

Holy Spirit: ghost or Holy Ghost?



Introduction:

The aim of this session encourages the young people to discuss the Holy Spirit and understand the Biblical roots as well as how the Holy Spirit impacts Christian lives today.

Aims & objectives:

- To explore the characteristics of the Holy Spirit.
- To deepen the young people's understanding of how the Holy Spirit transformed Christian lives in the early church.
- To understand how the Holy Spirit can impact their own lives and faith.

Materials: 'True or False' statements and Bible verses.



Activity...

True or false?

To begin the fourth session arrange the group in the centre of the room for a game of 'True or false'. One by one read out the statements about the Holy Spirit (on the next page) encouraging the young people to vote as to whether they think the statements are true or false. After each answer, the Bible verses provided can be used as a scripture reference to clarify the statements (these can also be found on the last page).

Conclude the opening activity, stating that the Holy Spirit is often misunderstood and this session will help the young people unpack who and what the Holy Spirit is to the Christian faith.



Activity...
True or false?



Engage...
What is the Holy Spirit?



Explore...
Pentecost



Going deeper...
Fruit of the Spirit



Pause...
Feasting on the Spirit



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True or False:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1) The Holy Spirit is not mentioned in the Old Testament. | (false) Genesis 1:2 |
| 2) When Jesus was baptised, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven in the form of an eagle. | (false) Matthew 3:16 |
| 3) During Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit rested on the disciples the crowd of onlookers thought that they were drunk. | (true) Acts 2: 12-13 |
| 4) The Holy Spirit made Mary pregnant. | (true) Matthew 1:18 |
| 5) The Holy Spirit lives all around me but not within me. | (false) 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| 6) The Holy Spirit has been described as a helper. | (true) John 14: 26 |
| 7) The Holy Spirit and fruit have something in common. | (true) Galatians 5: 22-25 |
| 8) The Holy Spirit enables people to speak in foreign languages. | (true) Acts 2: 4 |
| 9) There is only one gift associated with the Holy Spirit. | (false) 1 Corinthians 12:4 |
| 10) The Bible does not mention any other types of spirits. | (false) 1 John 4:1 |

(scriptures are printed on page 4)



Engage...

What is the Holy Spirit?

Materials: Laptop/equipment to play a You Tube clip.

Watch the youtube clip 'What is the Holy Spirit?' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulzHb9YNEOY>
After the clip invite the young people to feed back on what it says to them about the Holy Spirit.



Explore...

Pentecost

Materials: Pens and copies of the 'Explore' worksheet (quiz/answers and Acts 2 Bible reading).

Explain to the group that Pentecost is a very special event when the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the book of Acts. Whilst asking the young people how much they know about Pentecost, hand around copies of the Quiz worksheet - give a prize for the highest score.

After you have gone through the answers, read the story of Pentecost together in Acts 2: 1-21 and 2: 43-47. From the reading, ask the young people their thoughts on the passage and ask the following questions:

- How did the disciples respond to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?
- How do you think people would respond if something similar happened to the Church today?



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Going deeper...

Fruit of the Spirit

Materials: Copies of the 'Going deeper' worksheet.

Continuing on from the previous activity, clarify to the group that Pentecost was a very special event but the Holy Spirit was not exclusive to the early church. The Holy Spirit enables and equips the Church today through the gifts the Spirit pours out on those who believe in God. In small groups read Galatians 5: 16-26 and answer the questions:

- 1) How do the fruits as described in Galatians help reveal God to people?
- 2) Which fruits of the Spirit would you say are most important?
- 3) Which fruits of the Spirit would you say you display in your life?
- 4) Recognising that Christians do not express the fruits of the Spirit all of the time, are there any fruits of the Spirit that you struggle with?
- 5) How can the Holy Spirit equip you to live out your Christian life in your family, friendships, school and community today?



Pause...

Feasting on the Spirit

Materials: A selection of different fruits chopped up and placed in a large bowl.

To begin the reflection, invite the young people to gather around the bowl. Explain that the bowl represents the source of the fruits of the Spirit. Then invite the young people to share the fruit with one another. Each time they hand a piece of fruit to someone else say, "May the Holy Spirit help you to express its fruits". The person responds by saying, "Amen". Finish the reflection saying the prayer below together, leaving several seconds in between each 'fruit' to allow time for the young people to think about what each word might mean to them.

May we all express...

Love,
Joy,
Peace,
Patience,
Kindness,
Goodness,
Faithfulness,
Gentleness,
Self control,
Amen.



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Activity...

Fact or Fiction? Scripture references...

- 1) The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.
(Genesis 1:2)
- 2) After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.
(Matthew 3:16)
- 3) The crowd stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other. But others in the crowd ridiculed them, saying, "They're just drunk, that's all!"
(Acts 2:12-13)
- 4) This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.
(Matthew 1:18)
- 5) Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body.
(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
- 6) But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative-that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.
(John 14: 26)
- 7) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.
(Galatians 5: 22-25)
- 8) And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.
(Acts 2: 4)
- 9) There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.
(1 Corinthians 12:4)
- 10) Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.
(1 John 4:1)

