

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: WHERE THEY COME FROM

1 Corinthians 12:1-6, 11; John 14:15-31; 16:5-15

Parents Dig In

Dig In to the Bible

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-6, 11; John 14:15-31; 16:5-15

In This Passage: Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches, advocates, convicts, guides us into truth, tells about the future, and gives each Christian a spiritual gift. All spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit.

Bible Point: The Holy Spirit can live in us.

Summary Verse: “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord” (1 Corinthians 12:4-5).

Dig Deeper

You'll Be Teaching: *The Holy Spirit can live in us.* The Holy Spirit can be a bit of a mystery to kids, but before they try to identify their spiritual gifts and how they can use them, kids need to understand the source of the gifts. Help kids get to know the Holy Spirit and feel empowered.

Think About: What's been your experience with the Holy Spirit?

Dig In to Prayer

Ask God to help kids receive his power through belief in Jesus and opening their hearts to the Holy Spirit.

Opening

Introduce The Lesson

Say: Today we're going to start learning about spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are special skills God gives everyone who loves Jesus. The first thing we need to learn about is the source of spiritual gifts—where do we get them? We get them when the Holy Spirit lives in us, which happens when we believe in Jesus.

- Distribute a heart sticker to each child.
- Have kids write their names on their heart stickers and then stick the hearts inside the box.
- You'll continue to add to the gift box for several weeks, so leave it in the room.

Share

- Tell kids where *you* would live if you could live anywhere.
- Ask kids to share where *they* would live if they could live anywhere.

Summarize

Open a Bible to 1 Corinthians 12, and say: **It's fun to imagine such neat places to live. The Holy Spirit has a special place to live—the Holy Spirit can live in us. Let's find out more about the Holy Spirit from the Bible. One way the Holy Spirit reveals himself to us is through the Bible. He's ready to talk to you right now. Let's pray and listen.**

Pray, inviting the Holy Spirit to come.

TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Andy's X-Ray

Say: Today we're learning that the Holy Spirit can live in us.

Ask: • What do you think that means?

Say: Thanks for sharing what you think it means. You certainly seem to be more on the right track than our friend Andy!

Watch "Andy's X-Ray." [here](#)

Ask: • Why isn't the Holy Spirit something you can see on an X-ray?

• Cammie explained that the Holy Spirit is "the presence of God that's always with us." How does that help you understand the Holy Spirit?

Say: Despite what Andy thought, you can't see the Holy Spirit in an X-ray. But that doesn't make him any less real! When we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us. We can't see him on an X-ray, but we can see him by how he helps us live right and comforts us when we're upset.

MUSIC VIDEO

"Living by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25) (watch or download [here](#))

"Your Friend" (watch or download [here](#))

"Thankful" (watch or download [here](#))

CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Supplies

Bibles

6 identical gift bags

tape

"Gifts From the Holy Spirit" handout (download [here](#))

eyeglasses

an assortment of items that kids can use to show skills (see Easy Prep)

painter's tape

Easy Prep

Mark John 14:26 in a Bible.

Cut apart the handout.

Number five of the bags 1-5, and put the following in each gift bag: 1) the megaphone picture, 2) the marked Bible, 3) the stop sign picture, 4) a pair of eyeglasses, and 5) the binoculars picture. Tape the bags shut so kids can't peek in.

For the sixth bag, you'll need enough items that each child can choose 1. Include an assortment of things such as rhythm instruments for musical kids, balls for athletic kids, markers and paper for artists, Legos for spatial kids, and nature items for kids who love nature.

Make a line with painter's tape across the middle of the room.

Talk About It

Say: Today we're starting a new topic and learning about something called *spiritual gifts*.

Ask: • Tell about a person who has given you a great gift. Share your own story first.

Say: We're going to learn more next week about *what* some spiritual gifts are. But this week, we're going to focus on *who* gives them to us! They're called *spiritual gifts* because the Holy Spirit gives them to us. And that happens when we believe in Jesus, because then the Holy Spirit can live in us. Listen to this!

