



Family Battle Plan

A discipleship pathway to assist parents in engaging their children on their journey of faith

Week 9: Holy Spirit

Middle School

Theme Verse

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and bring it about that you walk in My statutes, and are careful and follow My ordinances” (Ezekiel 36:26–27).

Objective

Each person who comes to faith in Christ receives the Holy Spirit and is given a spiritual gift.

Teach

We experience most of life through one of our five senses. Immediately, we recognize familiar sounds, sights, smells, tastes, or feelings. Memories rush to our minds when we encounter certain smells, and we respond quickly when we touch something hot. Because we rely so much on our senses, it is difficult to trust in the existence of something that cannot be seen, touched, heard, tasted, or smelled.

The Holy Spirit can be a difficult person to describe. Just because we cannot see Him, that does not minimize His existence or significance. When Jesus left the earth, He said that something greater was coming! He was referring to the Holy Spirit. When we accept Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins and become a follower of His, then we have the Holy Spirit to guide us in understanding the Bible, discerning His will, or fighting off temptation. He is the number one advocate in our personal walk with God. The Holy Spirit is not seen with our eyes, but we do sense His working all around us. As we learn more about God, we will

grow to understand and see the Holy Spirit at work. The Holy Spirit is always there with us as Christians, but we must learn to recognize His work.

Discussion Questions

Allow time for family discussion.

- Have you ever felt like lying, but you didn't? Why do you think you made the right choice?
- Why do you think it makes you feel good to make the right choices?
- Think about a time that a familiar Bible verse finally made sense to you. Discuss the Holy Spirit's role in your understanding of God's Word.
- When have you gone through a difficult time and felt the Holy Spirit's comfort?

Play

Gather several items from around the house and place them in individual bags. Have your child close his or her eyes and reach in each bag to feel the items. See how many items he or she can identify. Explain that although the Holy Spirit cannot be seen, touched, or heard, we can become better at identifying His voice as we experience His presence.

Live it Out

Talk about your own salvation story and what it has looked like growing in your faith. How has the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin, helped you to interpret Scripture, and encouraged or comforted you? Help your child(ren) understand that you desire to help them learn to listen to the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for *"a new heart, and a new spirit that You put within me"* (Ezekiel 36:26). Thank You that Your Holy Spirit guides me even though I cannot see Him with my eyes. Help me to recognize His work in my life.