

The Spirit at Work



Parents & guardians, start here.
Read these numbered instructions
to yourself throughout the process.

1

Thank you for guiding your child through this process. Please be sure you have **read the Parent Introduction Page** so you will understand your role.

2

Before you begin, read the introduction on the right to yourself. It will help you understand what you will be exploring with your child in the following pages.

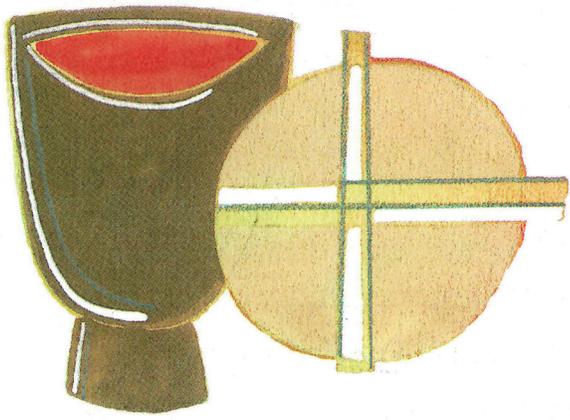
The Third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit, may be a difficult concept for young persons. The Spirit was given to us by Jesus so we would continue to be aware that God loves us and has a Plan, the Reign of God, for how we should live. We are called to love God, to love ourselves, and to love others. As the doxology in our Sunday Mass reminds us, we live *through*, *with*, and *in* Jesus, and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

3

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.

4

Getting started. Discuss together: Who are some of the people you love? How do you show your love? How do they show their love to 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.

When God made the world, God had a plan. Everyone and everything would live in peace and harmony. In the Plan of God, people would love God more than anything. They would love others as they loved themselves. But something went wrong. People misused their gift of freedom. They broke God's peace. They forgot about God's love. They forgot that they were supposed to love everybody.

God sent Jesus to remind people about the Plan. God sent Jesus to help people remember the Good News. This is the Good News: God will always love us. God will always be with us.

Jesus was God's Son. When Jesus walked the earth, God was with us in a very special way. Jesus' love was God's love. His hands were God's hands. His voice was God's voice. Jesus did not just tell people the Good News; Jesus *was* the Good News.

After Jesus died, the Holy Spirit came to be with Jesus' friends. God is still with us in a very special way because the Holy Spirit is with us and in us.

Now our love can become God's love. Our hands can become God's hands. Our voices can become God's voice. Together, we become God's people. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can be the Good News to the world.

God is also with us in a very special way when we receive the sacraments. The sacraments are seven very special gifts. When we receive one of the sacraments, the Church celebrates "God with us" here and now. These are the seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and the

Sacrament of the Sick. In these sessions, we will talk about some of these sacraments.

We will also find out how the Church was born. You will find out how our Church celebrates that God is with us and that we are with God. You will hear about people who heard God's call and became the Good News. You will learn to listen for the Holy Spirit in your life.



Church

Sometimes a church is very big.
Sometimes it is quite small.
Sometimes when we say the word,
We don't mean a place at all.

I know that Church can also be
Grown-up folks and kids like me
Who come to pray and worship God
And make God's Plan a reality.

2

Ask your child to retell the story to you in their own words.

3

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

1. What do we mean when we talk about the Plan or Reign of God?
2. Who are the three Persons in the Holy Trinity? How do we see the actions of these three Persons today?

1

Get your child started on the activity on the next page, making sure they understand the instructions. (The matching flames are numbers two and six.) Then continue to read below.

2

Just for you: The Reign of God happens whenever we live with love for God.

There are three persons—Father, Son and Spirit—in our one God. This is the teaching we call the Holy Trinity. Just as we live in relationships, so God lives in relationship both within God and with us. This is a central belief and a deep mystery, something we know through God’s revelation but do not completely understand. God creates us, redeems us and saves us. These three actions show us God’s love and grace.

Familiar Flames

Fire can remind us of the Holy Spirit. After Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to disciples on the road to Emmaus, they said that their hearts were “burning within us.” The Holy Spirit continues to give us passion and power to do what God calls us to do.

Below, find and circle the two flames that are exactly the same.



Spirit Stories

1

Together, read through the titles of the stories we will be reading through these sessions. What do you think these titles say about how the Spirit is with us?

