

GOD IS SPIRIT

SUMMER: FOUNDATIONS

BIG TRUTH: GOD IS SPIRIT

Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 61:1; Ezekiel 26:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14, 2:18; Romans 8:9-11; Galatians 5:17

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 4:24

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

BIG IDEAS

- The Holy Spirit makes God's people alive.
- The Holy Spirit lives within God's people.
- The Holy Spirit helps God's people live faithfully.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

In the prophet Ezekiel's vision, he saw a valley of dry bones. He saw God's Spirit breathe life back into the bones and the bones began to live again. God's Spirit gives us new life when we have saving faith in Him.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known through creation and Word.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



Every child should feel:

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



Every child should strive to:

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else about the God who is.



Every child should want:

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

FAMILY DEVOTION: Growing Like Jesus

Saul's life radically changed when he met Jesus and then it continued to change as he continued to follow Christ. Saul became more and more like Jesus, and we too become more and more like Him as He continues to grow us in Him.



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BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 4:24

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Holy Spirit Is Fully God.

"God is spirit..."

- God is one God manifested in three persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead and He is fully God.
- The Holy Spirit has all of the attributes of God because He is God.
- The Holy Spirit has all of the power and authority that belongs to God. He functions as part of the three-person Godhead and carries out God's purposes and plans everywhere.
- Because the Holy Spirit is God, He is not lesser or not as significant or important. He is the God of the universe manifested as His Spirit in the world and in the hearts of those who have saving faith in Jesus, the Son.

The Holy Spirit lives inside of God's people.

"...and those who worship Him must worship in spirit..."

- Part of the function of the Holy Spirit is to be a Helper to God's people. When a person repents and believes in Jesus for their salvation, the Holy Spirit lives inside of them and serves as a guide, helper, and source of power for them.
- The Holy Spirit guides God's people to live for Him and works inside of them to sanctify them, or make them more like Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit works inside of God's people to produce a godliness and empowers them to pursue holiness.

The Holy Spirit enables God's people to worship Him rightly.

"...and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- Before Jesus ascended back into heaven, He promised to send One who would help His people. The One was the Holy Spirit.
- Without the Holy Spirit inside of us, we could not live for God. We would fail because we cannot live for God in our own power.
- The Holy Spirit enables us to live offering our lives in worship to the one true God.

BIBLE STORY: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

Valley Of Dry Bones

Opening Illustration:

Gather together a flower pot, potting soil, and grass seeds. Ask the children to help you put the potting soil into the flowerpot. Next, give each child a few grass seeds and ask them to push the seeds into the soil. Next, use a water bottle to help the children water the seeds. Set the pot somewhere safe so they can watch the grass grow. Talk with the children about how our world now is broken and dying, like the flower pot was empty, but Jesus is making a New Creation. The flower pot will have new life in it when the grass grows.

BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES GOD'S PEOPLE ALIVE.¹**The Holy Spirit draws people to God.**

- No one seeks God on their own.
- We are all sinful and we do not even know we need God until He shows us through His Spirit.
- We do not want to obey God until His Spirit draws us to Him and we see that we need Him.
- When the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see God and ourselves, we move toward God.



Use a balloon to show the children how the spirit breathes life. Tell them the flat balloon is someone without life. It is flat and lifeless. Blow air into the balloon. Tell them that the air going into the balloon is like the Holy Spirit breathing air into the dead life. The Holy Spirit breathes life into the dead and gives life to God's people.

The Holy Spirit gives new life.

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He is fully God and equal with God the Father and Son.
- The Holy Spirit is the way that a spiritually dead person is made new.
- Because we are all spiritually dead, we need a new life.
- We need to be new people who no longer want to sin, but instead want to please God.
- The Holy Spirit makes us new people by giving us a new life.

The Holy Spirit gives eternal life.

- Not only does the Holy Spirit give new life, He gives eternal life.
- Because we repent and follow Jesus, we can live forever with Him in heaven.
- This means that even when we die here on earth, we will live forever in the next life.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to live for God and makes it possible for us to live forever in eternity.