Read Romans 8:11

Say: **So the Holy Spirit can live in us when we believe in Jesus, and he gives us spiritual gifts. Let's find out more about what the Holy Spirit does in our lives!**

Open the First Gift

Point out the gifts

Ask: • What do you notice about these gifts?

Say: One thing I notice is that these gifts are all in the same style of gift bag. That tells us they probably all came from the same person. At Christmas, sometimes you can tell whether a gift is from your parents or your grandparents based on the wrapping paper. The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit is the giver of all spiritual gifts.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4 and 11

Say: Let's open these gifts and find out what the Holy Spirit does in our lives.

Give a child gift bag 1, and let the child open it and show everyone the contents. Have kids cup their hands around their mouths, speak, and hear how their voices are amplified.

Ask: • What does a megaphone do?

Say: A megaphone helps us speak louder. The Holy Spirit is kind of like a megaphone because he speaks up for us! Listen to this.

Read John 14:16-17 and 16:7

Say: When Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit, he said the Holy Spirit can live in us and be our advocate. An *advocate* is someone who speaks up on behalf of someone else. For example, if someone was a victim of a crime, an advocate would speak up to get the person the help he or she needs.

Ask: • Why do we need an advocate with God?

Say: The Holy Spirit can live in us and be our advocate. This is how the Bible describes it.

Read Romans 8:26

Ask: • Have you ever wanted to pray but didn't know what to say? Talk about that.

Say: We are welcome to talk to God anytime. But sometimes we don't know what to say! When that happens, the Holy Spirit can be our advocate who hears what's in our hearts and puts it into words as a prayer to God.

Open the Second Gift

Say: But that's not all! Let's find out what else the Holy Spirit does.

Have a child open gift bag 2. Before the child reads the marked passage (John 14:26), tell kids to listen for something the Holy Spirit does. Then have the child read the verse

Ask: • Tell me about your favorite teacher.

Say: Jesus said the Holy Spirit will teach us and remind us what Jesus said. One way he does that is through the Bible. Sometimes when we're reading the Bible, a verse seems to jump out at us. That's the Holy Spirit making sure we pay attention to that verse! When the Holy Spirit lives in us, he teaches us.

Open the Third Gift

Say: There are more gifts! Let's see what the next one is.

Have a child open gift bag 3 and reveal the contents.

Ask: • What does this sign make you think of?

Say: When a driver sees a stop sign, he or she stops. Without that sign, the driver might crash into another car! The Holy Spirit does something similar. Let me show you what I mean.

Read John 16:8

Say: This verse has some hard words, like *convict*. But basically this verse means that the Holy Spirit tells you when to *stop* doing something that's bad for you or to *start* doing something that would be good for you to do. Let's play a stopping game.

Have all the kids except the one who opened the gift line up along a wall, facing the tape line. Have the child who opened the gift hold the stop sign by his or her side.

Say: Imagine that this tape line is the edge of a cliff. If you cross it, you'll fall! Now look up toward the ceiling. Now start walking. [Name of child with the stop sign] will hold up the stop sign and yell "Stop!" whenever anyone gets close to the edge of the cliff.

Have kids start walking until they hear "Stop!" from the child with the sign.

Ask: • Tell about a time you felt the Holy Spirit telling you to stop doing something. Share your own age-appropriate example first.

Say: We don't always know right and wrong. But the Holy Spirit does! Sometimes you'll feel a little check in your heart that you're doing something wrong. That's because the Holy Spirit can live in us and give us that inside feeling that we need to stop. We won't necessarily see a stop sign, but we'll get a feeling.

Open the Fourth and Fifth Gift

Say: Let's see what else happens when the Holy Spirit lives in us.

Have a child open gift bag 4 and reveal the contents.

Ask: • Tell about someone you know who wears glasses or contact lenses. Maybe it's you! Tell about someone you know first.

