

# THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE HELPER

**FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY SPIRIT - GOD GIVES A HELPER**

## **BIG TRUTH: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE HELPER**

John 14:16-17; 16:7-12; Romans 8:12-15; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Galatians 5:22-25

## **BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:26**

*"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things."*

## **BIG IDEAS**

- The Holy Spirit helps us love and follow God.
- The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible (God's Word).
- The Holy Spirit helps us love people who do not believe in Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit helps us boldly share the good news about Jesus with others.

## **BIBLE STORY: ACTS 8:1-8, 26-40**

In this passage, Philip's ministry expands. The church is being persecuted by Saul and this persecution has caused the believers of the early church to scatter. Philip is led by the Spirit to Samaria, where he shares the good news about Jesus and then he is led down a desert road that leads to Gaza. It's on this road that Philip meets the Ethiopian. Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian reveals the Holy Spirit's work in the lives of the believers as it leads them to share the gospel and to obey God.

## **FOUNDATION: GOD IS HOLY SPIRIT—GOD GIVES A HELPER**

God not only exists as Father and Son, but also as Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is probably the most difficult person of the Trinity for us to grasp because it is the concept most unfamiliar to us. The Bible tells us that God is Spirit. The Holy Spirit is fully God, active, alive, and at work today in the lives of those who place their faith in God. Jesus told the disciples that it was far better for Him to leave the world than to stay, because God would send the Holy Spirit to indwell them, lead them, and work in them. God does not leave us on our own as Christians, but has sent us a helper, the Holy Spirit.

## **BIG AIMS**



### **Every child should know that:**

- The Holy Spirit is God
- The Holy Spirit lives within God's people



### **Every child should feel:**

- Thankful for the helper that God has given us



### **Every child should be able to:**

- Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live in His people



### **Every child should want:**

- To follow God with the help of the Holy Spirit

## **FAMILY DEVOTION: THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES US BOLD**

The Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer. This Spirit guides believers and helps them know more about God and helps them please God. The Spirit is bold, like a lion and it helps believers speak boldly about the good news about Jesus Christ. It is our helper in every way.

**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:26**

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, will teach you all things.”*

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**The Holy Spirit is the promise of God.**

- Before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus taught the disciples about the promised Spirit of God who was coming to them.
- The promise of the Holy Spirit was the grace of God.
- Jesus shared with the disciples the purpose of the Holy Spirit coming to them.
- It would be their Helper. It would guide and teach them, just as He had during His time with them on the earth.

**The Holy Spirit enables God’s people to serve Him.**

- While Jesus was with the disciples, they were able to do many great things for the glory of God.
- Jesus knew they didn’t fully understand what would happen when He left this earth, but He promised them a Helper who would enable them to do far greater things than He did while He was on earth.
- The Spirit is God Himself coming down to live inside His people and to work through them for His glory and their good.

**The Holy Spirit guides people to the truth.**

- Jesus told the disciples that when the Helper came He would teach them just as Jesus had taught them and it would remind them of the things Jesus had said to them.
- The Holy Spirit guides God’s people to the truth, illuminating and revealing God’s Word so they can understand and grow in Him.
- The Holy Spirit enables people to know God by drawing them to Him and opening their spiritual eyes so that they might see their need for Him.

**BIBLE STORY: ACTS 8:1-8, 26-40***Philip's Ministry & The Conversion of the Ethiopian*

Supporting Scripture: John 14:26; John 16:8-11; 1 John 2:27

**Teacher Introduction:**

Philip's ministry began during a time of Christian persecution that was led by Saul. Saul's persecution of Christians caused them to scatter and the gospel to spread. Philip left Jerusalem and went to Samaria to preach the gospel and many people were reconciled to God through his ministry. Philip did not stop there; he followed the Holy Spirit's lead to a desert road where he encountered an Ethiopian. This story is one of great value to every believer. It teaches the importance of listening to and being guided by the Spirit of God. Nations that had previously not heard the gospel were receiving it because Philip and the other disciples were being obedient to the guiding of the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit lives inside of every believer today and gives the same guidance that it gave to the disciples who lived thousands of years before. He is our Helper.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach *Philip's Ministry & The Conversion of the Ethiopian*. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share the narrative *Philip's Ministry & The Conversion of the Ethiopian*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative---*Philip's Ministry & The Conversion of the Ethiopian*.

**Opening Illustration:**

Choose one child and bring them before the class. Using a bandana or cloth, blindfold him or her. Tell them that they have to make it to the other side of the room by listening to your instructions. Ask the rest of the children to make noise or to call out the wrong directions to the blindfolded child. Give the child directions in a soft voice to help him or her reach the other side of the room. The idea is that they must hear your voice and listen to your voice in order to make it safely.