Who gives us eternal life? (The Holy Spirit gives eternal life.)

Who makes us new? (God's Spirit makes us new people.)

1. 1 Corinthians 15:22: The Holy Spirit makes spiritually dead people alive.

BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN GOD'S PEOPLE.²**The Holy Spirit is God Himself.**

- The Holy Spirit is the very Spirit of God. He is one of the three persons of the three person Godhead.
- The Holy Spirit is fully God and has all of the attributes of God.
- He is not lesser than God the Father or Son, but is equal with them.
- He is holy and righteous and deserving of all of our praise and worship because He is God.



Lead the children in singing songs that praise God for sending His Spirit. Remind them that the Holy Spirit is God and He lives inside of God's people.

The Holy Spirit lives in God's people.

- God chooses to live inside of His people.
- He breathes new life into them and then comes to live inside of them through His Spirit.
- His Spirit is the way that He makes His people new.
- Just like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision were made new again, the Spirit makes God's people live Him by living inside of them.

The Holy Spirit marks God's people forever.

- Once a person has the Holy Spirit, he or she always has the Holy Spirit,
- The Spirit serves as a mark, or sign, upon God's people that shows the rest of the world that that person belongs to God
- The Spirit makes the person new and helps them bear the fruit of the Spirit which shows others that he or she has been transformed by God.

Who lives inside of God's people? (The Holy Spirit lives inside of His people.)

2. Acts 2:38: God's Spirit inhabits His people to be their guide.

BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE FAITHFULLY.³**The Holy Spirit is the Helper.**

- Without the Holy Spirit, we cannot know God or live for Him.
- The Holy Spirit is our guide to God and He shows us how to obey God.
- God sent the Holy Spirit to be our Helper and to show us how to please Him.
- The Holy Spirit works inside of us to lead us to live for God.



Gather the children in a circle with a Bible and a flashlight. Show the children the Bible and remind them it is the Word of God. Next, turn the lights off and allow the children to take turns shining the flashlight on the Bible. Tell the children that the Holy Spirit shines a light, or illuminates the Bible to God's people to help us know how to live for God.

The Holy Spirit guides His people to obey God faithfully.

- God gave the Holy Spirit to His people to help them know how to obey His commands.
- The Holy Spirit leads God's people down the path of obedience.
- He helps believers choose obedience over doing what makes them happy.
- He shows them the right way to live for God by giving them wisdom and helping them know the right choice to make.

The Holy Spirit teaches God's people.

- Not only does the Spirit guide God's people, He teaches them about God.
- When a believer seeks God by reading and studying the Bible, the Holy Spirit helps them understand what God's Word means.
- The Holy Spirit teaches people what it looks like to be faithful.
- He helps believers grow in their knowledge of God and He gives them understanding to know themselves.

Who helps God's people live for Him faithfully? (The Holy Spirit is the helper who guides God's people to live for Him.)

3. John 14:16: The Holy Spirit is the Helper who guides God's people to live for Him.

HOOKS

**Our Helper**

Show the children pictures of community helpers, such as firefighters, doctors, nurses, policemen, etc. Ask them questions about what each community helper does and ways they help us. Next, talk to them about how the Holy Spirit is our helper.



- The Holy Spirit is our helper.
- He's different than community helpers because He is always with God's people.
- He never leaves them and He is always helping them.

**Alive Again**

Bring in two bowls of pasta: one bowl of dry pasta and one of cooked pasta. Allow the children to touch both bowls of pasta and ask them what the differences are between the two. One is dry and hard the other is moist and soft. Lead them in a discussion about how the Holy Spirit makes believers alive.



- When the dry pasta is cooked, it changes and becomes something that we can eat.
- When we repent and believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit changes us from spiritually dead to alive. We can follow God and obey Him.

To Live Faithfully

Lead the children in a time of prayer, thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit to help His people live faithfully for Him.