Christ. Second, the Spirit helps believers remember all that they have learned of Christ’s teachings.

Jesus did not say the Spirit would enable us to understand all that can be known about God and His creation. Rather, the Spirit equips us to understand and apply the Word of God. It is of great value and comfort to know that the Spirit is there to help us at critical times when we need to recall or recognize spiritual truth.

We need to know the Word, then trust the Spirit to bring it to mind at just the right moment. Christians face all manner of trials and difficulties. It is comforting to know that the Spirit can bring the words of Jesus and the promises of Scripture to our minds.

Left to themselves, the disciples might have forgotten what Jesus taught. The human mind is limited and flawed. Furthermore, false teachers and teachings can bring about subtle changes in understanding Scripture that ultimately lead one very much off course. Christians today, just like the first disciples, can be confident that the Spirit will never lead them down a path of destruction. For those who will listen, the Spirit provides divine insight and instruction regarding truth.

It is also important to note that the Spirit came to glorify Christ (John 16:14). When the Spirit instructs us in Christ's teachings, calling to mind His words, He is glorifying Christ. **Simply put, the Spirit glorifies Christ by making Christ known. As the Spirit works through the gifts He grants to believers, those gifts ultimately bring glory to Christ.**

Discuss

? How can the promise of the Spirit impact the way we use the Word of God?

? Why do you think the disciples needed to be guided into truth (John 16:12–13), even after Christ had taught them what they needed to know?

Our Helper in Prayer

Romans 8:26–27

[Rom 8:26-27 KJV] 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what [is] the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God.

Say: Prayer is a crucial part of the believer's life. In times of crisis, even those who are not believers often ask for prayer, knowing in their hearts that God hears and answers His people. While volumes have been written on effective prayer, we often find ourselves in times when all the principles we have learned are not enough to help us in our time of weakness or crisis. The Holy Spirit is there to help in those times. (Share your highlights from the following text.)

Romans 8:26–27 speaks to a moment of great weakness in the Christian's life. When we are overwhelmed and confused to the point that we do not know how to pray, the Spirit is able to intercede for us. **When He does, we find assurance that He does not communicate anything outside of the Father's will (verse 27). The Spirit's intercession brings about restoration, strength, and hope. The Holy Spirit will never ask for anything outside of God's will. So we see the importance of allowing the Spirit to pray through us. This provides an extra level of confidence for Christians, knowing the Holy Spirit is praying for them and is strengthening them in times of distress.**

Every believer has weaknesses, and the Holy Spirit can use those weaknesses for the glory of God. Our weaknesses may leave us powerless in our prayers, but the Spirit guides us, using both human words and words in heavenly languages. We can rely on the Spirit to guide and empower our prayers.

Discuss

? Why does every Christian, whether new to the faith or a lifelong believer, need help in prayer?

? What examples can you give of times when the Holy Spirit prayed through you when you did not know how to pray or what to say?

Part 3—The Spirit Convinces the World Testifies of Jesus

John 15:26–27

[Jhn 15:26-27 KJV] 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

Say: The salvation experience itself is a work of the Holy Spirit. He works in the lives of unbelievers to draw them to Christ, give them a hunger for God, convict them of sin, and show them the reality of Jesus. As we submit to His leading, we too become involved in reaching others for the Kingdom.

(Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of truth.” The world needs to hear the truth of the gospel, so the Holy Spirit will teach you more about Jesus and empower you to be an effective witness for Him. The Great Commission commands Christians to go and make disciples. Proclamation of Christ, then, is part of the Christian’s responsibility. We work together with the Spirit, under the Spirit’s direction, to proclaim the name of Jesus to all who need to hear (verse 27). We must keep in mind, however, that only the Spirit can convict people of sin (John 6:44; 16:8). As we cooperate with the Spirit, God’s kingdom will expand and the name of Jesus will be glorified.

Jesus called His disciples go and teach others. Through the Holy Spirit, He empowers us to “be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere” (Acts 1:8, NLT). This task starts at home and extends to the entire world. Sometimes we fail to fulfill our responsibility because we fear an unfavorable response. Other times we feel as if we don’t have the right things to say, in part because we don’t know what an unbeliever is thinking or experiencing. When we rely on the Spirit, we can rest in the confidence that the Spirit knows what needs to be said, and why.

Resource Packet Item 3: Ruben

Distribute the case study and either read it aloud and discuss as a class or divide the class into small groups to discuss the questions.

Discuss

? Since the Holy Spirit guides people to Jesus, what then is the responsibility of Christians in evangelism?

