

MENU

BIBLE REFERENCES

1

The Holy Spirit gives people power to believe and to live as God's people

John's testimony John 1:32–34

Promise and role of the Holy Spirit

John 14:15–31 John 15:26

John 16:7–15

Jesus' ascension Acts 1:1–11

Coming of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:1–4, 11b

Pentecost Day Acts 2:5–47

PEOPLE OF THE EARLY CHURCH INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Peter and John Acts 2–5

Barnabas Acts 4:36, 37

Acts 9:27 Acts 11:20–26

Stephen Acts 6, 7

Philip the Evangelist Acts 6:1–6

Acts 8:4–13 Acts 8: 26–40

Dorcas (Tabitha) Acts 9:32–41

Timothy Acts 16:1, 2

1 Timothy 1:18 1 Timothy 4:12, 14

2 Timothy 1:6, 7 2 Timothy 3:15; 4:1, 2

1 Corinthians 16:10, 11 Philippians 2:19–22

Lydia Acts 16:9–15, 40

Priscilla and Aquila

Acts 18:1–3; 18–28 Romans 16:3–5

Apollos Acts 18:24–19:1

1 Corinthians 3:4–9 1 Corinthians 16:12

Paul Acts 9

Acts 13:1–12 Acts 14:8–20

Acts 16, 17 Acts 19:23–41

Acts 20:22–24 Acts 27:1 – 28:31

CHANGES BROUGHT BY THE SPIRIT

John 14:26 John 15:26, 27

Romans 12:1, 2, 9–21 1 Corinthians 12:1–3

Ephesians 4:21 – 5:21 Colossians 3:8–17

IMAGES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Isaiah 11:2

Ezekiel 37:1–14

Mark 1:10

Acts 2:2, 3

2

The Holy Spirit gives new life in baptism

BENEFITS OF BAPTISM

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:16

John 3:5, 6

Acts 2:38, 39

Acts 22:16

Romans 6:4

Galatians 3:26, 27

Titus 3:5–8

1 Peter 3:21

BIBLE STORIES ABOUT BAPTISM

Jesus' baptism Matthew 3:13–17

Jesus commands his disciples to baptise

Matthew 28:16–20

3000 people are baptised on Pentecost Day

Acts 2:36–47

Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8:26–40

The jailer at Philippi is baptised

Acts 16:16–34

Lydia is baptised with her household

Acts 16:11–15

3

The Holy Spirit uses God's word and holy communion to help God's people grow

The passover

Exodus 12:1–30; 13:1–16

The last supper

Matthew 26:17–30 Mark 14:12–26

Luke 22:7–20

The Lord's supper

1 Corinthians 10:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 11:23–29

Jesus' death and resurrection

Luke 23:26 – 24:12

KEY BIBLE VERSES TO HEAR AND REMEMBER

Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptise them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19 (CEV)

Let the Spirit change your way of thinking and make you into a new person. Ephesians 4:23, 24a (CEV)

This is my body which is given for you . . . This is my blood. It is poured out for you, and with it God makes his new agreement. Luke 22:19, 20 (CEV)

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INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1

The Holy Spirit gives people power to believe and to live as God's people

IN NEED OF HELP Students discuss times when they felt alone, afraid or confused and needed help. Describe these times by writing a poem or story or producing a painting or drawing. Use this as an introduction to the Bible stories which describe how Jesus does not leave his followers alone; he sends them the Holy Spirit. (1a,1b,1c)

PEOPLE WHO HAVE HELPED ME

To introduce the idea of the Holy Spirit as Helper, students identify people who have encouraged, guided or helped them when they have been in a difficult situation. Make posters about these people, describing and illustrating how they helped. (1a,1b,1c)

CHANGES To introduce the changes worked by the Holy Spirit, choose one of these activities:

- Play 'statues' by changing shape on signal.
- Use simple chemistry experiments to explore changes which occur in substances.
- Listen to music which changes in tempo, volume, mood.
- Read a story about change. (1b,1c)