Say: Some people who wear glasses can see a *little* bit without them. But some people would be walking into things without their glasses! The Holy Spirit is kind of like a pair of glasses because he guides us.

Read John 16:13-14

Ask: • What's one thing you know is true? (This could be about any topic.)

Say: God is so big that there's always more we can learn about him. And the longer we know God, the more the Holy Spirit can guide us into truth about God!

And the verses mentioned one thing the Holy Spirit will show us that's actually another gift.

Have a child open gift 5 and reveal the contents. Have kids hold their hands up to their eyes like binoculars and imagine how far they could see if they were real binoculars.

Say: The verses we read said the Holy Spirit will tell us about the future. How cool!

Ask: • How do binoculars remind you about knowing the future?

Say: Binoculars let us see farther in front of us than we could see on our own. And when the Holy Spirit lives in us, he can show us things about the future that we'd never know on our own!

Open the Final Gift

Say: So that brings us to our last and final gift. What could it be?

Have a child open the bag containing enough items for everyone.

Say: The last thing we're learning about the Holy Spirit is this.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:5-6.

Say: When the Holy Spirit lives in us, he gives us each a spiritual gift. A spiritual gift is something you're good at, but it's different from a talent. The Holy Spirit could make you good at kindness, giving, or being wise. Next week we'll learn more about what all those gifts are. For now, the important thing to know is that they don't come from us. The final gift was in the same style of gift bag as all the other ones, because every gift we learned about comes from the same source: the Holy Spirit. They may *feel* like they're coming from us, because the Holy Spirit lives in us when we believe in Jesus, but they're special gifts he gave us to serve God!

Let each child choose an item to show something he or she is good at, such as music, sports, drawing, building, or writing.

Have kids form trios and show off their talents by using the items provided to do something they're good at. Then have a few

kids show everyone a talent.

Say: **Let's thank the Holy Spirit for these gifts.**

Pray: **Holy Spirit, we thank you for all the gifts you give us. We thank you for being our advocate, teaching us, convicting us, guiding us and showing us about the future, and giving us spiritual gifts. Help us serve God more. In Jesus' name, amen.**

DEEPER BIBLE

If the Holy Spirit Lives in Me, Why Don't I Feel Any Different?

Supplies

- Bibles
- pompoms (several per child)
- lightly scented lotion or hand sanitizer
- soft sound effects such as rain or ocean waves
- music player
- picture of a stop sign*
- eyeglasses*

Easy Prep

- Hide pompoms around the room

Set It Up

Say: **We're learning that the Holy Spirit can live in us. When we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in us! But usually when someone first becomes friends with Jesus, it might not feel like a magical moment. You may not have felt a whoosh or a tingle when the Holy Spirit came to live in you.**

Think about Spider-Man. Spider-Man was a regular guy who was bitten by a radioactive spider. And right away, he had all these cool superpowers. He felt different, and he could do different things.

So if the Holy Spirit lives in us, why doesn't it feel like that? Why don't we *feel* any different? Let's dig in to that.

Go on a Hunt

Say: **Since we'll explore how to look for the Holy Spirit in our lives, let's practice looking for things.**

Have kids search for pompoms around the room.

As they search, turn on soft sound effects at a very low volume—just barely loud enough to hear.

Also as they search, put scented lotion or hand sanitizer on your hands.

After kids have found the pompoms, turn off the music and gather the kids.

- Ask: • **How was looking for the pompoms like looking for the Holy Spirit in your life? How was it different?**
• **As you were looking for the pompoms, what did you hear? smell?**

Say: **Many of you might not have noticed the smell of my lotion or the sound of rain because you were focused on looking for the pompoms. Sometimes the Holy Spirit can be like that. We get so focused on looking for him in a specific way—a *feeling*—that we miss out on seeing him work in other ways.**

The Holy Spirit *can* work by giving us certain feelings. But that's not all he does! Maybe he's at work in your life, but you just haven't noticed it! In our Core Bible Discovery time, we looked at some of the things the Holy Spirit does. Let's dig deeper into those.