- Whose voice was the right voice to listen to? (The teacher's voice because she/he was giving the right directions.)
- Why is it important to listen to the right voice? (So we will know the right way to go and live in order to please God.)
- The Holy Spirit is our guide and helper just like I was (insert name of child) helper.
- The Holy Spirit helps us find our way and learn about God.

**BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US LOVE AND FOLLOW GOD.****The Spirit opens our eyes to God**

- Philip did not see Jesus for who He really was at first.<sup>1</sup>
- Yet, the Spirit of God opened Philip's eyes to see Jesus for who He really is---God.
- When Philip saw Jesus for who He really is, he loved him and did not hesitate to follow him, no matter the cost.
- The Spirit opens the eyes of every believer to see and know God.
- We cannot know God without the help of the Spirit.
- The Spirit guides us to God and helps us understand our own sinfulness.<sup>2</sup>
- The Holy Spirit's conviction draws us to receive salvation.



Help the children memorize John 14:26 by singing it to the tune of "Frère Jacques". Remind them that the Holy Spirit helps us love and follow God.

**The Spirit enables us to obey God.**

- Philip heard when Jesus said that He is God and he believed him with the help of the Holy Spirit.
- Philip listened when the Spirit of God commanded him to leave Samaria.
- The Spirit speaks to God's people revealing God's will for their lives.
- The Spirit revealed to Philip that God wanted him to go to a desert place on the road to Gaza and Philip obeyed.
- Because Philip had seen Jesus and believed His words through the Spirit, he obeyed God when the Spirit commanded him to move.

**The Spirit prepares the way for us to follow God.**

- Philip obeyed the Spirit and left Samaria.
- He did not have to understand why God wanted him to head towards Gaza; he only had to obey.
- The Spirit prepared the way for Philip. While he was on the road to Gaza, he encountered an Ethiopian who was not a believer.
- The Ethiopian's heart was prepared by the Spirit to hear the gospel and Philip was obedient to share it.

*Who helps us to love and follow God? (The Holy Spirit helps us.)*

*How does the Spirit help us follow God? (It prepares our hearts and the hearts of others.)*

1. John 14:8-17: Philip asked Jesus to show him the Lord, but Jesus reprimanded him, reminding him that He is God. Jesus then told all the disciples that the Holy Spirit was coming to them, to help them and guide them.

2. John 16:8-11: The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sinfulness. The Spirit reveals the heart of man to man and draws him to the Savior.

**BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE (GOD'S WORD).****The Holy Spirit is our teacher.**

- When Philip listened to the Spirit and headed to Gaza, he met an Ethiopian on the road. This was no coincidence.
- The Holy Spirit teaches us about God and helps us understand what His Word says.<sup>3</sup>
- The Ethiopian was reading from the Word of God, but he did not understand what he was reading.
- The Spirit helped Philip to understand God's Word and to teach the Ethiopian so that the Ethiopian could understand.



On a large piece of paper write the words "The Word of God". Gather the children together facing the words and turn off the lights. Lead them in a discussion about the Holy Spirit as our helper and illuminator of God's Word. Using a flashlight, shine the light on the words on the paper. Remind the children that the Holy Spirit illuminates or shines light on God's Word for His people.

**The Holy Spirit illuminates God's Word.**

- The Holy Spirit serves as our helper when we read God's Word.
- It illuminates or brings to light the truth of God's Word to our hearts.
- The Spirit illuminated God's Word for Philip enabling him to teach the Ethiopian.
- The Spirit reveals God to His people through His Word by making His Word clearer.

**The Holy Spirit helps us apply the truth of God's Word to our lives.**

- As scripture is illuminated or brought to light in our hearts, the Spirit serves as our guide.
- The Spirit convicts us of our sin using God's Word as the great illuminator of our own hearts.
- When the Spirit helped Philip teach God's Word to the Ethiopian, the Ethiopian's heart was convicted and he believed in the gospel.
- The Spirit had led him to the truth by illuminating the Word of God.

*Who helps us understand the Bible? (The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible. It helps to make it clear to us.)*

3. 1 John 2:27: The Holy Spirit is our teacher. He opens our eyes and hearts to understand God's Word and God's will for our lives. He is all we need to understand at a basic level what God desires from us.

**BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US LOVE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN JESUS.****The Spirit enables us to love all people with God's love.**

- Without the help of the Holy Spirit, we cannot love like God loves.
- Philip was led by the Spirit to go first to Samaria and then to the road leading to Gaza where he met the Ethiopian.<sup>4</sup>
- The Spirit moves within our hearts to help us love even when we don't want to.
- Philip showed the Ethiopian love and the Ethiopian believed the gospel and became a part of God's family.

