

MODEL UNIT
BAND A
LEVEL 3

MYSTERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LIFE CONCEPT: GOD HELPS PEOPLE BY THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

YEAR: **SUGGESTED DURATION:** 5 weeks, approximately 100 minutes per week

DATE OF USE: **FAITH STATEMENTS:** ① ② ③

UNIT-SPECIFIC GOALS (highlighted)

1 THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES PEOPLE POWER TO BELIEVE AND LIVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1a hear the biblical account of Pentecost
- 1b explore Bible stories in which the Holy Spirit helps people believe in Jesus
- 1c explore the teaching that the Holy Spirit helps people live as Christians

2 THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE IN BAPTISM

- 2a explore Bible stories of baptism
- 2b become familiar with the ritual of baptism
- 2c explore the Christian teaching that through baptism people become members of God's family

3 THE HOLY SPIRIT USES GOD'S WORD AND HOLY COMMUNION TO HELP GOD'S PEOPLE GROW

- 3a investigate the Christian belief that through the Bible people come to know God better

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Draw pictures of Peter before and after Pentecost. (1a, 1b)
- Record words which indicate the Holy Spirit's presence at baptism. (2b)
- List and illustrate times and ways in which people hear God's word. (3a)
- Act out a scenario which shows how the Holy Spirit can work in people's lives. (1c)

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

- ⇒ work samples TRS A3/1, notebook
- ⇒ work samples TRS A3/1, notebook
- ⇒ work samples TRS A3/1, notebook
- ⇒ students' plays

UNIT SUMMARY

Students take the role of detectives to investigate the work of the Holy Spirit. They hear Bible stories of Peter's life which illustrate how the Holy Spirit changed and empowered Peter. They investigate what the Bible tells of the work of the Holy Spirit in baptism and through hearing God's word, and they identify how the Spirit works in people's lives today.

UNIT NOTES

In this unit students act as detectives, investigating the mystery of the Holy Spirit. Students keep records of their investigation in 'detective notebooks', see Teacher Resource Sheets (TRS) A3/1a,1b.

Keep a class chart on which teacher and students summarise what has been learnt. This could be designed as a detective clues board.

The unit can be modified and developed without using the detective theme.

If there are unanswered questions at the end of the unit, let them remain as part of the 'mystery' that surrounds the work of the Spirit.

Throughout this unit let the students' understanding guide the amount of information that you give and the activities you choose.

WORDS TO KNOW

Holy Spirit, Pentecost, Peter, baptism, holy communion

INTRODUCTION

If possible, prepare students by reading a fiction story in which children investigate a 'mystery' (see Recommended Resources Menu), or let students use a computer program like *Carmen Sandiego: Junior Detective*. Highlight terms used in detective work, eg investigate, clues, observation, mystery. This need not be done in the Christian Studies time slot.

1. BEGINNING THE SEARCH

Introduce the topic of the Holy Spirit by teaching students a song like *Move when the Spirit say move (All Together Again 202)*. Ask students

- who they think the song is about
- what they think the words mean
- what they know about the Holy Spirit.

Student responses at this point will vary, depending on their background. For some the word 'Spirit' may conjure up images of ghosts. Others may have a much clearer understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit. Allow students to verbalise their ideas. Use their ideas to guide your teaching.

Tell students that many people think that the Holy Spirit is like a 'mystery', and that over the next weeks they will be 'detectives', finding out all they can about the Holy Spirit.

During their investigation students may wear 'detective' badges (TRS A3/3) and use detective notebooks (TRS A3/1).

DEVELOPMENT

2. WHAT PEOPLE KNOW

On spread 1 of their detective notebook students record all that they can about the Holy Spirit. This can be done in the classroom as students work individually or in groups. Alternatively, students could interview others, (eg older students, teachers, parents) to collect information.

Allow up to several days for this task, then summarise findings by writing clues about the Holy Spirit on the class chart.

3. LISTENING TO A WITNESS

Tell students that they will collect more clues about the Holy Spirit as they hear from Peter, one of Jesus' disciples.

