

**MODEL UNIT**  
**BAND C**  
**LEVEL 2**

# THE SPIRIT TELLS ALL

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

**YEAR:** ..... **DURATION OF UNIT:** 5 weeks (approximately 135 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 TO LIVE AS GOD'S PEOPLE

- 1a** investigate the work of God the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
- 1b** examine Bible references which describe the life-giving work of the Holy Spirit
- 1c** explore the Holy Spirit's work in creating and sustaining faith

### 2 THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE IN BAPTISM

- 2a** investigate Bible references to baptism as the sacrament that gives life
- 2b** explore the baptismal rituals of Christian denominations
- 2c** investigate the Christian teaching concerning the implications of baptism for daily living

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

- 3a** investigate biblical references to holy communion as the new covenant between God and his people
- 3b** explore the holy communion rituals of Christian denominations
- 3c** investigate holy communion as the Spirit's means of strengthening faith
- 3d** investigate ways Christians use the word of God for spiritual growth

## STUDENT ASSESSMENT

### ASSESSABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES

- Record the messages of Old Testament prophets. (1a)
- List information from Bible passages and the Nicene Creed about the Spirit 'giving life'. (1b)
- Identify and role-play the changes apparent in the disciples in the Bible story of Pentecost. (1b,1c)
- Record the Bible and catechism teachings about the Spirit's work in baptism. (1c,2a,2c)
- Record the Bible and catechism teachings about the Spirit strengthening faith through the word and holy communion. (3a,3c,3d)

### ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES

- ⇒ work sample TRS C2/1
- ⇒ work sample
- ⇒ observation of role play
- ⇒ work sample
- ⇒ work sample

## UNIT SUMMARY

Students investigate the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments and present the information in the form of an article or interview with the Holy Spirit. Students also consider the Christian belief that the Holy Spirit is at work today through the word and sacraments.

## UNIT NOTES

At the end of each section students write what they think the Holy Spirit would say about the topic they have investigated. The teacher may need to model how to write the responses in the first person. Students keep their responses in a file or on computer. At the end of the unit, students present the information they have compiled in the form of a question-and-answer article or an interview in which the Holy Spirit will tell his story.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. SPIRITS

In groups students record responses to:

- What is a spirit?
- What do you think people mean when they talk about the 'spirit world'?
- What do you know about spirits?

Discuss the students' responses as a class. If necessary use dictionaries to develop a common understanding. Talk about the fascination people have with the supernatural and unseen world. Discuss reasons for interest in the spirit world. Use the discussion to introduce the concept of God the Holy Spirit.

Explain that Christians believe the Holy Spirit is God, together with the Father and the Son.

As a class, list everything the students know about the Holy Spirit. The teacher may provide guiding questions such as:

- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- What is the Holy Spirit like?

Do not be surprised by a lack of information. Use the students' lack of information to highlight that people generally do not know much about the Holy Spirit. Tell students that we are unable to see the Holy Spirit, but we can learn about him by investigating what the Bible teaches about him.

Introduce the investigation of the Holy Spirit, using Teacher Resource Sheet (TRS) C2/1.

## DEVELOPMENT

### 2. NAMES AND ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Students work in groups to explore the names and role of the Holy Spirit. Read:

John 14:16,17      John 14:26  
1 Corinthians 2:10–12      2 Peter 1:21.

Read the Nicene and Apostles' creeds (from hymnbooks) and record further information about the Holy Spirit.

As a class discuss what the various names of the Holy Spirit reveal about his role.

Students think about how the Holy Spirit himself would answer the question: **What are your names?** Students record their responses.

### 3. THE LORD AND GIVER OF LIFE

Pose the question (or highlight the following question on the students' list of questions):

- How long has the Holy Spirit existed?

Remind students of the Holy Spirit's name as the 'giver of life'.

Students read Genesis 1:2, which describes the Spirit moving over the waters.

Ask students to close their eyes as you read Genesis 1:1 – 2:4 and to imagine the Spirit at work creating life.

Read Luke 1:26–35 and highlight that the Holy Spirit was involved in the conception of Jesus.

Students respond (as the Holy Spirit might) to: **Why are you called 'the Lord and giver of life'?**

### 4. THE SPIRIT SPEAKS THROUGH THE PROPHETS

Tell students that the Holy Spirit also worked through prophets in the Old Testament, inspiring them with messages about God and his people. Refer to the Nicene Creed and highlight the phrase 'spoke by the prophets'.

Use a Bible handbook or encyclopedia to identify the Old Testament prophets. Each student chooses one of the prophets listed on TRS C2/2. Students investigate the prophet's role, message and inspiration, and share the information in groups.

Students respond (as the Holy Spirit might) to: **How would you describe your work with the Old Testament prophets?**

### 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S MOST FAMOUS APPEARANCE

Pentecost is the turning point in the Bible's story of the Holy Spirit. Up until Pentecost the power of the Spirit was active particularly in the lives of specially chosen people. Christians believe that since Pentecost the Spirit has been at work in everyone who hears the gospel of Christ. The prophecy of Joel 2:28,29 was fulfilled.

