



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Because the Holy Spirit Leads Me, I Am Led

SCRIPTURE: John 14

WORD OF WONDER: Exodus 15:11c

Read John 14:15–21, 25–26. People today have so many voices competing for their attention. Social media and news media. Talk radio and podcasts. Ads on the internet. Ads on the interstate. It feels like everything everywhere is always shouting: “Look at me” or “Go this way” or “Trust this,” they say. I think that’s why people sometimes latch onto the wrong things. When life feels chaotic, it’s natural to long for an anchor in the storm, and it’s easy to grab after whatever’s making the most noise.

Followers of Jesus are not exempt from the chaos, but Jesus hasn’t left us without help in the world. We have an anchor that never fails—a helper who is always with us, dwelling deeply in our hearts. We have the Holy Spirit.

If you are a follower of Jesus, then God’s powerful, wise, and loving presence is leading you. The Holy Spirit is with you, comforting and encouraging you as you follow the way of Jesus. He gives wisdom and understanding. He plants the words of Jesus deep in our hearts and helps us see through every counterfeit.

What difference would it make if you trusted God’s presence today? What would you be able to do? Who would you be able to reach? Because the Holy Spirit leads you, you are led. Will you walk in step with Him today?

—**Michael Rade**

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LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Holy Spirit is one with God the Father and God the Son. He is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence, empowering believers to honor God and follow Jesus. The Spirit brings wisdom and knowledge of God's Word, guiding and encouraging God's children.

WHAT?

Before Jesus died on the cross, He comforted His disciples by promising that the Holy Spirit would come to them after He went to be with the Father. The Spirit would be their helper, teaching them all things and reminding them of Jesus' words.

WHERE?

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit's coming during His Passover supper with the disciples in an upper room of a house in Jerusalem. Shortly after, Jesus and His disciples crossed the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was arrested before His crucifixion.

WHEN?

This story took place shortly before Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Holy Spirit would later come on the disciples during Pentecost, after Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

In the book of Ezekiel, God promised to give His people new hearts by placing His own Spirit within them (Ezekiel 36:26–27). This promise was realized when the Holy Spirit came to Jesus' followers, empowering all believers to reject sin and walk in newness of life.



LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Curiosity Activity: Where You Lead Bottle

SUPPLIES: paper clips (several), clear plastic water bottle, water, magnet, table

For this activity, you'll be placing several paper clips into a full water bottle and demonstrating how a magnet on the outside of the bottle can move the paper clips.

Hold up the filled water bottle and several paper clips. Drop the paper clips into the water and watch them sink to the bottom, then screw the lid on the bottle tightly. **Do you think I can lead the paper clips back to the top of the bottle without touching them or shaking the bottle?** Allow kids to respond. If they think you can, invite them to share how they think you'll do it. Next, reveal the magnet. Set the bottle on the table and hold the magnet against the outside of the bottle. Use the magnet to move the paper clips to the top of the bottle. If your magnet is strong enough to pull the paper clips up and out of the bottle, remove

the cap and do so. Or if your magnet isn't that strong, keep the cap on and simply move the paper clips up, down, and around the inside of the bottle.

Invite a couple of kids to the front to take turns holding the magnet as the other kids shout out direction words like "up," "down," "right," and "left." The kid holding the bottle can use the magnet to lead the paper clips in the directions shouted.



Wow! Magnets are powerful, and our magnet sure led these paper clips all over! We are a little like the paper clips in this activity. When we believe in Jesus and trust Him as our Savior, He promises we will have the Holy Spirit to help, teach, and lead us every day. We get to follow Him like the paper clips followed the magnet! *The Holy Spirit* is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence in our lives, and today's Wonder Truth is **BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS ME, I AM LED.**



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, You love us and do wonderful things for us! Holy Spirit, please fill us with wonder at how amazing You are. 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 – use the script provided: Gather kids together. Throughout the story, you will lead the kids in doing three different motions. The first motion is for when you say, "Holy;" you will put your arms straight up over your head like your whole body is an *H*. The second motion is for "Spirit;" you will place your arms to the side, with one curved up like a teapot and the other curved down so that together they make an *S*. The final motion will be for "leads the way;" you will place fingers, palms, and arms

together and straight out in front of you like you are pointing the way. The motions can be done in a seated or standing position. If the children can't do the motions exactly right, that's OK. They can do their own version!

Let's listen to God's big story for today. A long time ago, Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, and then rose on the third day. He is alive! And then after a while, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, that it was time for Him to go be with God the Father in heaven. Jesus knew that this would make his friends sad, and so Jesus wanted them to know they would have help after He left. God was going to send the Holy Spirit to help them. *The Holy Spirit* is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. The Holy Spirit leads the way. I am going to say that again, but let's add some motions to it. Demonstrate the motions for "Holy," "Spirit, and "leads the way." Invite the kids to do the motions along with you.

The Holy Spirit would be their powerful, wise, and loving helper. The Holy Spirit would teach Jesus' followers what is good and right and true. The Holy Spirit would help them remember what Jesus taught. And the Holy Spirit would help them follow and obey God. *The Holy Spirit leads the way.* Invite the kids to do the motions along with you.

The Holy Spirit was for Jesus' first followers long ago. And the Holy Spirit is for all people who follow Jesus today! God cares for His people like a loving parent cares for a child. The Holy Spirit leads and helps God's children. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit teaches us and leads us each day. *The Holy Spirit leads the way.* Invite the kids to do the motions along with you.

Followers of Jesus can always trust these words: *Because the Holy Spirit leads me, I am led.*

WORD OF WONDER

Your glory fills me with wonder. You do amazing things.

—Exodus 15:11c



Curiosity

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LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Holy Spirit Crayon-Resist Painting

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 per kid), watercolor paints sets, paintbrushes (1 per kid), water cups (1 per kid)

The Holy Spirit is God's powerful, wise, and loving presence. When we trust and follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit will be in our hearts as a friend, helper, and teacher. The Holy Spirit can lead us and help us follow God's way. Let's make a craft to remind us how the Holy Spirit is with us when we trust and love Jesus.

Show the kids the paper and let them know there is a special message that they can't see right now on each paper. Assure them they will see it clearly in a bit. (On each paper there is a large heart with the letters H and S for *Holy Spirit* written in white crayon).

Pass out the papers to the kids, then demonstrate how to add a bit of water to the watercolor palette and then paint on the paper. Kids can freely choose colors they like, or if you want to offer more direction, ask the kids to use blue and green watercolors to represent the colors of the earth. As the kids paint over the crayon, the wax from the crayon will resist the paint, and the heart, the H, and the S will become visible.

Take your pictures home to help you remember how the Holy Spirit leads and guides you each day.