FEAST OF WEEKS Students research and prepare a report or display about the Jewish Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) using resources such as a Bible encyclopedia. (1a)

2

The Holy Spirit gives new life in baptism

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Investigate the meaning of, or any special stories about, students' names. Link with people being baptised into God's name in baptism. (2b,2c)

BENEFITS OF BEING IN A FAMILY

Students discuss the benefits of having a family. They create a coat of arms which describes the special features, interests, achievements and strengths of their family. Use this as an introduction to the Christian belief that baptism brings people into God's family. (2c)

INITIATION CEREMONIES List ways new people are welcomed into a sporting club, your home, the school.

Share information or stories about the initiation ceremonies of Indigenous Australians and the importance and benefits of these ceremonies for the people. Link to the Christian belief that baptism is the ceremony of initiation into the people of God. (2b, 2c)

BAPTISM MEMENTOS Encourage students who have been baptised to bring to school information or mementos of baptism, eg baptism certificates, baptism photographs, videos. (2a, 2b, 2c)

OBSERVATION OF BAPTISM

Arrange for students to attend and observe a worship service which includes a baptism, or to view a video of a baptism. Students make a storyboard describing what takes place. (2b)

3

The Holy Spirit uses God's word and holy communion to help God's people grow

REMEMBERING SPECIAL TIMES To introduce the remembering that happens in holy communion, read a story about remembering, eg *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox.

Students discuss, record and illustrate their favourite memories.

Identify and display mementos of special times, eg postcards, photo albums, souvenirs, videos. (3a, 3b, 3c)

THE PASSOVER Students investigate the story of the passover and passover celebrations and prepare a brief written or oral summary. They could also prepare and participate in a passover meal. See TRS B3/1. (3a)

PAINTINGS OF THE LAST SUPPER

Students examine various paintings which depict the last supper. Identify the mood communicated by each painting. Identify the details shown by the artists. Students read the story of the last supper and create their own painting of the last supper, carefully considering the ideas and mood they wish to communicate. (3a)

OBSERVATION OF HOLY

COMMUNION Arrange for students to attend and observe a service at which holy communion is celebrated or to view a video of a communion service. Students write a summary of what they observe and any questions they have as a result of observing the celebration. (3a, 3b, 3c)

LEARNING Discuss ways people learn a new hobby or interest or students learn about something new at school, eg reading books about the topic, talking to people who know about it, observation. Lead on to the way the Holy Spirit helps people to learn about Jesus. (3d)

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DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1

The Holy Spirit gives people power to believe and to live as God's people

GOD SENDS THE HOLY SPIRIT

Students read Acts 2:1–18. Choose from the following activities:

- Make a mural of Pentecost Day. Imagine what the people were thinking and saying and write this in speech bubbles.
- Prepare a drama which tells the story of Pentecost. Emphasise the contrast between the feelings and actions of the disciples before the Holy Spirit came (fear, uncertainty, confusion, aloneness), with those after (certainty, joy, excitement, confidence to speak the good news about Jesus).
- Write and present an interview with one of the people who would have been present at Pentecost.
- Students write a diary entry as if they were one of Jesus' disciples, recalling the events which took place on Pentecost Day and their feelings about the changes which have occurred in their life since the coming of the Holy Spirit. (1a,1b)

WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Read a book about the Holy Spirit, such as *The Holy Spirit in Me* by Carolyn Nystrom (as with all resources, read it yourself first and adapt as required). Explore the third part of the creed including *What this means for us* in Luther's *Small Catechism*, or the section about the Holy Spirit in *Follow Me* by Noel Weiss. Use the information to construct a concept map about the Holy Spirit. Explore areas such as:

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Bible describe the Holy Spirit?
- How did God send the Holy Spirit?
- What is the work of the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit work?
- What changes does the Holy Spirit bring in people's lives? (1a,1b,1c)

