

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 PASSAGE: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

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.

SERIES AIMS



Every student 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 student 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 student 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 student should ask God to...

- 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.

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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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.

BIG IDEA #1: THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES GOD'S PEOPLE ALIVE.¹**[THIS]**

Every person is born spiritually dead. We have no true awareness or understanding of spiritual things without the work of God's Spirit. The Bible teaches us that no one seeks the Father, and our minds are dulled and darkened to true spiritual things. We do not understand ourselves, and we can not comprehend the truth about Jesus in our own power. The Holy Spirit is the way we are awakened to the things of God. It is God's Spirit that draws people to Him. In Ezekiel 37, the prophet Ezekiel sees a vision of a valley of dry bones coming back to life, which represents the way all people are dead in their sin but are made alive when they have saving faith in Jesus.

[THEREFORE]

Before the Spirit draws us to God the Father, we are spiritually dead. How have you experienced this spiritual deadness in your own life?

Ephesians 4:18 and John 6:53 remind us that we are spiritually dead in our sin until we have saving faith in Jesus. We do not understand the things of God. We do not live for Him or seek to obey Him. We may try to do good things, but in our hearts, we are really just living for ourselves.

How have you experienced this spiritual deadness in the world?

Galatians 5:19-21 reminds us of the works of the flesh which result in a spiritual deadness in the world around us. The world is passing away just as 1 John 2:17 teaches us. We can see this in the destruction that occurs on earth. People turn against people and the world becomes increasingly darker with each passing day.

[THIS]

God uses His Spirit to give spiritual life to those who have repented and placed their faith in Jesus. The Spirit breathes new life into people when they turn from their sin and follow Jesus. He takes spiritually dead people who cannot help themselves and gives them eternal life through His Son. In Ezekiel's vision, he saw dry bones receive miraculous new life. His Spirit miraculously illuminates the way of salvation to spiritually dead people leading them to new, everlasting life.

[THEREFORE]

What are some evidences that the Holy Spirit is at work in leading someone from death to life in Jesus? Have you ever seen any of these evidences in someone's life that you know personally?

Before we have saving faith in Jesus, our minds and hearts are darkened. The only way we understand our sinful condition and how to be saved is through the drawing of the Holy Spirit as John 6:37 and Ephesians 2:8-9 teach us. We can see the Holy Spirit at work in a person when they understand and believe the gospel. We see the evidences of this work in people when they desire to study the Bible and they feel convicted over their sin. It also is evident in the way we view others. When we practice love that mirrors God's love for us, we are evidencing the work of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is fully God. Why is it difficult for us to understand and relate to the Holy Spirit?

We often think of the Holy Spirit as something less than God, but it is fully God because He is God's Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is God and not just some supernatural thing that interacts with us.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:22: Because Adam sinned, everyone born after him is born dead in their sin. Jesus makes us alive again through His perfect sacrificial death on the cross.

BIG IDEA #2: THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN GOD'S PEOPLE.²**[THIS]**

In Ezekiel 37:1-14, the dry bones could not make themselves new again. God's Spirit blew upon them and made them come to life again. These bones were not just dead bones. They were dry and had been lifeless for many, many years. There was no hope of them giving themselves life again. God's Spirit draws people to Himself and works inside of them to make them new creations. When a person has saving faith in Jesus, God's Spirit transforms them and lives inside of them. Prior to saving faith, people are spiritually dead and have no hope, just like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision. Because sin separates us from God, the Holy Spirit only lives inside of those people who have repented and trusted in Jesus for salvation.

[THEREFORE]**What keeps unbelievers from having the Spirit inside of them?**

We are all born with a sin nature and it is this sin nature that separates us from God. God is a holy God and does not look on sin. Isaiah 59:2 teaches us that God is separate from sin. The Holy Spirit is God which means that He is not inside of a person who has not turned from their sin nature and placed their faith in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit lives inside of God's people. How can you know that the Holy Spirit lives inside of you?