Use four Peter's witness stories (TRS A3/2a,2b,2c). Dramatise these first-person accounts as you tell them. Alternatively, pre-record the script onto tape and play it to the students. Tell one story each day. At the end of each story, students complete the appropriate sections (spreads 2 and 3) in their detective notebooks.

Peter's witness stories

(A) Introduction (Witness Story Number 1)

(B) Jesus' ascension (Number 2)

(C) Pentecost (Number 3)

You may teach the song *When you sent your Spirit (All Together Everybody 299)*, which captures the excitement of Pentecost.

(D) Healing the lame man and appearing before the court (Number 4).

After all four stories have been told, identify and record new clues about the Holy Spirit, eg the Holy Spirit has power; the Holy Spirit makes people brave.

4. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Tell students that the following words from the Bible explain what happened at Pentecost and give more clues about the work of the Holy Spirit. Record the passage on the board or paper and read it together.

Peter said: 'Turn back to God! Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit . . . On that day 3,000 believed his message and were baptised. . . (The people) spent their time learning from the (disciples)

and they were like a family to each other.
Acts 2:38,41,42. CEV

Ask students what clues about the Holy Spirit they can find in this message. Help them to identify:

(a) The Holy Spirit comes to people when they are baptised.

Be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven. Then you will be given the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is covered in depth in Band A Level 2. If there are students in your class who have a limited understanding of baptism, take time to develop this.

Ask students what people might **see** at a baptism, eg the person being baptised (baby, child, adult) pastor, font. As students name things, draw them on the board, building up a picture of a baptism.

The Holy Spirit cannot be seen at a baptism, but we are reminded that he is there by words we **hear**: 'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'.

People cannot **feel** the Holy Spirit, but the Bible tells us that at baptism the Holy Spirit comes into their lives.

Students complete the top half of page 4 in their detective notebooks.

(b) The Holy Spirit helps people learn about God.

They spent their time learning from the (disciples).

Students imagine that they are a person who was baptised at Pentecost. Use questions like: Imagine you could talk to Peter. What would you want to ask him? Why would you ask that?

Help students to identify times and ways in which people learn about God, eg at school, from the pastor, listening to Bible stories. Record the students' suggestions.

Explain that another name for the Holy Spirit is 'teacher'. The Holy Spirit is not a teacher we can **see**, but whenever people **hear** God's word the Holy Spirit is there to help them **understand** it and learn more about God.

Optional: Look at a simple worship order which begins 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. These words are another clue that the Holy Spirit is there as people learn about God.

On spread 4 of their detective notebooks, students draw pictures of people learning about God.

Record further clues which summarise the content of this section, eg the Holy Spirit is invisible, the Holy Spirit is like a teacher.

5. LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE

There are clues all around us that the Holy Spirit is busy in people's lives today. Ask students what they think these clues might be.

Record the following passage on the board or paper to read together: *The Holy Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled.* Galatians 5:22

Divide students into groups and assign one of the above characteristics to each group. Their task is to make up two short plays, one where the characteristic is not evident and the other where it is.

Students practise and present their play to the class. Summarise the work of the Holy Spirit in words like: *The Holy Spirit wants to help people be . . . The Holy Spirit helps people choose how to act.*

Assure students that the Bible says that even when people fail to live the way the Spirit wants, God continues to love and forgive them. Students complete page 5 of their detective notebooks.

Add a summary clue about the Holy Spirit to the chart, eg the Holy Spirit helps people to live the way God wants.

RESPONSE

6. ANALYSING THE CLUES

Students use clues from the chart to prepare a report on what they have discovered about the Holy Spirit. Students work individually or in groups to

- prepare a written/illustrated report in the form of a book
- design a poster
- give an oral presentation
- present a play.

Alternatively, use the clues as a framework to review what students have learnt and make a presentation to a school worship or assembly.

Recognise the work of each student by presenting them with a certificate (TRS A3/3).

The book *The Holy Spirit in Me* by Carolyn Nystrom is a useful supplement to this unit. As with all resources, read it yourself first and adapt as required.