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE

Students research the life and work of a person who has been inspired by the Holy Spirit. Choose someone from the early church, eg Stephen, and a contemporary person, eg Mother Teresa, Dr Martin Luther King, a Christian in your community. Present information as posters, interviews, on audio tape, computer database or multimedia presentation. Prepare a display of people inspired and changed by the Holy Spirit. (1b,1c)

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS CHANGES

Students work in groups. They read the following Bible references:

John 14:26 John 15:26,27

Romans 12:1,2,9–21 1 Corinthians 12:1–3

Ephesians 4:21 – 5:21 Colossians 3:8–17

and identify and record the types of change the Holy Spirit can bring to people, eg 'know about and believe in Jesus', 'forgive rather than argue', 'tell the truth rather than lie'.

Students role-play what these changes would look like in their lives. (1c)

SONGS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Students work in groups and examine a selection of Christian songs or hymns about the Holy Spirit. Students identify and record

- words used to describe the Holy Spirit
- the work of the Holy Spirit.

Students use this information to make

- a collage or mobile of these words or images
- a poem which describes the Holy Spirit and the work of the Holy Spirit. (1a,1b,1c)

IMAGES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Read Mark 1:10; Acts 2:2; Acts 2:3 and Isaiah 11:2 to identify what the Holy Spirit is like. Draw a symbol to represent each image found in the Bible references.

For each symbol list as many words as possible associated with that picture, eg dove (gentle, peace).

From the words you have written, choose those that help people to understand more about the Holy Spirit. Use these ideas to design Pentecost banners. (1a,1c)

2

The Holy Spirit gives new life in baptism

BIBLE STORIES ABOUT BAPTISM

Students investigate and dramatise Bible stories about baptism (see Bible References Menu). (2a,2b)

QUESTIONS ABOUT BAPTISM

Students list what they know about baptism. They list questions they have about baptism and identify resources they can use to find answers to their questions (see Recommended Resources Menu). (2a,2b,2c)

BAPTISM CERTIFICATE Make copies of a baptism certificate for all students to examine. Students list the features of the certificate. Identify the names on baptism certificates. Discuss: Why is God's name on the certificate? (2b)

JESUS' COMMAND TO BAPTISE

Students read Jesus' command to baptise (Matthew 28:16–20). Make a list of reasons why Jesus gave his disciples this important task.

Students make banners illustrating this story. They cut out material letters for the words of Matthew 28:19 and attach them to the banner. (2a)

SONGS ABOUT BAPTISM Identify and select Christian songs and hymns which could be used at a baptism. Students choose a song, and identify why they chose this song and the important information the song gives about baptism.

Students give an oral presentation about their song to the class. They could play a tape/CD of the song or a verse of the song or give the class a copy of the words to look at while they are presenting their review. (2a,2b,2c)

INTERVIEW PASTOR Invite a pastor to answer questions the students may have about baptism. Students make a tract/pamphlet which summarises the questions and answers provided during the interview. (2a,2b,2c)

ROLE OF PEOPLE AT A BAPTISM

Students draw or make models or puppets of people involved in a baptism. They make labels for the people, describing who they are and what their role is in the baptism. (2b)

CELEBRATION TIME Students discuss the ways families celebrate the birth of a new baby. Students make a baptism celebration poster which illustrates

- who is celebrating; and
- what are the reasons for celebrating.

Students include on their poster suggestions of ways to celebrate a baptism. (2b,2c)

3

The Holy Spirit uses God's word and holy communion to help God's people grow

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Students examine a written communion liturgy, eg *The Service with Communion* in the Lutheran Hymnal or view a video of a worship service with communion. Working in groups, students take sections of the service (starting with the *Preface*) to illustrate and explain. This could be made into a mural or book. (3a,3b,3c)

INVITE A PASTOR Invite a pastor to show and name the different vessels and elements used in holy communion. The pastor could also describe the words, responses and actions which take place in a holy communion service, as well as their significance. (3a,3b)