Ephesians 1:13-14 and John 10:28-38 teach us that nothing can take away our salvation. We can know we truly have saving faith because of the Holy Spirit inside of us. The Holy Spirit works to guide us and help us live for God. As we desire to please God and desire to know Him more, we can be certain that the Holy Spirit is at work in us.

[THIS]

When a person has saving faith, the righteousness of Jesus is applied to them. They are made into new creations and they are given new hearts. They are no longer dead spiritually, but are made alive in Christ. This means that they have a new life and become a new person. Before their saving faith, they could not please God, nor would they really want to please Him. After saving faith, because the Holy Spirit has given them new life, they live for God and desire to please Him. The Holy Spirit dwells inside of God's people forever. Sin no longer separates a person from God, but instead, the Spirit joins them forever. They enjoy a right relationship with God forever.

[THEREFORE]**How have you seen the Holy Spirit working in someone's life?**

To have the Spirit of God inside of us is to have the power that God grants us. To be guided and helped by the Spirit of the living God is a gift. Acts 1:8 and Luke 11:13 teach us that the Holy Spirit is a gift to us and that it is God living in us. John 14:26 teaches us that the Spirit is our teacher and reminds us of the things we've learned in God's Word. We can see the Spirit at work in someone's life when they repent of their sin and their lives become more Christ-like.

2. Acts 2:30: When we repent and believe in Jesus, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to live inside of us to be our helper and guide.

BIG IDEA #3: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS GOD'S PEOPLE LIVE FAITHFULLY.³**[THIS]**

The Holy Spirit is the helper of God's people. He gives new life and is God's seal upon His people. The Holy Spirit keeps God's people and sanctifies them in this life to prepare them for their final glorification in eternity. In this life, the Holy Spirit helps God's people grow in their understanding of who God is and who they are in relation to Him. The Holy Spirit increases a believer's knowledge of God by illuminating the Word of God to them when they read and study it. As the Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture to God's people, they grow spiritually, maturing into believers who look and act more and more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps believers recognize and resist temptation. He gives power to God's people to endure during struggles and trials. He comforts God's people in their time of distress and sorrow, and He gives joy as they turn their eyes off of the things of this world and on the things of God.

[THEREFORE]

The Holy Spirit illuminates God's Word and serves as our teacher. How has the Spirit helped you understand God's Word?

God provides all that we need and when He gave the Holy Spirit, He provide a teacher to His people. As we seek to understand the Bible, the Holy Spirit serves as our teacher. John 14:26 and Matthew 10:19-20 help us understand the function of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual lives as we seek to grow in our knowledge and obedience to God the Father.

[THIS]

Believers can live faithful lives because of the Holy Spirit. God gives believers His Spirit to help them live for Him. The Holy Spirit is God's equipping of His people to obey Him and fulfill His purpose for their lives. It is because of the Spirit that believers can live obediently for God. With the work and power of the Spirit believers understand what it means and looks like to live faithfully for God. They will choose obedience to God's Word over pleasing their flesh nature. They will love as God has commanded because they have the power of the Spirit. They will do hard things because God's Spirit empowers them to do so. It is because of the Holy Spirit that God's people continue to serve Him their entire lives. Believers can live in this world, pleasing God with their lives because He has given them His Spirit to keep them and to give them power.

[THEREFORE]

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help you to live faithfully for God?

In our own power, we cannot please God. In the power of His Spirit, we can live faithful lives for Him. 1 Corinthians 10:13 and James 1:12 speak to the power that we have through God's Spirit. Because the Spirit is the Helper, the help that we receive to overcome temptation and to persevere during trials is from the Holy Spirit.

How has the Holy Spirit been a source of comfort to you?

God has not left His people alone in this world. As difficult as the world can be, God has provided a great comfort to His people in the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17 and Romans 8:26-27 show us that the Holy Spirit serves as our greatest comfort in our most difficult times. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and helps us know what to say and also reminds us that God has not forgotten us.

3. John 14:16: The Holy Spirit is the promised helper sent to man to guide him and help him live for God in this world.