YOU WILL NEED

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> a 'mystery' story book or computer program<input type="checkbox"/> words for song <i>All Together Again</i> 202<input type="checkbox"/> card for recording 'clues' about the Holy Spirit and large paper to paste these on<input type="checkbox"/> cassette tape and tape-recorder (if taping the stories of Peter) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> optional: worship order from <i>Sing to Jesus</i> (or another simple worship order which recognises the Holy Spirit)<input type="checkbox"/> photocopies of TRS A3/1a and b to make into student notebooks<input type="checkbox"/> optional: photocopies of TRS A3/3 |
|--|---|

INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

English: *Literature:* Introduce students to aspects of character; pose discussion questions; summarise key ideas. *Everyday Texts:* Question peers and others to gain information.

The Arts: *Drama:* Improvise short scenes based on familiar situations; cooperatively develop, rehearse and present their drama.

from the National Statements and Profiles

UNIT EVALUATION

Which activities worked well in this unit?

Which resources were useful in the implementation of this unit?

How did I respond to the range of students' understanding and questions about the Holy Spirit?

How did I respond to the students' presentation of what they have found out about the Holy Spirit?

What would I do differently if I was teaching this unit again?

How will I use and build on knowledge, understandings, skills, attitudes, and values students have developed in this unit?

What people know about the Holy Spirit

more information →

①

Choose one of these:

- ☐ loving ☐ happy
☐ peaceful ☐ patient
☐ kind ☐ good
☐ faithful ☐ gentle
☐ self-controlled

Illustrate and write what it looks like in a person's life when the Holy Spirit helps them act that way.

⑤

WITNESS STORY NUMBER 1

Write a description of the witness

What words do you hear at a baptism that give you a clue that the Holy Spirit is there?

WITNESS STORY NUMBER 2 →

Draw Peter the way you think he looks. Make your drawing show how Peter feels. Draw a speech bubble with words that Peter might be thinking or saying.

②

← Illustrate times when people learn about God. The Holy Spirit is helping people as they learn about God.

④

WITNESS STORY NUMBER 3

Draw Peter. Make your drawing show how Peter feels. Draw a speech bubble with words that Peter might be thinking or saying.

WITNESS STORY NUMBER 4

Imagine you are a person in Jerusalem and you have seen Peter heal the lame man and heard him talk to the leaders. What clues would this give you about the work of the Holy Spirit?

③

TO MAKE A DETECTIVE NOTEBOOK

Photocopy the pages (TRS A3/1a and 1b), one side only.

Cut out the sheets along the dotted lines.

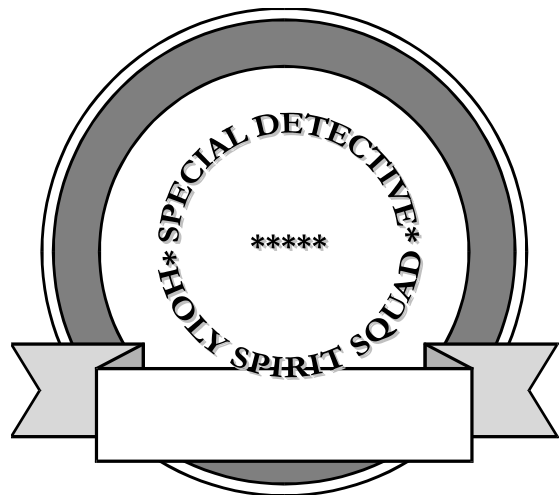
Put the sheets on top of each other so that

- the sheet showing numbers 1 and 5 is on the bottom;
- the sheet showing numbers 2 and 4 is in the middle;
- the sheet showing number 3 is on top.

Keep the three sheets together and fold down the centre.

Open and staple the sheets together on the centre crease.

Design a cover for your notebook. Give it a name such as 'The Mystery of the Holy Spirit'. You could paste a copy of the detective badge on the cover.



PETER'S WITNESS STORIES

Adapt the script as necessary to meet the needs of your students.

