



## 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

### Curiosity Activity: Act It Out

We're going to do an activity where I'll pretend to be a thing or animal, and you guess what I'm pretending to be. I'm not going to use any words, so you have to pay attention to what my body is saying. Let's see if you can figure out what I'm pretending to be even when I don't use any words to tell you.

Act out the following things (or make up your own) and encourage the kids to guess:

- Chair
- Dog
- House
- Car
- Elephant
- Bird
- Rainbow
- Bed
- Monkey
- Ballerina

You can also let the kids take turns acting things out when you whisper in their ear what to act out. **Great job guessing! It's amazing that even with no words, you could figure out what I was pretending to be. Today we're going to learn about prayer, which is when we talk with God. We**

**can pray and talk with God anytime and anywhere. The Bible tells us that even when we don't**

**know the words to say or what to talk about, the Holy Spirit will help us. We'll learn today how the Holy Spirit helps us pray.**



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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 below:

**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.**

## 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?**

## Word of Wonder

### WORD OF WONDER

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

—Romans 8:14

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think it means to be a child of God?**
- **Who can you pray for who needs help?**



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Craft: Prayer Hands

**SUPPLIES:** coloring utensils

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Prayer Hand Sheet (1 per kid)

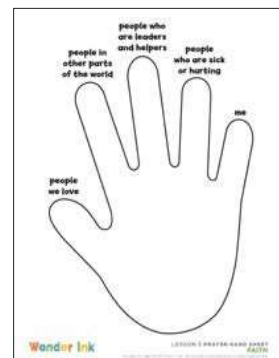
Ahead of time, print one Prayer Hand Sheet per kid.

**Can everyone hold up their hands?** Look at your thumb and fingers.

**Did you know that just looking at our hands can help us pray? Let's start with your thumb. When you see your thumb, think of a person you love and pray for that person.** Keep all fingers up as you describe them.

**When you see your index finger (or pointer finger), think of people who live in other cities and other parts of the world and pray for them. When you see the next finger, think of people who are leaders or helpers and pray for them. When you see your ring finger, think of people who are sick or hurt and pray for them. And when you see your pinky finger, think about what you need and pray for yourself!**

Provide each child with a Prayer Hand Sheet and coloring utensils. Invite the kids to trace their hand inside the larger printed hand. They can color in their hand or draw pictures of people they are thinking of, as time allows. Collect the sheets at the end of your time and set them aside to be used during your Responding in Worship time. To make the craft more complex, you can purchase disposable gloves (non-latex for kids with latex allergies) and allow the kids to color on the gloves with markers.



**Leader Tip:** If kids are having a tough time tracing their own hands, pair them up and have them trace the hand of a partner.



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## LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Ball Bounce

**SUPPLIES:** playground ball

Gather the kids in a circle with an open space in the middle. Toss a bouncy playground ball across the circle to someone with one bounce and tell the person who gets the ball to say the Wonder Truth: The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray. That person will bounce the ball (one bounce) to someone else in the circle. Each person who gets the ball will say the Wonder Truth before passing it on. Once everyone has gotten the ball, tell the kids to do the activity again, but this time, they will bounce the ball two times before the next person gets the ball and says the Wonder Truth. Continue again, bouncing the ball three times, then four. The kids may need to step back to widen the circle and create more space between each round.

**We can remember that the Holy Spirit helps us pray! This week, remember that we can talk to God all the time—that's prayer! The Holy Spirit helps us pray. We can talk with God about anything.**

**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!**

### Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for the Holy Spirit, who helps us pray. **Father God, thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us pray.**

**In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God bless you this week, and may the Holy Spirit remind you that He helps you and leads you!