

Spirit of Action

**1**

Before you begin, please read the introduction on the right to yourself.

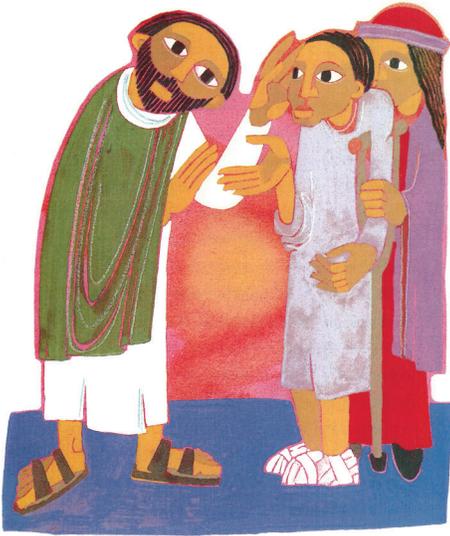
2

With the help of your child, prepare the meeting space. Pull out your Bible, light some candles, and add any other decoration you'd like to make the space beautiful.

Then begin with a prayer.

3

Getting started. Discuss together: When have you surprised yourself by acting with unexpected patience, courage, kindness, or self-control? That was probably the Holy Spirit at work in you!



1

Have one family member read the text below out loud or take turns. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

The Holy Spirit was promised to us and, on Pentecost, came to us. Jesus had taught us all he could. Now, with the Spirit's help, we are to live out the plan Jesus spoke about so often.

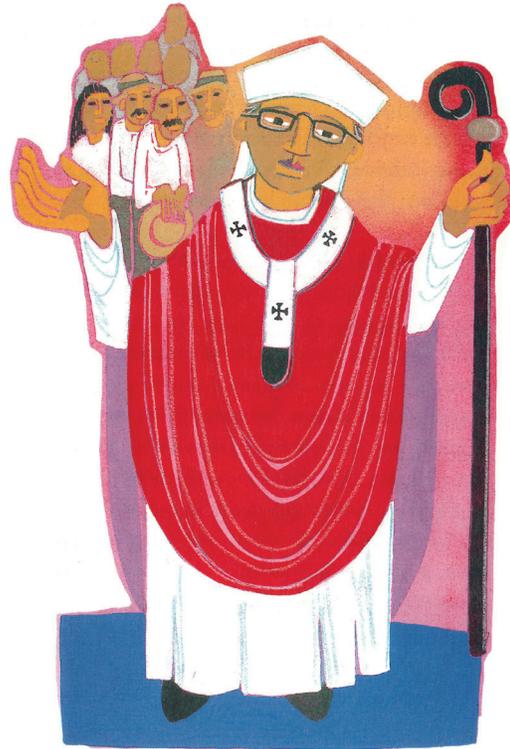
Words are important, of course. We express our thoughts, our feelings and our beliefs. Language is what connects us to one another.

We belong to a community that supports us. We pray to a God who loves us. We are forgiven by both our community and our God when we say we are sorry. These are signs of the Spirit with us, and we are called to share this Good News in all we say.

But what do you think about people who say one thing and do something different? If I say I love dogs, but kick a puppy when it runs up to me, what have I really told you about me? Would you believe my words or my actions?

When you are baptized, you receive a vocation or a calling to a certain life. Your vocation is to be a Christian. Christians do more than “talk the walk”; they “walk the talk.” That is, they act as they say they believe. Confirmation, another of the seven sacraments, reminds us of this baptismal call. In Confirmation (whether we receive this sacrament as a baby, a child, a young adult or an adult), we remember that Catholic Christianity is an *active* religion. Being a Catholic is *not* a spectator sport.

You are learning a lot about the Holy Spirit in these stories. That's important. There is an even more important lesson: After you know about God's Spirit, what do you intend to do? Where is the Spirit speaking in your life?



2

Now discuss the reading with your child. Use the following or other questions:

1. Do you try to say what you mean and do what you say? Give an example.
2. Are there times when you think people are telling you one thing but doing another? How does this make you feel?