? What are some reasons people shy away from proclaiming Christ, and how can the Spirit overcome our hesitations?

Convicts and Convinces

John 16:7–11

[Jhn 16:7-11 KJV] 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Say: In the secular culture of our day, it is easy to become discouraged with the state of our world and wonder if anything we say and do is making an impact on our family members, neighbors, and friends who do not know Christ. It seems that the voice of the world is so loud that it drowns out the voice that is calling people to God. **But the Holy Spirit is never silenced by the forces of evil. It is He who convicts of sin, but we must demonstrate the love of Jesus to those who need Him.** (Share your highlights from the following text.)

The Spirit is essential in convicting and convincing people of their sin. Without the Spirit's convicting power, people would never become aware of their spiritually lost state. Therefore, they would not be prompted to repent and turn from their sin. In John 16:7–11, Jesus taught about this activity of the Spirit. Through the Spirit people are convicted regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment (verse 8). This work draws the guilty to repentance and forgiveness.

We live in a world steeped in the belief that right and wrong are relative.

In other words, doing what is right or wrong depends on circumstances. What is right for me may not be right for you. What is wrong for me may not be wrong for you. Simply put, What saves you may not save me. What saves me may not save you.

Many who do not follow Christ reject the absolute truth of God’s Word, claiming they are needless, outdated, and even offensive. As a result, we will not in ourselves convince anyone of their sin. But the Holy Spirit accomplishes this task perfectly. We must trust the Spirit.

In verse 9, Jesus explained why the Holy Spirit needs to convict the world of its sin. He said, **“The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me”** (NLT). Our world often believes in the innate goodness and self-sufficiency of humanity. Through the Spirit, sinners recognize their lostness, as well as the real danger of judgment. Righteousness here refers to Jesus’ righteousness, given to every believer (verse 10). Through Him, we are delivered from the judgment awaiting all who do not call on His name.

As Christians, we can give glory to God that, even though Satan is condemned before God (John 16:11), we will not be a part of his judgment. Through the Spirit, we find strength to live for Christ no matter the spiritual challenges we face from the enemy of our souls.

Discuss

- ? What, specifically, does John 16:7–11 say regarding the conviction of the Holy Spirit?
- ? What examples can you give of times when the Holy Spirit has brought conviction to you, even after you became a believer?

Resource Packet Item 3: How Is One Baptized in the Spirit?

Distribute the work sheet “How Is One Baptized in the Spirit?” (Note that some students may wish to complete this work sheet individually.) Discuss responses, emphasizing that the Lord wants all Christians to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

What Is God Saying to Us?

Say: The Holy Spirit was sent for the benefit of all believers. He is your most important Guide and Giver of strength in life and ministry. Give thanks to the Lord for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Every day, seek the Spirit’s guidance and instruction, as He guides you into a deeper relationship with the Savior and helps you live a victorious Christian life. Although this may be challenging, ask the Spirit to search your life and bring conviction to areas in which you lack submission to Jesus. Respond with obedience and worship, giving thanks to the Lord for the gift of the Spirit. If you have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Living It Out

Ministry in Action

- Take time to listen to what the Holy Spirit may be teaching you today.
- If you have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, ask God to fill you with the Spirit.
- Watch for opportunities the Holy Spirit brings to you where you can witness to someone about Jesus.

Daily Bible Readings

Monday:

Anointed by the Spirit.

1 Samuel 16:10–13

[1Sa 16:10-13 KJV] 10 Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. **11** And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all [thy] children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. **12** And he sent, and brought him in. Now he [was] ruddy, [and] withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this [is] he. **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

Tuesday:

Led by the Spirit.

Ezekiel 3:10–14

[Eze 3:10-14 KJV] 10 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. **11** And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. **12** Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, [saying], Blessed [be] the glory of the LORD from his place. **13** [I heard] also the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels over against them, and a noise of a great rushing. **14** So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

Wednesday:

Born of the Spirit.

John 3:1–8

[Jhn 3:1-8 KJV] 1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: **2** The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. **3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. **4** Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? **5** Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** That which is

born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Thursday:

Ministry of the Spirit.
John 16:5–15

[Jhn 16:5-15 KJV] 5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? 6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

Friday:

Witness of the Spirit.
Romans 8:12–17

[Rom 8:12-17 KJV] 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together.

Saturday:

Filled With the Spirit.
Ephesians 5:15–22

[Eph 5:15-22 KJV] 15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord [is]. 18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to

yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. 22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.