1. INTRODUCTION

*based on Luke 5:1–11; Matthew 14:22–33;
Luke 22:54–62; John 21:1–19*

Hello there, I'm Peter. You might have heard about me in the Bible.

I was one of Jesus' disciples and went around with him while he lived here on earth.

Of course, I wasn't always a disciple. I used to be a fisherman.

Now that was hard work. We used to fish through the night, dragging our nets through the water. Those nets were heavy too! You had to be strong to be a fisherman.

Then one day when my mates and I were cleaning our nets, Jesus came along. We hadn't caught a thing that night, but Jesus told us to take our boats out and try again. We did what he said, and — would you believe it — we got so many fish that the nets started to rip apart. Well, we finally got the fish to shore. I knew that Jesus must be someone pretty special. When he said 'come with me', we just left everything and went.

We had a lot of adventures — Jesus, the other disciples and I. I guess I was the loud one, a bit bossy, and thought I could do all the things that Jesus could.

One night when we were out on the lake in a storm, Jesus came to us walking on the water. At first we thought he was a ghost, and we started screaming, but then he told us who he was. Big brave me said: 'If it's really you, tell me to come to you on the water'. 'Come on', said Jesus. I got out of the boat and actually started walking on the water. Until I got scared. Then I started to sink. Jesus saved me, of course, and reminded me that I didn't really have much faith in him.

I really loved Jesus, but there were so many things about him that I couldn't understand. I tried to do the right things and show him how much I loved him, but I just kept messing things up.

The worst time was after these soldiers came and took Jesus away. He hadn't done anything wrong, of course. Well, I tried to be brave and protect Jesus, but that didn't work. So I followed behind to keep an eye on things.

I went into this yard where some of the soldiers were keeping warm by the fire. Someone must have recognised me, and they said: 'Hey, you're one of Jesus' friends, aren't you?'

And do you know what I said? I said that I didn't even know who Jesus was! I didn't only say it once, I said it three times! You can imagine how I felt — big brave Peter who loved Jesus so much — I said that I didn't even know who he was! I cried after I did that.

When Jesus actually died on the cross, I thought that would be the end of things. But you know that it wasn't and that he came alive again.

The best news for me was that even though I'd done that stupid thing by the fire, Jesus still loved me.

Once we were by the beach having breakfast with him. It seemed as if he still wanted me to do some special work for him. I don't know what he wants me to do but I sure hope that I don't mess it up next time.

2. THE ASCENSION

based on Acts 1:1–11

Forty days! It had been forty days since Jesus died and came alive again.

They were strange days, I can tell you!

It was weird, not like before he died. One moment he'd be with us, and then . . . he'd be gone again. Every time we saw Jesus we'd think: 'Hey, is this real?'

One time Jesus told the other disciples and me: 'When I go, I want you to stay in Jerusalem and wait. There's something I'm going to give you. You've heard me talk about it before. In a few days I'm going to send the Holy Spirit to help you.'

'The Holy Spirit? What's that?' I thought.

Jesus sometimes said things I couldn't understand. I had no idea what this Holy Spirit was.

PETER'S WITNESS STORIES (continued)

Soon after that we were with Jesus on a hill outside of town. He was talking about the Holy Spirit again. He said the Holy Spirit would give us power. We'd be telling other people about him — people all over the world.

Now that was hard to believe! But what happened next was even harder.

Jesus held up his hands, like he did sometimes when he was praying, and . . . he started going up, away from us.

We looked and looked, until a cloud came and covered him over. We couldn't see him any more. We just stood there, staring at the sky.

Then we saw two men standing with us. They were dressed all in white.

'Why are you standing here looking into the sky?' they asked.

'Jesus has gone to heaven to be with his Father', they said. 'One day he will come back again.'

And then . . . they were gone!

We were feeling pretty confused after that. We had no idea what we were supposed to do.

Then I remembered what Jesus had told us.

'Come on', I said. 'Let's go back to Jerusalem and wait like he told us.'

