



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

## MAIN POINT

When Jesus was on Earth, he told his disciples that he would send a comforter to be with us after he was gone. Here in Acts 1 and 2 that comforter gets a name: the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity with God the Father and God the Son. He is God the Holy Spirit, and he lives in the hearts of all who believe in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit is the presence of God. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to pray to God directly. We pray in Jesus' name, and God will hear our prayers. The Holy Spirit also speaks to us. It's the still small voice that gives us a little nudge when we need it, helping us to do the work of God. He opens our eyes to see people who are in need, and he shows us how we can serve Jesus.

The Holy Spirit gives us strength when we need it. He gives us courage to face temptation and walk away. He gives us comfort when we are hurting. The Holy Spirit is God Himself living in our hearts.

## DRIVE IT HOME

The early believers teach us just how important the Holy Spirit is. Peter and the others knew the story of Christ. They knew he had died for their sins, and they knew he could save others. But rather than rushing out to tell the world, they waited. They waited for God to send his presence to them individually. Jesus could not stay with them and be with each one of them, so the Holy Spirit became God's presence in every believer.

The Holy Spirit gave them the power to go out and share the gospel. He gave them courage to face persecution. He guided men like Peter, Philip, and Paul to travel to the ends of the Earth, sharing the gospel with everyone. As incredible as it sounds, that same Holy Spirit is here with us today. He will speak to you, if you listen, and he will show you God's plan for your life.

The Holy Spirit is how we have a personal relationship with God. We pray through the Holy Spirit. We receive guidance through the Holy Spirit. As we pray and as we read the Bible, we get to know God through his Holy Spirit.

When you realize who the Holy Spirit is, it's easy to understand why the early Christians didn't dare to go out into the world without Him. The Holy Spirit is our personal connection to Jesus. He is how we grow and how we learn to serve the Lord. He is the one most responsible for helping us learn to live and be more like Christ.

If you've never accepted Jesus as your Savior, today is a great day to do that. Come and find one of your adult leaders before church ends, and let us share with you how to receive Christ. Jesus will give you his Holy Spirit, and that Holy Spirit will be with you the rest of your life.

# LARGE GROUP LESSON

Don't go anywhere, and don't leave this place, without receiving the Holy Spirit so Jesus can go with you.

## **CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER**

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for Jesus and for your Holy Spirit. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, so that we can serve you wherever we go.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*