INTERVIEW REGULAR

COMMUNICANTS Students interview people who regularly attend holy communion. They ask why the person attends holy communion and what benefits the person receives from holy communion. They prepare a report which summarises the responses. (3c)

BENEFITS OF HOLY COMMUNION

AND BAPTISM Students use resources, such as *Luther's Small Catechism* and *Follow Me*, to investigate the benefits the Holy Spirit brings people in holy communion and in baptism. Students present a summary of their research as a newsletter to parents. (3a,3b,3c, 2a,2b,2c)

DESCRIBING THE LAST SUPPER

Students describe the events of the last supper

- from the perspective of someone who prepared the meal
- from the perspective of one of Jesus' disciples
- in comic-strip form. (3a)

PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN

Students read the story of Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26–40). They use a highlighter to identify in their Bible the different ways the Holy Spirit was at work in the life of the Ethiopian, eg through the Scriptures, Philip's words, baptism.

Identify and list the ways the Holy Spirit works at school to help people learn about Jesus.
(3d,2c)

GOD'S WORD AT WORK Read to the students a chapter of a book about the way the word of God has helped Christians, eg *The Gods of Sport*. Or organise a guest speaker, eg a chaplain at a school, hospital, jail, sporting team, or some other Christian, to talk to the class about the importance of the word of God in their life or the lives of people they work with.
(3d)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

BIBLE VERSE Students learn an appropriate Bible verse (see Bible References, page 10).

SONGS Students learn songs related to the concept (see *Resources for Music and Devotions* in the appendix).

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RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

1

The Holy Spirit gives people power to believe and to live as God's people

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS

CHANGES Students consider the work of the Holy Spirit and the changes the Holy Spirit brings. They may do any of the following:

- Make a poster summarising who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does.
- Prepare a devotion about the Holy Spirit.
- Write a song, rap or poem about the Holy Spirit.
- Make a book about the Holy Spirit.
- Write a prayer thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit.
- Create a liturgical dance which describes and celebrates the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Write and present a drama which shows the changes the Spirit brings.
- Write about a time they experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in their life.
- Make a kite which uses symbols of the Holy Spirit, eg dove shape; red, yellow, orange tails. Compare the changes wind makes to the movement of the kite with changes the Holy Spirit brings to the lives of people.
- Prepare photographs or paintings which illustrate the changes the Holy Spirit brings. Include the changes people could see or may have already experienced, eg the Holy Spirit helps people to: understand and believe in Jesus, to forgive each other (see Bible References Menu). (1a,1b,1c)

2

The Holy Spirit gives new life in baptism

SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM Identify symbols of baptism displayed on baptism certificates, books about baptism and in the church. Discuss possible meanings of these symbols. Students design their own symbols for baptism and display them with a brief explanation of each symbol. (2b)

CERTIFICATES Students design baptism certificates. Include symbols and appropriate Bible verses (See Bible References Menu). Alternatively, students who have been baptised make a poster recording and illustrating the Bible verse from their baptism certificate. Students who are not baptised can choose a Bible verse which reminds them of God's love. (2a, 2b)

CANDLES Make candles which students can light on their baptism anniversary. Students who are not baptised can choose their own special day when they remember that God loves them. (2b)

CARDS Students make baptism cards to give to families when a baby or child is baptised. Consider symbols, Bible verse and greeting to be used in the card. (2a, 2b, 2c)

3

The Holy Spirit uses God's word and holy communion to help God's people grow

DIORAMA Students make a diorama of people celebrating holy communion. Include captions or a summary to explain what is taking place. (3b)

STUDENT PRESENTATION Students work in groups to produce a leaflet, video or book which explains baptism or holy communion. Students need to include

- the actions which take place
- the words spoken
- the elements used
- the benefits offered
- the reasons why people are baptised or celebrate holy communion. (2a,2b,2c,3a,3b,3c)

CELEBRATION MEAL Plan a celebration meal to share with parents or another class in the school. Students can share any presentations (books, posters, videos) they have prepared about holy communion. Students can plan a thanksgiving devotion as part of the meal. (3a,3b,3c)

BANNERS Students make banners which illustrate the ways the Holy Spirit is able to help people to learn more about Jesus and grow as Christians. (3c, 3d, 2c)

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RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

The Introduction to LIFE contains suggested general resources for all LIFE concepts. The following resources may be used to develop in a unit about *God helps people by the work of the Holy Spirit*.

