

# Spirit of Action

**1**

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

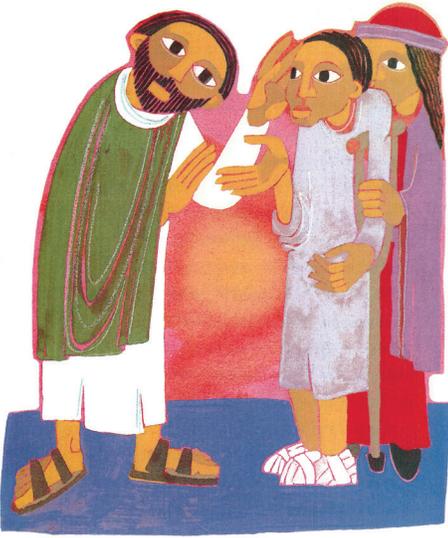
**2**

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

Read the story below out loud. If your child is old enough, he or she can read it to you. Otherwise, read it to your child. Along the way, clarify anything your child might not understand.

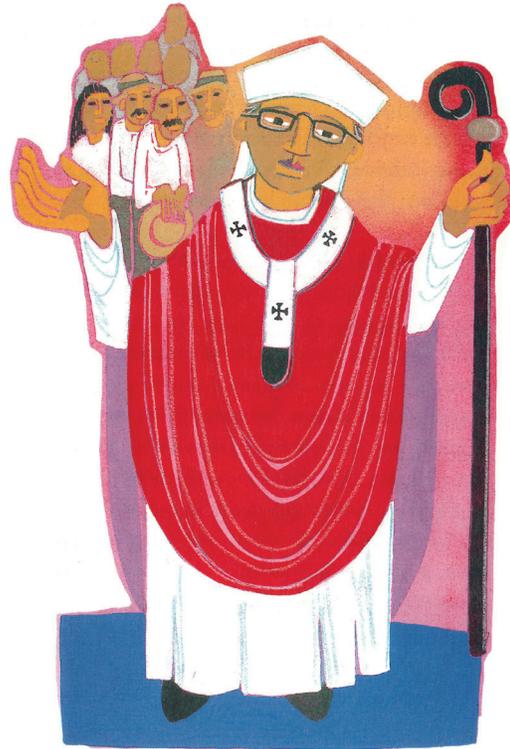
**J**esus came to tell the world the Good News. Do you remember the Good News? It is that God loves everyone. And it is that God will always be with us. With the help of the Spirit it is now our job to tell the Good News.

Jesus also came to tell the world that it was time for the Plan of God to happen. Do you remember what the Plan of God is? It is that everyone will love God more than anything else and love others as they love themselves. With the help of the Spirit, it is now our job to help make the Plan of God happen.

It is not enough just to tell people the Good News. We also have to work to make the Plan of God come true. This means we feed the hungry and take care of the sick. It means we give water to the thirsty and clothes to people who need them. It means we will visit people who are sick or in prison.

This is the job of every Christian, but it is also the job of our whole Church. When someone is working alone, it is easy to get worn out and discouraged. It is much easier when we work with each other and with the Holy Spirit. We can encourage each other. We can help each other. This is where we find the Holy Spirit, where the Church is acting together. When we let the Holy Spirit move us, great things happen.

We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when we are baptized. The gifts of the Spirit are increased when we receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Through this special sign, the whole Church celebrates that God is with us and we are with God. We celebrate God as a Spirit of action.



## 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. This is a challenging activity, so tell them to try their best and then help once you finish step 2. (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; 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 quiet and still. We must speak and we must act.

# Fruit of the Holy Spirit

Paul the Apostle 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!

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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):





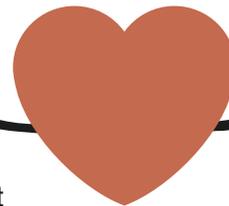
How have I  
been the eyes  
of Jesus (how I see the world):



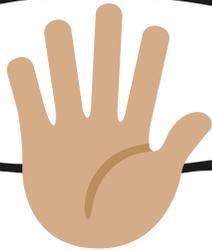
How I have  
been the feet  
of Jesus (how far and where am I willing to go):



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.