So we waited. We waited and prayed and talked and waited . . . for forty days. And I wondered what this talk of the Holy Spirit was all about.

The thought of going out and telling other people about Jesus makes me scared. I know I'll mess it up. We could get into all sorts of trouble.

I wish Jesus was still here.

3. PENTECOST

based on Acts 2:1–42

Have I got a story for you today!

If you thought that story about Jesus going up to heaven was hard to believe, this one is even better!

Like I said, we were in Jerusalem — waiting.

We were too scared to go out and talk to anyone else about Jesus in case they thought we were crazy. Most people didn't know that he had come alive again.

Ten days passed, and not much happened.

But then, all of a sudden, it started.

We were in this house talking and praying as usual, when there was the most incredible roaring noise.

Like a wind. No, not just a wind, a hurricane or something. It was like the wind filled the whole room.

Let me tell you, we were petrified! We couldn't move. We just held our ears and stared.

You know what we saw? It was like fire. Can you believe that? Flames of fire! On everybody's head!

We didn't know what was going on.

We started talking, and guess what! We could talk in other languages. Even me, ordinary old Peter, could talk in a different language.

Suddenly we were talking to a huge crowd of people who must have come to see what the noise was all about.

There I was talking to all these people in a language I didn't even know! People from other countries understood me just as well as my own people.

Some blokes made fun of us; they said we were drunk.

No way! That wasn't true. And no way was I going to let anybody make fun of what we were saying.

So I stood up and in my loudest voice told everyone about the great things Jesus said and did, and how he had been killed but came alive again.

When I finished talking, many of them were sorry they hadn't listened to Jesus. 'What can we do?' they asked. I told them: 'Tell Jesus you're sorry for your sins. Believe in Jesus and be baptised.'

Would you believe it! Thousands of people were baptised that day.

I wasn't a bit scared. I felt so full of power. That was what Jesus had promised us. Now I know what he was talking about. That Holy Spirit sure has power, and I'm glad he's here to help us.

PETER'S WITNESS STORIES (continued)

**4. HEALING A LAME MAN
AND APPEARING BEFORE
THE COUNCIL**

Acts 3:1–10; 4:1–22

It's Peter here again. The last time I talked to you I was pretty excited about all the things that happened at Pentecost.

Well, the action didn't stop there.

A few days later John and I were going to the temple to pray. Just as we were going inside we saw this man. He couldn't walk at all, and his friends had carried him to the door of the temple, where he could sit and beg for money.

When he saw us, he asked for some money. I looked hard at him and I felt this strange feeling come over me. 'Look at me', I said. The man stared at us. Perhaps he felt something strange too.

Then I said: 'I haven't got any money. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus, get up and start walking.'

I took him by the hand, and he got up! This man, who had never been able to walk, stood up and started walking around! Well, he didn't just walk. He was jumping around everywhere and started praising God.

People came over and stared. They didn't know what to make of it. They knew who he was and that he'd never been able to walk, and here he was, racing around like crazy.

There was quite a crowd of people there, so I thought I'd better explain what happened. I told them we weren't the ones who were able to make the man walk. It had been the power of Jesus working through us.

I heard later that a lot of the people who had been listening to us believed in Jesus, and some of them were baptised too. The Holy Spirit was working in them.

While I was talking, some soldiers came and arrested John and me.

We spent the night in jail.

The next day we were taken before the leaders, who asked us what we were doing and how we were doing it. I figured this was a good chance to tell them about Jesus too. They seemed amazed that we knew so much and that we were brave enough to talk about it. Of course, they didn't know that we had the Holy Spirit helping us.

Those leaders didn't want any trouble, so they told us to go away and be quiet and never to talk to anyone about Jesus again.