Dig Deeper

Hold up the stop sign picture from Core Bible Discovery.

Have a child read John 16:8.

Say: We learned that the Holy Spirit convicts us. When you get that feeling, impression, or voice in your head that says you're doing something wrong, that's the Holy Spirit in you!

Ask kids to share stories of how they've experienced the Holy Spirit's conviction. Begin with your own example.

Have a child read Romans 8:9.

Say: When the Holy Spirit lives in us, he helps control what we do by showing us sin in our lives.

Hold up the eyeglasses from Core Bible Discovery.

Have a child read John 16:13-14.

Say: We also learned that the Holy Spirit guides us.

Ask: • Tell about a time you did something because it just seemed like the right thing to do, but you couldn't really explain why. Begin with your own example, such as a time you took a different route to work or stopped to talk to someone you didn't plan to talk to.

Say: When the Holy Spirit guides us, sometimes we do things and we're not always sure why. We might feel a pull to help someone. When you experience that, it could be the sound of the Holy Spirit in your life! The sounds that came on during our hunt were pretty soft, but they were there. We can learn to tune in and listen for the Holy Spirit guiding us. The Bible tells us how *you* can help people experience the Holy Spirit!

Have a child read Romans 12:7.

Ask: • Tell about a time you served God. Share your own example first—maybe teaching this class!

Have kids put a little bit of the scented lotion or hand sanitizer on their hands.

Say: When we do things to serve God, we're using our spiritual gifts! We have spiritual gifts when the Holy Spirit lives in us. When you leave today, you'll still smell like the lotion you just put on. And other people may smell it on you! That's kind of like how using your spiritual gifts helps other people experience the Holy Spirit.

Read Ephesians 1:13.

Say: So there may not be a magical feeling when the Holy Spirit lives in us. But we can be confident he's there when we believe in Jesus, and we can look for what he's doing in our lives.

CRAFT

Holy Home

Supplies

- Bible
- "Holy Home" handouts (1 per child, printed on card stock) (download [here](#))
- scissors
- markers
- transparent tape
- battery-operated flicker lights (1 per child)
- Velcro dots (1 set per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Holy Homes

Say: **We're learning that the Holy Spirit can live in us.**

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a "Holy Home" handout. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and have kids follow these directions to make Holy Homes.

- Cut out the Holy Home template.
- Cut out the windows.
- Decorate the four walls (the sides with the windows) with pictures that represent you. For example, you might draw hearts to show that you're loving, dogs to show you love dogs, and a soccer ball to show you're good at soccer.
- Assemble your house by folding along the lines and taping the walls together at the corners. Don't tape the roof!
- Stick one side of the Velcro dot on the small flap that comes up under the roof and the other side of the Velcro dot on the underside of the roof. That way you can open and close the roof.
- Open the roof and place a battery-operated flicker light inside.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell about how you decorated your house. How might those things about you make your heart a nice home for the Holy Spirit?**

- **How does remembering that the Holy Spirit can live in you change the way you live?**

Say: **When you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you. Just as your houses shine with the light that's inside them, you can shine with the light of the Holy Spirit and use the gifts he gives you to serve God and others.**

Have kids take their Holy Homes with them and show them to their friends and families as they share what it means that the Holy Spirit can live in us.

LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Thank You, God

Supplies

- Bible

Do an Action Prayer

Say: **We've been learning that the Holy Spirit can live in us. But we're not just houses; we're a special kind of place!**

- Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.
- Have kids do jazz hands as you pray: **Holy Spirit, help us honor you by serving you with our hands.**
- Have kids march in place as you pray: **Holy Spirit, help us honor you by going where you want us to go.**
- Have kids cover their teeth with their lips as you pray: **Holy Spirit, help us honor you by speaking your words of love and kindness.**
- Have kids hold their ears out as you pray: **Holy Spirit, help us honor you in what we choose to listen to.**