



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8

WORD OF WONDER: Romans 8:14

As I read Scripture, it's easy to pick up on the miraculous works of the Spirit. Like how the Spirit filled believers in Acts 2 and thousands were saved, or how the Spirit guided Paul and his friends on their missionary journeys, and especially the miracles of healing and opening prison doors. All very exciting! But the Spirit also works in the hearts and minds of believers in quieter ways. Our God is wondrous like that. He can move in a crashing storm or a small whisper. The work of the Spirit is mighty even when that work is helping us pray.

Read Paul's words in Romans 8:14–17 and 22–27. To understand that the Spirit helps us pray, we must first understand we are children of God. Just as I want to hear from my kids about how their days went or what they're excited about or how they're struggling, God wants to hear from His children. The Spirit gives us the boldness to go before the Creator of the universe as our Father! We can pray to Him in any way we need. And when times are so difficult we can only cry out, the Spirit intervenes again, speaking on our behalf to the Father when we don't even know what to say. How do these truths bring you comfort in times of struggle?

—Kramer Mize

Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS THE HOLY SPIRIT AND PRAYER

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Apostle Paul had a significant ministry in the first century, especially as the Lord's chosen instrument to proclaim His name to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Paul authored a significant portion of the New Testament, including the epistle (letter) to the Romans.

WHAT?

The Holy Spirit frees us from the power of sin. The leading of the Spirit marks us as God's adopted children who can call God Father. The Spirit helps us pray, going to God on our behalf and aligning our hearts with His will.

WHERE?

Paul wrote the epistle to the Romans at the end of his third missionary journey while staying in Greece. He likely wrote from Corinth, since Phoebe—who Paul commends to the Romans—was from the church in Cenchreae (sen-KREE-ay), located near Corinth (Romans 16:1–2).

WHEN?

The epistle to the Romans was written around AD 56 or 57. Paul was setting out for Jerusalem to bring an offering to the Lord's people. He was planning to go to Spain after that, stopping in Rome along the way (Romans 15:24–26).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus defeated the power of sin and death on the cross. The presence of the Holy Spirit makes Jesus' victory a lived reality for His followers. With the Spirit's help, believers experience freedom from sin and newness of life as God's children, awaiting future glory.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Simon Prays

Gather the kids together. **Praying is when we talk to God. We can talk with God anytime, anywhere, about anything. Let's play a game to practice all the ways we can pray.** This game is like Simon Says, but there are no tricks. Use the phrase "Simon Prays" every time you give a directive. **All the ways that Simon Prays are ways that we can pray too.**

Say the following statements and encourage the kids to act out what you say:

- **Simon Prays with eyes closed.** Encourage the kids to close their eyes.
- **Simon Prays with eyes open.** Encourage the kids to open their eyes.
- **Simon Prays while on his knees.** Encourage the kids to kneel.
- **Simon Prays sitting down.** Encourage the kids to sit down.
- **Simon Prays with hands folded.** Encourage the kids to fold their hands.
- **Simon Prays with hands open.** Encourage the kids to open their hands.

Vary directives and speed of directives to get kids moving, but every directive is an example of a way that a person can pray, helping kids understand many of the ways we can talk to God.

Our Wonder Truth today is THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US PRAY.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT—*Point up.*

HELPS US—*Bring palms together in "prayer hands" in front of you.*

PRAY—*Keep palms together and bring them into a vertical prayer position.*



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You for hearing our prayers today and every day. You are amazing—please help us understand You more! Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, who leads us and helps us pray! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

Read from the script:

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about the Holy Spirit. Encourage the kids to say, "Holy Spirit." **Let's find out from the Bible how the Holy Spirit helps us.**

Friends, we can talk to God all the time. This is what prayer is! We can talk to God in a loud voice.

Ask kids to loudly repeat after you, "Hi, God!" **Or we can talk to God in a quiet voice.** Ask kids to quietly repeat after you, "Hi, God." **We can talk to God when we are standing up.** Ask kids to quickly stand up with you. **We can talk to God when we are sitting down.** Ask kids to sit back down.

We can talk to God about anything, anywhere, and anytime, and if we ever aren't sure how to pray, God promises to give us a helper. Our helper is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Holy Spirit helps us pray. When we're sad, we can talk to God. Ask kids to make a sad face. **When we're happy, we can talk to God.** Ask kids to make a happy face. **The Bible says that when we don't know what to say, the Holy Spirit can help us. The Holy Spirit prays the right thing for us. What a great helper!**

Invite the kids to move with you into a kneeling position. **Followers of Jesus are God's children, and we can talk with God about anything. We don't have to worry about saying the wrong thing. The Holy Spirit is our helper. The Holy Spirit helps us pray.**

Stay kneeling while you pray together.

WORD OF WONDER

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children
of God.

—Romans 8:14