The Spirit at Work



◀ Pentecost:
The Day the Spirit Came

Spirit of Belonging



◀ Philip and the Ethiopian

The Maiden Who Finally Came Home ▶



Spirit of Prayer



◀ The Church That Began at Home

The Woman who Laughed with God ▶



Spirit of Forgiveness



◀ The Man Who Made Trouble

The Soldier Who Had No Enemies ▶



Spirit of Action



◀ A Letter of Good News

The Bishop for the Poor ▶



The Not-the-End



◀ The Spirit Is With You

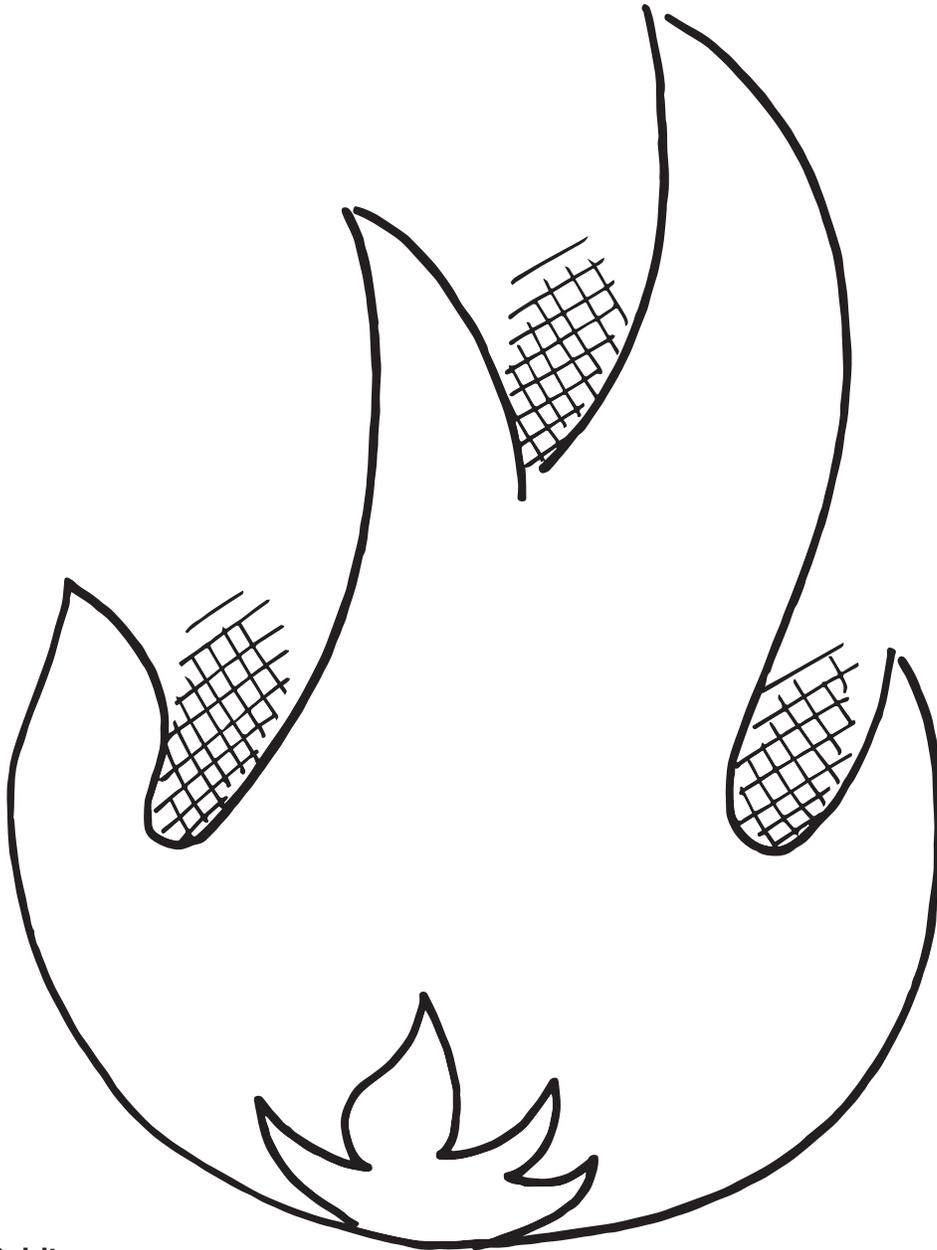
2

Now move on to the next page and complete the activities together.

My Story of God's Spirit

Think about what in your life brought you to this day and this time. Are there times when God was obviously present to you through community? With forgiveness and action? In prayer? When are the times when you are aware of the Spirit at work?

Adults: Write a word or phrase inside the flame reminding you of one of those times when you knew the Holy Spirit was present. Ask your young person to do the same in the space around the flame.



Petitions to the Spirit

Finish the sentences below together.

Spirit of God, we know you work through us when we _____.

Spirit of God, we know you are present with us when we _____.

Spirit of God, we know you are alive in our world when we _____.

Draw God

1

Go through the pictures in a children's Bible, Bible storybooks, or other such books to find images of Jesus and God. Ask your young person to draw God however he or she best imagines God to be. These drawings may be symbolic rather than portraits of God.



Closing Ritual

2

Pray together the petitions you wrote for the Spirit of God on pg. 7. Finish by praying together the doxology.

The Doxology

“Through Jesus, in Jesus, and with Jesus,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father,
forever and ever. Amen.”