Set the scene by telling the students that, before Jesus went back to heaven, he promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to be with the disciples.

The disciples needed the Holy Spirit to help them understand about Jesus and believe in him as the Saviour of all people. Students read about the disciples' uncertainty. See TRS C2/3.

Students read Jesus' promise to send the Spirit (see TRS C2/3) and predict what the Spirit's role might be.

Students read the Pentecost story in Acts 1:1–9 and Acts 2:1–42. They record individually on TRS C2/3 what is said about the Holy Spirit. Discuss:

- What did the Holy Spirit do?
- What changes were apparent in the disciples?
- Who can be filled with the Holy Spirit?

Students role-play a news reporter presenting the news of the amazing happenings of Pentecost day.

Students respond (as the Holy Spirit might) to: **Why has the Pentecost story become the most famous story about you?**

## 6. THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY

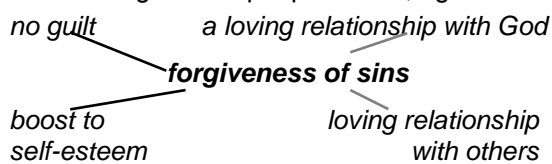
Tell students that Christians believe that the Spirit continues to work through the word of God and the sacraments. Use dictionaries to develop a common understanding of 'word of God' and 'sacrament'.

### BAPTISM

Christians believe that in baptism the Spirit creates faith and places people in a new relationship with God. The Spirit living in people's hearts, gives them a new life free from the power of sin, death and the devil.

Remind the students of the Spirit's name as 'the Lord and giver of life'. Tell students that Christians believe that in baptism the Spirit creates new life. Students read Bible passages and *Luther's Small Catechism* to record the way in which the Spirit creates life and brings blessings in baptism. See TRS C2/4

Each student chooses a blessing of baptism and creates a thought-web of the implications the blessing has for people's lives, eg



Students respond (as the Holy Spirit might) to: **How would you describe your work in giving new life through baptism?**

**WORD** Review Jesus' description of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 as the one who reveals God's word. Students read stories from the book of Acts and record what happens when the word of God is spoken. See TRS C2/4.

Students use the third part of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism* to discover and then record how Lutherans believe the Holy Spirit works through the word.

Students respond (as the Holy Spirit might) to: **How do you work through God's word?**

**HOLY COMMUNION** Tell students that Christians believe that in holy communion the Holy Spirit conveys God's forgiveness and love and strengthens Christians' faith in Jesus.

Use Bible encyclopedias to find the meaning of the word 'covenant'.

As a class, read Exodus 20:1–17; 24:1–8 to explore God's old covenant with his people, and then the story of Jesus' institution of the new covenant, Matthew 26:26,27. See TRS C2/4. Ask students why Jesus said that his blood would be shed.

Highlight the Christian belief that Jesus died for all people so that their sin would be forgiven and people can now have a new relationship with God. The new covenant is sealed with Jesus' blood. The covenant no longer requires people to keep laws but relies on the grace of God.

Compare the old and new covenants. Record:

- What sealed each covenant?
- Who was responsible for the terms of the covenant being met?

Students use *Luther's Small Catechism* to investigate the blessings the Holy Spirit brings through holy communion. Share with students that in holy communion Jesus is present in the bread and wine and offers forgiveness to people.

Students respond (as the Holy Spirit might) to: **What is your role in holy communion?**

## RESPONSE

### 7. THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS ALL

Students present the information they have gathered in a feature magazine article in which the Holy Spirit tells about his work. They read feature 'tell all' articles to consider the features they can include in their own articles.

Alternatively, students work with a partner to present an interview with the Holy Spirit.

## YOU WILL NEED

☐ copies of TRS C2/1,2,3,4

☐ models of question-and-answer magazine articles and feature articles with ‘. . . Tells All!’

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## INTEGRATING INTO OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS

**ENGLISH:** *Literature:* Explain and justify own opinions about texts. Find and cite elements of texts to support a point of view. Consider point of view when writing. Experiment with a range of vocabulary, punctuation and grammar. *Mass media:* Consider and use the features of texts, eg layout, headlines, content. *Everyday texts:* Select appropriate text types for particular speaking purposes and explain their choices. Consider the needs of the audience when writing texts of different types. Recognise differences between spoken and written texts. Plan, prepare and present short talks. Use strategies for gathering, recording and reporting data.

**THE ARTS:** *Drama:* Improvise and experiment in drama. Express opinions about own and others’ drama based on observations and feelings. Shape own drama for particular audiences or purposes. *Media:* Experiment with words and images for different effects and to present different points of view.

**SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT:** *Investigation, communication and participation:* Gather, organise, interpret information and draw conclusions. Consider appropriate ways of communicating and presenting information.

from National Statements and Profiles

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## 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’ knowledge of the Holy Spirit?

How did I respond to the diversity of students’ knowledge and experience of the word and sacraments?