**The Spirit helps us love people who hate God.**

- Jesus promised His disciples and all of His followers that the world would hate them because it hated Him.
- The Spirit helps us love those people who don't love God, even those who hate God.
- When the Spirit works inside our hearts, we are able to share the gospel with even the most difficult people.
- We are able to love and care for those who may have hurt us or persecuted us.
- We are able to go to difficult places just to share the gospel.
- Philip went to the desert where he met the Ethiopian. It would not have been a pleasant journey, yet he reaped the reward of seeing the Ethiopian join the family of God.

**The Spirit works in our hearts to give us a love for people who don't know Jesus.**

- Just as we are not naturally drawn to God, we do not naturally love those who are difficult or who might persecute us.<sup>5</sup>
- Philip allowed the Spirit to lead him and when he did, the Spirit worked out of love and God received glory.

*How are we able to really love people? (The Spirit helps us love all people.)*

4. John 4:9: The Samaritans were a people group who were not fully Jewish. They were a mix between Jewish and Gentile. The Jews considered them unclean and refused to have anything to do with them. Yet, Jesus led by example in showing the world that there is no room for prejudice where the gospel is concerned.

5. Ephesians 3:16-17: Paul's prayer reveals that the Spirit teaches us how to love. The Spirit inside of us is what grows a true Godly love inside of us.

**BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US BOLDLY SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS WITH OTHERS.****The Spirit gives us boldness.**

- When Philip first left Jerusalem, he did so because Saul was persecuting Christians.
- Philip could have easily stopped preaching the gospel and just hidden somewhere until things calmed down.
- The Spirit gave Philip boldness to continue proclaiming the gospel to those who did not know Jesus.
- The same Spirit gives every believer boldness to share the good news.
- We do not have to worry about the consequences of our witnessing because the Spirit goes before us and prepares the way.<sup>6</sup>



Help the preschoolers understand that God's Spirit is bold by singing the chorus to "God's Not Dead (Like a Lion)".

My God's not dead  
He's surely alive  
He's living on the inside  
Roaring like a lion

**The Spirit speaks for us, giving us the words we need when we need them.**

- Philip did not have to worry about the words he would say to the Ethiopian.
- The Spirit led him and gave him the right words to speak.
- The Spirit leads every believer when they obey the command to share the gospel.
- We do not have to worry about our exact words; we need only follow the leading of the Holy Spirit who will give us the words to say when we need them.

**The Spirit helps us share the gospel boldly because the Spirit is bold and powerful.**

- The Spirit is not timid or fearful and it is this Spirit that dwells inside of every believer.
- Since the Spirit is not timid or fearful, believers do not have to be timid.
- When we are led by the Spirit in sharing the gospel, we can be as bold as lions.<sup>7</sup>

*How does the Spirit help us share the good news about Jesus? (He helps us do it boldly without fear.)*

6. 2 Timothy 1:7; Acts 4:29: The Lord does not give us a spirit of timidity or fear, but of boldness and power. The Spirit of God is bold and powerful.

7. Proverbs 28:1: When God's children are submitting to His Spirit, they are as bold as lions, fearing no man or calamity.

**HOOKS****The Holy Spirit is Our Helper.**

Show the children pictures of people in the community who help others, such as firemen, policemen, nurses, or doctors. Lead them in a discussion of what each of the helpers does and how they help others.



- Do you know that we have a helper, too?
- Our helper is the Holy Spirit. He helps us obey God and do the things that God wants us to do.
- What are some ways that the Holy Spirit might help us? (Help them list ways the Holy Spirit helps us, such as loving people, obeying our parents, being kind to our friends.)

**The Holy Spirit is Our Teacher.**

Using cardboard or paper, create a hat with the word “Teacher” on it. Give each child a picture of an easily recognizable animal. Let each child have a turn wearing the “Teacher” hat and standing in front of the class teaching the class about their animal. Encourage them to teach the class what color the animal is and what sound it makes.



- Do you know we have a teacher, too?
- The Holy Spirit is our teacher.
- Do you know what He teaches us? (He teaches us about God’s Word and helps us understand it.)

**The Holy Spirit Helps Us Follow God.**

On the board draw two columns. The first should say “Now” and the second “Later”. Lead the children in a discussion of what they are now and what they want to become later. Now they are boys and girls or children. Later they may want to be firemen or teachers or doctors. List what they are now and what they want to be later on the board.

- Do you know whom God wants us to be like? (He wants us to be like Jesus.)
- Do you know who helps us be like Jesus? (The Holy Spirit helps us.)
- The Holy Spirit is our guide and helper and He helps us become more like Jesus.