

**6th & 7th Grade Homestudy Lesson #11**  
**The Holy Spirit**

**GOAL**

The goal of this lesson is to understand the Holy Spirit as a person of the Trinity, Who has been active since the beginning, and to foster a desire to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit

**THE CREED**

**Begin the lesson by carefully praying the Nicene Creed:**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose  
again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

**Lectio Divina**

**Read Acts 2:1-47**

How is God speaking to you through this passage?

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What did this verse teach you about the Holy Spirit and Pentecost?

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**Read Acts 2:1-47 again**

## **MAIN IDEAS**

- There are different symbols of the Holy Spirit. Some of the most familiar are water, fire, a dove, and rushing wind. Each of these symbols teach us about Who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in our lives.
- The Holy Spirit is more than a symbol; He is a person of the Trinity Who has been active since the beginning. Present before and through the very act of creation, the Holy Spirit was active even before the Creator breathed life into Adam's nostrils.
- The Holy Spirit is vital to the Christian life. He is the very Breath and Spirit of God breathed into us, giving us life.

## **TEACHING**

### **SYMBOLS ARE SYMBOLS**

In Scripture and Tradition, we find several different symbols of the Holy Spirit. Some are well known (water, fire, a dove, rushing wind) and some we may never have heard of (cloud and light, seal, a hand, a finger). Each of these symbols are important and teach us about Who the Holy Spirit is and what He does in the life of the Church and in our lives.

### **Pause and read Matthew 3:13-17**

In the Baptism of Jesus, we see the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove descending upon Jesus, revealing the love between the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit as a dove teaches us that He is peaceful, nurturing, pure, gentle, and brings new life. In the story of Noah and the flood - which is symbolic of Baptism - it is the dove that returns with the olive branch to let Noah know that the waters are receding and the earth is ready for them to begin their new life. (CCC 701)

### **Pause and read Genesis 8:8-12**

In the Gospel of Matthew, just before Jesus' Baptism, John the Baptist preaches that Jesus will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire." In the upper room during Pentecost, we see that the Holy Spirit rests upon the apostles as tongues of fire. Fire brings light, transforms, and purifies. In the same way, the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts giving us wisdom and

knowledge. He purifies our hearts, gives us courage, and transforms us allowing our lives to mirror the life of Christ.

Symbols are important to understand the Holy Spirit's mission in the world and in our hearts. However, they are just symbols and images and only reveal part of the Holy Spirit's identity.

## BEFORE BREATH

The Holy Spirit is so much more than a symbol. The Holy Spirit is a person – one of the three persons of the Trinity. Like, the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit always was, is, and always will be. The Holy Spirit was around way before we ever experienced Him. He was around before our baptism and before our confirmation. He was around before Pentecost, before Jesus's baptism, before Noah's ark. He was around before God breathed life into Adam's nostrils. The very story of our beginning, begins with "the Spirit of God moving over the face of the waters."

### **Pause and read Genesis 1:2 & 2:7**

## THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS ANOINTING

The work of the Holy Spirit continues in the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit anoints priests, prophets, and kings. Aaron, the brother of Moses, and Aaron's sons were anointed as priests with sacred oil. As priests, they were able to bring offerings to the Lord, making His presence known to the Israelites who so often doubted. Later in the Old Testament, the Lord instructs the judge Samuel to anoint David as King. David went on to accomplish many great things. He was strengthened to rule God's people, given the courage to defeat Goliath, and was even inspired to write many of our Psalms.

In the New Testament, John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb. John the Baptist prepared people's hearts for the coming of Jesus. He even baptized Jesus.

Finally, the Holy Spirit anoints Jesus, establishing Jesus as the "Christ" which means the "anointed one" by God's Spirit. Christ's whole work, everything that He did and said, was a joint mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus casts out demons and heals. As the hemorrhaging woman reaches out to touch the tassel on Jesus' cloak, Jesus realizes that "power proceeding from him had gone forth."

Even the most pivotal moment in our Christian faith, the moment that set Jesus apart from any priest, prophet, or king who came before Him, the moment that offers us the hope of eternal life, was made possible through the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. When Jesus ascends into heaven, He commands the apostles to continue His mission and promises to give them the same Spirit that empowered His mission. The sending of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and rested on the apostles. Their fear was transformed into courage and zeal for Christ. Peter goes on to address the crowd



3. What happened at Pentecost? Why did Jesus send the Holy Spirit to his Disciples?

4. How will the Holy Spirit help in your life?

**SEND**

**Close by praying the following prayer to the Holy Spirit**

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations.*

*Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.*