Some of these resources may be out of print.

They are listed because they (or others similar to them) may be found in school libraries.

Preview these and any other resources you intend using to be sure that they are appropriate for your students.

LITERATURE — NON-FICTION

HOLY SPIRIT

Berthier, Faure, Sigaut (ed.) *The Birth of the Church* 1980 Hodder and Stoughton

Eastman M *The Pentecost Book* 1980 Dove

Nystrom C *The Holy Spirit in Me* 1996 Seed Books

Rock L *Festivals of the Christian Year* 1996 Lion Publishing

PEOPLE CHANGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Alive to Serve. Eternal Word (student book)

Board for Parish Services Staff (ed) 1982 Concordia Publishing House

Constant A *In the Streets of Calcutta: The Story of Mother Teresa* 1980 Religious and Moral Education Press (there are 30 titles in this *Faith in Action* series)

Drane J *Mission Extraordinary (Bible World)* 1995 Lion Publishing

Drury J *The First Christians* 1979 Winston Press

People Who Have Helped the World (series) 1989 Exley Publishers

Shaw S *Eric Liddell: Running for God* 1993 Openbook Publishers. Other titles in this series include: *Corrie ten Boom*, *Jim Elliot*.

Storr C *St Peter and St Paul* 1985 Methuen Children's Books

BAPTISM

Bennett O *Colin's Baptism* 1986 Hamish Hamilton Children's Books

Fogle J *Symbols of God's Love* 1986 The Geneva Press

Merrill R *Holy Baptism* 1982 Augsburg Publishing House

Wittenback J *God Makes Me His Child in Baptism* 1985 Concordia Publishing House

PASSOVER

Katz B *The Story of Passover* 1996 Random House

Stoppelman M *Beliefs and Cultures* series: *Jewish* 1996 Watts Books

GENERAL RESOURCES

Alexander D&P ed *The Lion Handbook to the Bible* 1983 Lion Publishing

Alexander P ed *The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible* 1986 Lion Publishing

Hastings S *The Children's Illustrated Bible* 1994 RD Press Surry Hills

Howard D *Fascinating Bible Facts* 1992 Publications International

Luther's Small Catechism 1996 Openbook Publishers

Weiss N *Follow Me* 1982 Lutheran Publishing House

Weiss N *Hear My Words* 1982 Lutheran Publishing House

LITERATURE — FICTION

REMEMBERING

Carlson M *Benjamin's Box* 1997 Questar Publishers

Fox M *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* 1985 Omnibus

Graham B *Greetings from Sandy Beach* 1992 Lothian

Wild M *Let the Celebration Begin* 1991 Omnibus

CHANGE

Glori D *New BIG House* Walker

Glori D *New BIG Sister* Walker

Mattingley C *The Sack* Puffin Books

Powling C *Harry Moves House* Young Lions/Harper Collins

Wild M *Sam's Sunday Dad* 1995 Hodder and Stoughton

AUDIO-VISUAL

VIDEOS

Good Friday Scripture Union

TEACHER RESOURCES

Chapman R *The Gods of Sport* 1995
Albatross Books

Lovell P *Pentecost Church* 1989 Collins Dove

Strelan D and Zwar M *Step up to Communion*
(Teacher's Guide) 1995 Openbook Publishers

I Believe in the Holy Spirit (Life Plus) 1995 The
Joint Board of Christian Education

Put a plastic sleeve in this section of your LIFE folder to keep your own collection of clippings, cartoons, stories, photos, etc, which you can use for these units. Add to your collection whenever you come across something that might be useful.

