

GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED

THE STORY: REDEMPTION

BIG TRUTH: GOD THE SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO THE REDEEMED

John 6:63; Job 33:4; Romans 8:10; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 4:30; Galatians 4:6

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:11

"If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies."

BIG IDEAS

- The Holy Spirit makes God's people alive.
- The Holy Spirit indwells God's people.
- The Holy Spirit helps God's people.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

When the prophet, Ezekiel saw the vision of the valley of dry bones, he prophesied that God's Spirit would come upon the bones and make them alive again. God's Spirit gives life to His people, creating a new heart no longer enslaved to sin inside of them. The Holy Spirit helps God's people and guides them to glorify Him.

THE STORY

The Story is the good news of the gospel. All of Scripture tells the Story of God the Father's work to redeem a people from the power of sin through God the Son so that they might live for His glory through the power of the Holy Spirit. During this series we will explore the four main movements of the Story of God, and our response to the life-altering Gospel Story!

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God is the author, subject, and hero of the gospel story
- Salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone



Every child should strive to:

- Describe the gospel message through Creation, Fall, Redemption, and New Creation
- Memorize the Bible verse each week



Every child should feel:

- Brokenness over the depth of our sin against God
- Joy in Jesus, our Savior and King



Every child should want:

- To study the Bible so that they can better understand God's story of redemption
- To share the gospel story with those who are separated from God in their sin

FAMILY DEVOTION: THE GREAT HELPER

The Holy Spirit is given to God's people, those who have saving faith, to be their helper. The Holy Spirit is the ways in which God makes the redeemed alive and how He sanctifies, or grows His people.

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BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 8:11

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”

God’s Spirit lives inside of His people.

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you...”

- When a person turns from his or her sin and believes in Jesus as their Savior, a remarkable thing happens. God gives His Spirit, the Holy Spirit to each and every person who puts their faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit lives inside of that person always.
- The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of God. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of His people as a sign of their new life. Just as the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, He dwells inside of every person beginning the moment they believe in Jesus.

God’s Spirit gives new life to God’s people.

“...He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”

- The Holy Spirit gives new life to those who have repented and believed in Jesus. Because our sin makes us spiritually dead and leads us to physical death, we are all in need of new life. If we continue to live in our sin, we will continue to be spiritually dead, unaware of the spiritual things in this life.
- When the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us, He brings life with Him, renewing us and creating a new heart inside us. We are set free from the slavery of our sin nature and we were awakened to the spiritual and supernatural working of God in the world and in us.

God’s Spirit gives eternal life to God’s people.

“If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies.”

- We all have mortal bodies because when sin entered the world, death entered it also. Though we are created to live forever, sin changed all of that. Our physical bodies no longer live forever, yet our souls can through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit gives life forever when He indwells believers. This means that though our physical bodies may die, our souls will not. They will live forever because of the power of the Holy Spirit and the salvation that is offered to us through Jesus Christ.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The Valley Of Dry Bones

Opening Illustration:

Use Q-tips and glue to create a skeleton for each child. Help the children glue the Q-tips together on a blank piece of paper to form a skeleton. Talk with them about how God gave life to the dry bones in the valley through the power of His Spirit. He gives believers new life through the Spirit, too.

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BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES GOD'S PEOPLE ALIVE.¹

We are all dead in our sin.

- In Ezekiel's vision, he sees a valley of dry bones. There are so many dry bones that the entire valley floor is covered in them. The bones are so dry that they are bleached white from the sun. The bones represent the deadness of mankind because of our sin. Our sin makes us spiritually dead. We have no hope of making ourselves alive because of the devastating effects of our sin.
- We aren't aware of our need for new life because our sin blinds us. No one seeks God in his or her own power. We are all led astray by our sin and seek to fulfill our own sinful desires. Just as the bones could not make themselves alive again, we cannot either.



Bring in a blindfold and allow the preschoolers to take turns wearing it. While a preschooler is wearing the blindfold, have them try to walk around the room or find a fellow classmate. Once all the preschoolers have an opportunity to wear the blindfold, talk with them about how the Holy Spirit gives us life by opening our eyes to the truth about God and Jesus.

The Holy Spirit creates a new heart in those who have saving faith.

- Earlier in Ezekiel 36:26, God tells His people that He will give them a new heart, replacing the hard, sinful one they have. When we have saving faith, the Holy Spirit works in us to create a clean heart in us. We are no longer enslaved to our sin nature and our heart is no longer captive to our sinful desires.
- The Holy Spirit is the power that helps us overcome the darkness of our sin. We no longer walk blinded to the truth of God. We are no longer spiritually dead. Instead, we are set free by the power of the Holy Spirit to live abundantly through Christ.

The Holy Spirit makes us alive.

- Because the Holy Spirit gives us a new heart, we receive new life through Him. Just as the dry bones received new life through God's Spirit, we, too, receive new life.
- Because of the Holy Spirit, we walk a different path, the path of life. We have new eyes that have been awakened to the truth of God. We are transformed from sinners into saints and are no longer held captive by our sin.

