



Session

3



THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8

Building on his prior teaching, Paul assured the Romans that once they were reconciled to God, they would choose a new way of life. That new life comes through the Spirit, who guides believers and warns of sin. Following the sacrifice of Christ and His resurrection, God sent the Holy Spirit to indwell people. The Holy Spirit provides victory over the old sin nature and leads to a new nature that desires the things of God.

Paul began this chapter by offering the dichotomy of our flesh versus the Spirit. Paul shared that the flesh is that part of a human that desires things that are contrary to God's desires and wishes. The Spirit expresses characteristics that line up with the will of God and seek to do His will. Paul told the Romans that God sent His own Son in human form. The difference in Jesus and other humans, as Paul had already addressed, was that Jesus lived a sinless life and fulfilled the law.

The law was something the people were very familiar with. The *law* referred to the rules set down by God, through Moses, of how people should act in their relationship between God and others. Paul said that because of Jesus' sacrifice, the people were now free from the burden of the law. Obviously Paul did not mean that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, people could now live any way they wanted. Paul meant that believers now don't measure their righteousness to the standard of keeping the law but to the standard of faith in Christ.

While believers are still tempted by the flesh, the Spirit provides release and guidance to submit to God's will instead. God provided the Holy Spirit to help believers know when their choices and actions do not line up with God's will. Sensitivity to the Spirit enables believers to grow closer to God and to seek His will above their own. God is always with us, and God has a great plan. All of God's plans are good, and God works His plans for good to those who live according to His will.

SESSION FOCUS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 8

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 2:4-5

BIBLE VERSE: Romans 8:14

TEXT TRUTH: The Holy Spirit lives in Christians and helps them to live more like Jesus.

BIBLE SKILLS SPOTLIGHT: Name the genres of the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY

(35 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Jump In:** *Item 15: "Objects: Stone" (Printables), Item 12: "Symbols" (Poster Pack)*
- ☐ **Examine the Text:** *Item 5: "Text Truth 3" (Poster Pack), Bibles, Item 5: "The Gospel" (Printables)*
- ☐ **Play the Video:** *Explore the Bible on Location video*
- ☐ **Memory Verse:** *Item 1: "Ephesians 2:4-5" (Poster Pack), heart stickers*
- ☐ **Prayer:** *Family Cards*

APPLY THE TRUTH

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Explorer Guides:** *Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens*
- ☐ **Review:** *Item 8: "Review Questions" (Printables), paper cups*

ACTIVITIES

(20 MINUTES)

- ☐ **Bible Skills:** *Item 13: "Bible Genres" (Poster Pack), Item 7: "Bible Book Cards" (Printables), Bible, scissors, 2 plastic buckets, music, dry erase board and marker*
- ☐ **Move:** *construction paper, scissors, marker*
- ☐ **Make:** *red and white washable paint, paint smocks, paint brushes, markers, grey construction paper, paper plates, (Optional: hair dryer)*
- ☐ **Explore:** *Item 18: "Myanmar Flag" (Printables); yellow, green, red crayons or markers; pencils or pens*

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THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8

In his letter to the Romans, Paul also wrote about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a special gift from God to those who have repented of their sin and trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord. Paul wrote, “There is no judgment of sin for those who follow Jesus. God sent His own Son as a sin offering to pay the price for sin. Believers can resist sin because believers now follow the Holy Spirit. When you follow the Holy Spirit, you think about the things that are important to God like life, peace, and what is good and right.”

Paul continued, “Those who believe in Jesus are led by God’s Spirit. God has adopted you, and the Spirit tells you that you are children of God. The Holy Spirit helps you not to fear because you can always call out to God, your Father. If you face tough times because of your faith in Jesus, you can remember that one day Jesus will return and you will be with Him for eternity. All of creation eagerly is waiting for Jesus to come again.”

Paul also explained to the believers that the Holy Spirit helps them when they are weak. The Spirit will pray for them when they do not know what to pray.

Finally, Paul said, “All things work together for the good of those who love God, to those who are called for His purpose. Remember during tough times that God is for you. Jesus died and was raised. He is sitting at the right hand of God praying for you. Who can separate God’s people from God’s love? Not death. Not life. Not angels. Not rulers. Not height. Not depth. Nothing created can separate God’s people from His love that was given through Jesus’ death and resurrection.”

CHRIST IN CONTEXT:

The book of Romans illuminates the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sin entered the world through one man—Adam—and spread to all people. The good news is that salvation also entered the world through one man—Jesus. This is how God showed His great love to us: God sent Jesus—while we were sinners—to die for our sin. Through faith in Jesus, we can receive His righteousness and be reconciled to God.

BIBLE STUDY (35 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Jump In: Item 15: "Objects: Stone" (Printables), Item 12: "Symbols" (Poster Pack)
- Examine the Text: Item 5: "Text Truth 3" (Poster Pack), Bibles, Item 5: "The Gospel" (Printables)
- Play the Video: Explore the Bible on Location video
- Memory Verse: Item 1: "Ephesians 2:4-5" (Poster Pack), heart stickers
- Prayer: Family Cards

Need an Opening Activity? Choose one of the activities in the *Activities* section and adapt it to introduce the session.

JUMP IN

- Greet kids as they enter and call them by name. Tell them you are glad to see them.
- Ask: "Who knows what a *symbol* is?" (*Take time for responses.*)
- Display the "Symbols" poster.
- Ask the children to identify any symbols they recognize. Explain that a *symbol* is a sign for something. Go over the different meanings of each symbol.
- Display the "Stone." Ask: "Does anyone know what this object is? What symbol do you see?"
- Share: "The dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was baptized, the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit appeared as a dove! So many artists have used the dove as a symbol for the Holy Spirit."
- Announce that you are going to tell the kids about the Holy Spirit in today's Bible story.

