

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Plan

Preparation

Materials Needed

- Discussion guide
- Game cards
- Masking tape (optional - if you want to stick the cards on objects for the scavenger hunt)
- Students will need their Bibles

Spiritual Preparation

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit represent untapped potential in the lives of many Catholics. Most of us are unaware of the power God offers us through these gifts to know Him better and to love Him more deeply. Reflect on the presence of the Gifts in your life. Which gifts are especially strong in you? What do you need to do to tap into the power of these Gifts?

Pray through the prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit (the opening prayer below) and pray this prayer for you. When you use the prayer to open your session pray the prayer for your students.

Opening

Prayer: for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

O Lord Jesus Christ Who, before ascending into heaven did promise to send the Holy Spirit to finish Your work in the souls of Your Apostles and Disciples, deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me that He may perfect in my soul, the work of Your grace and Your love. Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom that I may despise the perishable things of this world and aspire only after the things that are eternal, the Spirit of Understanding to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, the Spirit of Counsel that I may ever choose the surest way of pleasing God and gaining heaven, the Spirit of Fortitude that I may bear my cross with You and that I may overcome with courage all the

obstacles that oppose my salvation, the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, the Spirit of Piety that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, and the Spirit of Fear that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God and may dread in any way to displease Him. Mark me, dear Lord, with the sign of Your true disciples and animate me in all things with Your Spirit. Amen.

Opening Discussion

Ask the participants to tell a story about their favorite gift. Why was this gift so special to them? Who gave it to them? What was their response when they received the gift? Did they feel grateful to the person who gave the gift? Did the gift change their relationship at all with the person who gave it?

Next, discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Explain that at Confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives seven special gifts to us - changes in our very souls that make us able to have a deeper relationship with God.

- Why do we call them Gifts?
- What do the Gifts tell us about God?
- What should be our response to these Gifts?
- How might these Gifts change our relationship with the One who gave them?

Discussion Guide

The discussion guide is pretty straight forward, but its parts are outlined below to make sure how to use it is clear in your mind. Read through the text in whatever way works best for your group. Taking turns reading can be a way to keep the students focused on the task at hand.

Discussion questions are between horizontal rules like these. Stop reading and discuss each question as you come to it.

Scripture questions are in a half-bracket like this. Use scripture questions as an opportunity to help students become more familiar with the Bible. Encourage them to look up the verses. If they are unable to find them, show them how to use the chapter and verse numbers. Don't let them get away with blurting out the page numbers to each other. Ask someone to read the scripture out loud while the rest follow in their own Bibles. Discuss the question before you move on in the discussion guide.

Scavenger Hunt

There is a separate instruction sheet for the scavenger hunt game. The purpose of the game is to introduce students to the seven Gifts and some of the concepts studied in this course under each Gift.

When the game is over, use whatever time remains in your session to go through the set of cards each participant found. They don't need to memorize these things yet, but it would be good for them to be exposed to the concepts as an introduction to them.

Closing

Celebrate the Gifts!

In closing, make a simple statement telling the participants of your group how excited you are to be talking about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, because this discussion will give you the opportunity to really see how God wants to work in their lives. The Gifts come from a God who truly wants to know them and to be known by them, to love them and to be loved by them. The Gifts are powerful and exciting. - I encourage you to use your own words to get the idea across to your group members.

Closing Prayer

Only one thing is important -- eternal salvation. Only one thing, therefore, is to be feared--sin. Sin is the result of ignorance, weakness, and indifference. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Light, of Strength, and of Love. With His sevenfold gifts He enlightens the mind, strengthens the will, and inflames the heart with love of God. To ensure our salvation we ought to invoke the Divine Spirit daily, for "The Spirit helpeth our infirmity. We know not what we should pray for as we ought. But the Spirit Himself asketh for us."

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, Who hast vouchsafed to regenerate us by water and the Holy Spirit, and hast given us forgiveness all sins, vouchsafe to send forth from heaven upon us your sevenfold Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and fortitude, the Spirit of Knowledge and Piety, and fill us with the Spirit of Holy Fear. Amen.