How does the Holy Spirit make God's people alive? (He creates a new heart in them and awakens them to God's truth. He sets them free from their sin nature.)

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17: *When a person has saving faith, they become a new creation.*

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BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS GOD'S PEOPLE.²

The Holy Spirit lives inside of God's people.

- In Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones, God's Spirit breathes life into the bones, returning them to living human beings again. When a person has saving faith, God sends His Spirit to inhabit that person, to live in their heart for the duration of their life here on earth.
- Only those who have saving faith receive the Holy Spirit. It is only through the washing and cleansing of a person's heart through faith in Jesus that the Holy Spirit can inhabit a person's heart.



Gather the children in a circle and ask each of them to place their hand over their heart. Next, talk with the children about how the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of our hearts when we have saving faith in Jesus. Explain what saving faith is and then remind them that the Holy Spirit serves as a reminder to us that we have been saved from our sin. Talk with the preschoolers about how we should feel thankful that we are saved from our sin.

The Holy Spirit serves as a seal of God's presence in His people.

- Ephesians 4:20 tells us that the Holy Spirit serves as a seal for those who are redeemed. The Holy Spirit works inside of us to keep us until the day Jesus returns. He is given to us as a sign of the redeeming work that has occurred in us through Jesus.
- Because the Holy Spirit dwells inside of the redeemed, He keeps them as God's children for the duration of their life on earth. The Holy Spirit is fully God which means that it is God Himself dwelling inside of His people.

The Holy Spirit guides His people to obey and glorify God.

- The Holy Spirit guides God's people to live for Him. God's Spirit acts as a guiding force inside of the redeemed, directing them to obey God and to seek His glory.
- It is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables God's people to even understand how to live for Him. It is His power that guides the redeemed to seek God and to seek His glory.

Why does the Holy Spirit live inside of the redeemed? (He lives inside of God's people to help them and to serve as a seal that they are God's people.)

2. Romans 8:11: God gives His Spirit to live inside of His people.

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BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS GOD'S PEOPLE.³

God leads His people by His Spirit.

- Before Jesus came to the earth, God spoke to His people through His prophets and many different wonders and signs that He would do. Often, His Spirit would move on the earth in visible ways to reveal God's will for His people. After Jesus came to the earth and ascended into Heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of His people.
- The Holy Spirit serves as God's guide for His people. Instead of speaking through prophets or wonders and signs, God uses His Spirit inside of His people to reveal Himself to them through His written Word.



Create an obstacle course in your classroom. Place chairs and other objects throughout the room to create obstacles from one side of the room to the next. Next, have the preschoolers take turns wearing and blindfold and trying to get from one side of the room to the next. Allow other preschoolers to help the blindfolded child. Remind them that the Holy Spirit is a believer's helper in this life.

God teaches His people through His Spirit.

- God gave the Holy Spirit to His people to be their helper. The Holy Spirit serves as a teacher to God's people. When a believer reads and studies God's Word, it is the Holy Spirit who gives them understanding and knowledge. The Holy Spirit works to help God's people know Him as they seek Him in the Bible and through prayer.
- The Holy Spirit teaches God's people how to obey Him and He helps people overcome temptations to sin and behaviors that are not pleasing to God. It is the Holy Spirit that nudges people and guides them to do God's will. The Holy Spirit convicts by revealing the things that people should and should not do.

God grows His people through His Spirit.

- When God redeems a person, He doesn't leave them as they are. A redeemed person receives a new heart through the work of the Holy Spirit and God continues to sanctify, or make a person more like Him, every day of their life on earth. It is through the power of the Holy Spirit inside of them that God grows His people.
- His people gain knowledge because the Holy Spirit enlightens them. His people put on the fruit of the Spirit because the Holy Spirit molds them and makes them more like Christ.

How does the Holy Spirit help God's people? (He makes God's people more like Christ and helps God's people grow in their knowledge and understanding of God.)

3. John 14:26: Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to His people as their helper.

GUIDE 7

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P

HOOKS



KNOW

Dry Bones Alive

Divide the preschoolers into two groups. Make one group the dry bones and the other group the Holy Spirit. Have the dry bones group lie down on their backs and pretend to be dead. Next, have the Holy Spirit group “breathe” life into the bones by touching them gently. When the “dry bones” are touched, they should come back to life and stand up. Play several times switching groups so that everyone has a chance to be a dry bone and the Holy Spirit. Discuss with the children how the Holy Spirit gives life to God’s people like He gave life to the dry bones.



DO

- We are all dead in our sins. When we have saving faith, the Holy Spirit gives us life and makes us spiritually alive



FEEL

Inside of Me

Bring in several blankets to create a fort or use a play tent. Tell the preschoolers that they are the Holy Spirit and the fort or play tent represents God’s people. Instruct the preschoolers to go inside the fort or play tent. Allow them to take turns going in and out. Discuss with them how the Holy Spirit lives inside of God’s people when they have saving faith.



WANT

- When we repent and believe in Jesus for salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us.
- God gives us the Holy Spirit to give us life and to help us in this life.