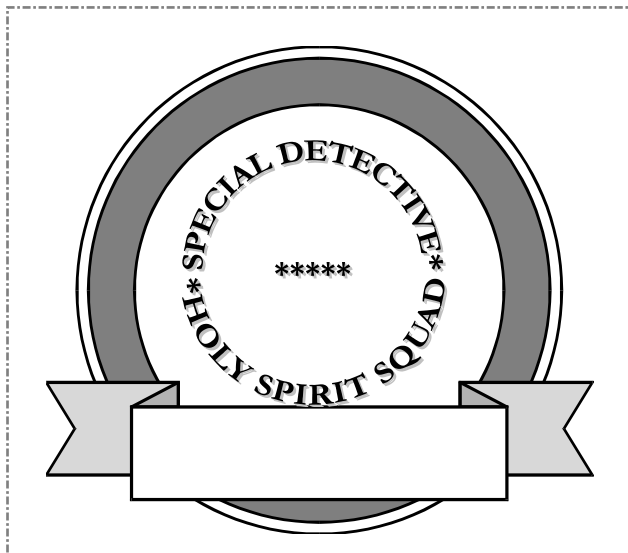
They had to be joking! I wasn't going to stop talking about Jesus, and that's just what I told them. 'Do you think God wants us to obey you or to obey him? We can't keep quiet about what we've seen and heard. No way are we going to stop talking about Jesus.'

Well, they couldn't find any reason to punish us, so they let us go.

I must go now too. There's so much I need to do; there are people to see, people to teach, people who need our help.

I think I'm going to need lots of help from the Holy Spirit.

Remember when I said that Jesus seemed to have some work that he wanted me to do? This must be it and I'm off, ready to do whatever he wants me to.



DETECTIVE BADGE

You may photocopy the badge onto gold card, or onto gold paper and glue onto cardboard.

Cut out the badge shape or simply cut the rectangle around the badge.

Punch a hole at the top for a safety pin.

Students write their names in the 'ribbon' on the badge.

Consider laminating the badge or covering it with clear Contact if it is to be worn for several weeks.

CERTIFICATE

Awarded to

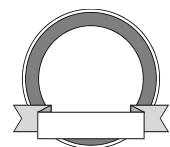
Detective _____

for discovering important information
about the Holy Spirit

Congratulations!

You have worked hard and learnt that

Signed _____



PETER

Peter was one of Jesus' disciples.

Before he became a disciple he was a fisherman. One day Jesus asked Peter to leave his work and follow him. Peter left his nets and boat and travelled with Jesus.

Peter was there when Jesus healed people who were sick. He listened when Jesus taught people about God. Peter was there when Jesus did miracles.

One night when the disciples were in a boat they saw Jesus walking towards them on the water. Peter tried to walk to Jesus on the water, but when he stopped looking to Jesus, he began to drown, but Jesus saved him.

Peter loved Jesus very much, but often made mistakes. When Jesus was arrested by his enemies, Peter said that he didn't even know who Jesus was. Afterwards Peter felt very sorry for what he had said. Jesus still loved Peter and forgave him for what he had said.

After Jesus went back to heaven, the Holy Spirit helped Peter do a lot of important work. He was a leader of the church. He healed people. He preached about Jesus, and many people who heard him believed and were baptised. He wrote a part of the Bible. There are two letters in the New Testament that have Peter's name on them.

Peter often got into trouble for talking about Jesus. He was arrested and put into prison many times, but this did not stop him. Peter knew that following Jesus was the most important thing of all.



Activities

- Imagine you are Peter. You have left your home and you are following Jesus. Write a letter back to your family telling them what you have seen while you have been with Jesus.
- Peter often did the wrong things and then he felt sorry for what he had done. Jesus loved Peter and was always ready to forgive him. Draw or write about a time when you know that you did something wrong. Then add these words to your drawing: *Jesus says: 'I love you and forgive you'.*
- Peter told many people about Jesus. If you had to tell someone about Jesus, what would you say? Write down some notes and practise your talk. Then tell the class.
- Read one of the stories about Peter from a children's Bible or a Bible story book.
- Ask an adult to help you find the books in the Bible that have Peter's name. They are called 1 Peter and 2 Peter. You will find them in the New Testament.
- Look in some children's Bibles for pictures of Peter. Paint or draw Peter the way you think he looked.