

Eleventh Grade- God the Spirit

In this session, we want to continue to explore the nature of God by looking at the third member of the Trinity, God the Spirit. Often called the Holy Spirit, this third Person of the Trinity is often misunderstood and mysterious for many in our faith tradition. However, our understanding of the Holy Spirit is just as impactful and important as our understanding of God the Father and Son. We want to spend time together in this session unpacking the unique roles God the Spirit fills and what those roles mean for us as believers.

Introducing the Topic

As always, we want to start off giving students an opportunity to talk through what they already know and believe. Encourage as much sharing as possible! There are no right or wrong answers here, we just want students to talk about what they already have heard or think.

- What have you heard or been taught about the Holy Spirit?

- How familiar are you with the Holy Spirit in comparison with the Father and the Son? Why do you think that is?

- How have you heard the Spirit described? Have you ever heard anything that raised red flags for you?

- If someone asked you what the Holy Spirit does, what would you tell them?

- Have you had any personal experiences with the Holy Spirit? Can you share a little bit about them if you're comfortable?

Scripture Study

As you transition to the Scripture Study portion of this session, remind students that Scripture is where we turn for truth. We want to continually reiterate that we study Scripture not just for the "Christian take" on a matter, but God's revealed word, given to us out of love for our good.

- Read John 14: 15-27 together.
 - What stood out to you?

 - How do you hear the Spirit described in this passage?

 - What roles do you see the Spirit playing in this passage?

- Read Acts 2:1-13 together.
 - What stands out to you in this passage?

-What do you see the Spirit doing in this passage?

-How is the way the Spirit interacts with believers unique from how God the Father and the Son interact with us?

-What do you think it means to be “filled with the Spirit”? How are we filled with the Spirit as believers in this day and age? (Look up II Corinthians 1:20-22 for more context on the role of the Spirit in our salvation) *(Help students see in these passages that all who are saved by professing Jesus as the Lord and Savior as their lives and following in His way are filled with the Spirit- it is promised to ALL believers.)*

Practical Application

We want to take time in our discussion of the nature of the Holy Spirit to sit and truly internalize what an amazing and profound thing it is that we have been given the Holy Spirit to indwell us. We want students to take time to begin to understand what this means for their own walk with the Lord.

-What roles do you see the Holy Spirit playing in Scripture?

-How do you see the Holy Spirit fulfilling promises made by God the Father and Son in Scripture? What does that say about the nature of the Trinity?

-In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God dwelt amongst His people, as a result of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, He has made a way for God’s Spirit to dwell within His people. What’s the difference? How do you see all three members of the Trinity fulfilling different roles in this act of reconciliation? *(Help students talk it out! This is a super complex theological marvel, but such a moving and profound one. God the Father has reconciled us to Himself through the loving sacrifice of God the Son that allowed God the Spirit to dwell within His people- a guarantee of the final, total reconciliation of all things to God in the end.)*

-In the different passages we read, we saw God the Spirit referred to as a Helper, as a Spirit of Truth, as a bringer of peace, as a teacher, as a comforter, and as an empowerer. How have you seen the Holy Spirit fulfill these roles? Do you have any personal testimonies of times God the Spirit has helped you, revealed truth to you, brought you peace, taught you, comforted you, empowered you? *(As students share testimonies, help them see that all the times they felt helped, comforted, etc, that was the Holy Spirit working in them. Often, we equate a “work of the Spirit” as a demonstration of the charismatic giftings, like speaking in tongues or prophesying. But every believer is empowered by the same Spirit, and the more we can help our students see the Spirit’s work in their own lives the more confidence they will have to trust that Spirit. Be sure to point out and celebrate what an incredible all works of the Spirit are.)*

-What in your life would change if you trusted in the immense power of God the Spirit that you have inside of you as a believer? What would you do differently?