



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

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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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: Thank You cards (1 per kid), envelopes (1 per kid), coloring utensils, stickers

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: The Holy Spirit and Prayer Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Mini Thanks

Set-up: Set out Thank You cards, envelopes, coloring utensils, and stickers.

Play: Invite the kids to use the supplies provided to create cards to share with people they're thankful for. Kids can make as many different cards as time and resources allow.

Demonstrate how to put the cards inside envelopes and assist in adding "To" and "From" names on the envelopes as needed.

Play Station: The Holy Spirit and Prayer Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of The Holy Spirit and Prayer Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of someone who helps them.



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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 provided:

Before Jesus died on the cross, He made a promise to His disciples. Jesus promised to ask God the Father to give them a special helper. This helper would be their friend and be with them forever! This friend is called the Holy Spirit. Jesus kept His promise. God gives the Holy Spirit to be with people who believe in Jesus. When we follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives with us and in us (from John 14:15–17). The Holy Spirit is God—our powerful, wise, and loving helper.

Later a man named Paul did God's special work. God sent Paul to tell people the good news about Jesus. Paul told them about Jesus and how the Holy Spirit changes our lives.

Paul wrote a letter to the church in Rome. Paul's letter taught about the Holy Spirit. We can have the Holy Spirit because of Jesus. Followers of Jesus are God's adopted kids! God is a loving Father. He wants the best for His kids. When we have the Holy Spirit, we can call God our Father. We can be close to God and know that He loves us. God promises that someday everything will be perfect in His forever kingdom. Our helper reminds us that we are now God's children and that God's promises are for us. The Holy Spirit also helps us talk with God in prayer and do the things that please God.

Friends, we have a King who is our loving Father, and we can come close to God and talk with God like a Father. As His kids, we can talk to God all the time, about anything! This is what prayer is! The Holy Spirit helps us pray. We never have to worry about saying the wrong thing when we pray. God loves to hear from his children! It pleases him when we talk to him. When we're sad, we can talk to God. When we're happy, we can thank God. 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!

Followers of Jesus are God's children, and we can talk to 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.

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Romans 8:14



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LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Woven Together

SUPPLIES: ball of yarn

Gather the kids in a circle. **I'm so thankful that we have the Holy Spirit with us to lead us and help us. Let's talk about some of the things we might be wondering about today. We're going to see how a ball of yarn connects us all to each other—kind of like how prayer keeps us connected to God—and how the Holy Spirit connects us to God through prayer!**

Hold the ball of yarn in your hands. **I'm going to toss the ball of yarn to another person, and whoever gets the ball of yarn will hold the end of the string. The person who catches the yarn gets to answer a question, then he'll keep holding the end of the yarn and toss the ball of yarn across the circle to another person. That person will also hold a part of string. We'll keep going by tossing the yarn and answering questions to make a web of yarn that is woven around everyone in the circle.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who promised to give us a special helper?** (*Jesus*)
- **Do you think God wants us to stay far away from Him or come close to Him?** (*come close*)
- **What is prayer?** (*talking with God*)
- **Why do we pray?**
- **What kind of things can you talk with God about?** (*anything and everything*)
- **When is it OK to talk with God?** (*any time!*)
- **What can you do if you want to pray but you're not sure how?**
- **When do you pray? What are things you've prayed about?**

Look how we are all connected by the yarn now! It reminds me that when we trust in Jesus, we are all connected in the family of God. The Holy Spirit reminds us that we belong to God as His children. The Spirit helps us pray and tell God about the things we need. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit, who helps us pray.