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?

People generally don't know much about God the Holy Spirit.  
What would the Holy Spirit tell us if we could interview him  
about who he is and what he does?

You are about to consider this question as you investigate what the Bible says  
about the Holy Spirit.

You will be exploring who the Holy Spirit is and what he does.

You will present the information as  
a question-and-answer magazine article  
or as a chat show interview.

The title for the article or interview is:

# The Holy Spirit Tells All

You will gather and record information on the following:

- the names of the Holy Spirit
- the Holy Spirit speaks through the prophets
- the Holy Spirit's most famous appearance
- the Holy Spirit works through God's word
- the Holy Spirit works through baptism and holy communion

To write each section you may work with a partner to develop the questions and the answers  
the Holy Spirit might give.

Remember to write in first person, eg 'I am sometimes called "the Lord and giver of life".  
This is because I have been active since...'

## LIST QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....
- 8 .....

# Bible Prophets

1. Use a Bible handbook or Bible encyclopedia to find and list five prophets from the Bible.

2. Choose one of these people to investigate more carefully, using Bible encyclopedias and handbooks.

I will investigate \_\_\_\_\_

3. Record information about:

- important events in the life of the prophet
- the message of the prophet
- the inspiration for the prophet's message
- how the prophet gained people's attention

Be prepared to share the information with a group.

<b>PICK-A-PROPHET</b>						
You will find information about each prophet in the Bible book named for him.						
You are not expected to read the whole book of any of these prophets. Read the passages listed.			You can skim through the whole book of these prophets' stories, as they are less lengthy. Focus on the passages listed.			
<b>Isaiah</b>	<b>Jeremiah</b>	<b>Ezekiel</b>	<b>Hosea</b>	<b>Amos</b>	<b>Micah</b>	<b>Zechariah</b>
6	1:1-19	1-3	11:1-4	5:10-13	4:1-4	4:6
7:13-16	17:5-8	11:5,6	14:4-9	5:16-24	5:2-4	9:9
11:1-9	20:7-18	34:11-16		7:10-13	6:6-8	
40:1-31	31:31-34	37		8:1-3,11		
55		47:1-12		9:11-15		
61:1-4						
65:17-25						

The Holy Spirit Tells All  
The Holy Spirit Tells All

# The Holy Spirit's Most Famous Appearance

Even though Jesus' disciples heard Jesus' teaching and witnessed his death and resurrection, they still did not understand what it all meant.

Read about the disciples' confusion, questions and uncertainty:

**Matthew 16:21–23    Luke 24:13–27    John 16:12    Acts 1:3–6**

What things were Jesus' disciples uncertain about?

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Before Jesus went back to heaven  
he promised the disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit.

Read Jesus' promises in these Bible passages:

**John 14: 16–17,26    John 16:12,13    Acts 1:7,8**

How would the Holy Spirit help Jesus' disciples?

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Read the **Pentecost** story in

**Acts 1:1–9    and    Acts 2:1–42**

Record what is said about the Holy Spirit.

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Discuss in a group:

- What does the Bible say the Holy Spirit does?
- How would you describe the disciples in the story?
- What do you think caused the disciples to be like this?
- Who does Peter say can be filled with the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38)

In your group prepare a role-play of a news reporter presenting the news of the amazing happenings of the Pentecost story. In the report, include your group's answers to the questions above.



# The Holy Spirit at Work Today

Christians believe the Holy Spirit is still very active in the world today. Lutherans believe that the Spirit works through God's word and the sacraments of baptism and holy communion.

## Baptism

Read **John 3:3–8** **Romans 6:3,4** **1 Corinthians 2:10–12**  
**Colossians 2:12**. What does the Bible say happens in baptism?

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Read the explanation of baptism in *Luther's Small Catechism*. What do Lutherans believe are the blessings given by the Holy Spirit in baptism? .....

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## God's Word

Read the following stories from the book of Acts:  
**Acts 8:26–40** **Acts 10: 44–47** **Acts 16:16–34**

What happens in the stories when the word of God is spoken or read? .....

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Read the explanation of the third part of the Apostles' Creed in *Luther's Small Catechism*. How do Lutherans believe the Holy Spirit works through the word of God? .....

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## Holy Communion

Read **Exodus 20:1–17** and **Exodus 24:1–8** to explore the old covenant God had with his people. What sealed the covenant?

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Who was responsible for keeping the old covenant? What did they have to do? .....

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Holy communion is a celebration of the new covenant relationship people have with God because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. Read **Hebrews 10:9,10,15–18** to explore how the old covenant has been replaced. Read Jesus' introduction of the new covenant in **Matthew 26:26–28**.

What seals the new covenant?.....

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What gift does God give in the new covenant?.....

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## Word and Sacraments

Lutherans believe that the Holy Spirit uses God's word to bring people the blessings in the sacraments. Read the explanations of baptism and holy communion in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

Why do you think it is important to Christians to use Jesus' words when celebrating the sacraments?

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