1

Get your child started on the activity on the next page, making sure they understand the instructions. The answers are 1. peace, 2. self-control, 3. kindness, 4. joy, 5. goodness, 6. faithfulness, 7. patience, 8. gentleness, 9. love. Then continue to read below.

2

Just for you: The Sacrament of Confirmation reaffirms our baptismal call to *act* to help establish the Reign of God.

Being a Christian is work—sometimes hard work indeed. But the Spirit’s message of hope is two fold: we are never alone in our efforts and we are never without God. Confirmation is yet another chance for the Spirit to enter our lives, bringing God’s grace. And once we have received the Spirit, we can no longer sit quietly and still. We must speak and we must act.

Fruit of the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul lists nine fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. When we let the Holy Spirit work in our lives, these are the results that other people can see (just like a good tree gives us fruit!). Draw a line between the fruit on the left and its description on the right. We've drawn in a couple to get you started.

 Love	 Joy	1	Having a sense of calm. The opposite of being nervous, worried, or anxious.
 Peace	 Patience	2	Behaving or choosing what is best for yourself and others, even when you want to act differently.
 Kindness	 Goodness	3	The opposite of meanness.
 Faithfulness	 Gentleness	4	A feeling deeper than happiness.
 Self-control		5	The ability and strength to do the right thing. Having strong character.
		6	Being loyal to Jesus's teachings.
		7	Trusting something will happen when the timing is right, even if it's not when we want it to happen.
		8	Not rough or violent. Balanced and considerate.
		9	Always wanting the very best for others. Giving freely without asking for anything in return.

Acting Out the Plan of God

1

Work on this activity together with your child. Begin by reading the paragraph below together.

2

List some ways you have been the Body of Christ to others (even if you didn't think about it at the time). Write your answers below, and have your child write theirs on the next page.

3

When you are done, share what you wrote with each other and discuss. Talk about which ones were more difficult to answer.

We are all gifted, just gifted differently. And that is good, because that means we all have something to contribute to the Reign of God. Jesus counts on us! Together, we are the Body of Christ!

How have I been the eyes of Jesus (how I see the world):

How have I been the lips of Jesus (what I say to others):

How have I been the hands of Jesus (what I give or do):

How have I been the feet of Jesus (how far and where am I willing to go):

How have I been the heart of Jesus (how I show love):





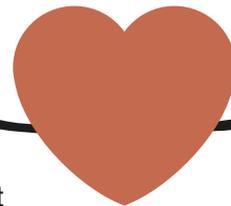
How have I
been the eyes
of Jesus (how I see the world):



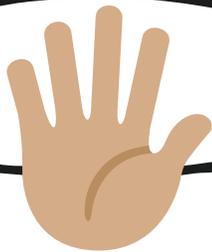
How I have
been the feet
of Jesus (how far and where am I willing to go):



How have I
been the lips of
Jesus (what I say to others):



How I have
been the heart
of Jesus (how do I show love):



How I have
been the hands
of Jesus (what I give or do):

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

1

Go over the list of the Holy Spirit's gifts on the right. Decide which of these gifts are important to you for their ability to give you the strength to act. Which gifts do you still need to work on more?

2

Make a mobile of the words to hang in your meeting space. As the wind moves the mobile, notice how strong something you can't see (like an air current) can be. What does this mobile say to you about the Spirit?

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- **Wisdom** helps us make the best decisions, for ourselves and others.
- **Understanding** gives us insight into people or situations.
- **Counsel** allows us to help others see and understand the best choices.
- **Fortitude** gives us courage to follow through when we are confident how to proceed.
- **Knowledge** is an awareness of facts and information that will help us make good decisions.
- **Piety and fear of the Lord** means honoring and respecting God and feeling wonder and awe at God's works (fear of the Lord is not the same as being "afraid" of the Lord).

Closing Ritual

3

Make the Sign of the Cross on each other's hands, eyes, and lips. As you make these three signs of blessing, say the closing prayer on the right.

Through Jesus [hands],
with Jesus [eyes]
and in Jesus [lips],
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father,
forever and ever. Amen.