EXAMINE THE TEXT

- Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Romans chapter 8. Remind them to use the table of contents if they need help locating the book.
- Say: "We have been studying Paul's letter to the Romans for the past couple of weeks. The book of Romans is in the letters genre of the Bible. Today, we're learning that Paul told the Roman church about the Holy Spirit."
- Inform the children that you are going to teach the Bible story in your own words. Share the story using the Bible story page as a guide.
- Invite a child to read Romans 8:14. Say: "It says if we are led by the Holy Spirit, we are children of God."
- Expound: "As we learned last week, God loves us so much and that is why He sent Jesus to die for us. After that, when we receive His gift and believe in Jesus, He gives us yet another gift. That gift is the Holy Spirit!"
- Display the Text Truth: **The Holy Spirit lives in Christians and helps them to live more like Jesus.**
- Inquire: "Where does the Holy Spirit live or dwell?" (*Allow kids to respond.*)
- Teach: "As children of God, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us. When we sin and we feel bad about it, that is the Holy Spirit letting us know right from wrong. The Holy Spirit helps us know when we sin, and He helps us understand God's plan for salvation."
- Review "The Gospel" with the boys and girls.

PLAY THE VIDEO

- Play the Session 3 video.
- Ask: “What did Joel want to purify and transform today? How can we be purified from our sin? Who helps believers transform to live more like Jesus?”

MEMORY VERSE

□ *Bible Verse Option: The Memory Verse activity each week is focused on the monthly Memory Verse, Ephesians 2:4-5. If your kids quickly memorize the Memory Verse, you may opt to challenge them to learn an additional weekly Bible Verse. This week's Bible Verse is Romans 8:14.*

- Instruct the group to form a circle. Display the “Ephesians 2:4-5” poster.
- Prompt the group to say the verse aloud together.
- Give a child a heart sticker (*with the backing still on*). Instruct that child to say the first word of the verse and then pass the sticker.
- Continue play until you get to the last word of the Memory Verse. The child holding the sticker when the last word is said will put the sticker on.
- Give another child a sticker (*with the backing still on*) and repeat the exercise. Continue until all kids have a heart sticker.
- Congratulate the kids and remind them that only God can save us.
- Say: “We all received a heart sticker as we worked on our Memory Verse. Hearts are often used as symbols for love. How does our verse describe God’s love?” (*great*)

PRAYER

- Distribute Family Cards.
- Ask: “Who remembers what the dove is a symbol for?” (*Holy Spirit*)
- Remind kids that the Holy Spirit prays for them when they don’t know what to pray.
- Emphasize that when we get so upset that we just don’t know what to do, the Holy Spirit is praying on our behalf.
- Close in prayer by thanking God for sending the Holy Spirit.

APPLY THE TRUTH (20 MINUTES)

TOOLS:

- Explorer Guides: Bibles, Explorer Guides, pens
- Review: Item 8: "Review Questions" (Printables), paper cups

EXPLORER GUIDES

- Distribute Explorer Guides and help kids locate today's pages.
- Review today's object, the "Stone."
- Guide kids to use their Bibles to complete the "Romans Roundup."
- Invite two volunteers to take turns reading "Who Is the Holy Spirit?"
- Lead kids to examine "The Space Between."
- Help boys and girls solve the puzzle in "What Can Separate?"

REVIEW

- Form two groups and lead each group to line up in a single file line in front of the table.
- Place two paper cups in front of the first two players.
- Explain that you will ask a "Review Question." If they know the answer, they must pick up the cup.
- The first player to grab the cup gets to answer the question. If the player is correct, that team receives a point. If the player is incorrect, the other team player gets a chance to answer.
- Continue as time allows. The team with the most correct answers wins the game.
- Congratulate all the kids on how great they listened to the Bible story, and remind them how wonderful it is to have the Holy Spirit to help us live more like Jesus.

ACTIVITIES (20 MINUTES)

- Select one or more of the activities to complete as time allows.



PASS THE WORD

*Tools: Item 13: "Bible Genres" (Poster Pack)
Item 7: "Bible Book Cards" (Printables), Bible,
scissors, 2 plastic buckets, music, dry erase
board and marker*

- ☐ *Print out the "Bible Book Cards" and place them in a bucket. Place an empty bucket next to it in the center of the room. Write the Bible's genres on a dry erase board for the kids to use as a guide (law, history, poetry and wisdom, prophecy, gospels, law).*
- Guide the kids to form a circle around the buckets. Give one child the Bible.
- Display the "Bible Genres" poster and review the six genres.
- Explain that as you play the music, they will pass the Bible around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the Bible will go to the bucket and pick a card.
- The player will try and guess the genre in which the book belongs. If they answer correctly (*use the poster to check*), they place the card in the empty bucket and return to the circle. If they answer incorrectly, they put it back in the bucket of cards and return to the circle.
- Continue as time allows. Congratulate the kids and remind them that the Bible is a wonderful treasure. Remind them that the Holy Spirit will help them when they are afraid, in tough times, or when they don't know what to pray. **The Holy Spirit lives in Christians and helps them to live more like Jesus.**



SEPARATION ANXIETY

Tools: construction paper, scissors, marker

- ☐ *Before the session, cut hearts in half using a different pattern for each heart (zig zag, curvy, and so on).*
- ☐ *Write the word God's on one half and love on the other half. Cut enough heart halves for each child. Mix them up so the matching pieces are not together.*
- Give each child a half heart. Tell the kids that God's love is the greatest love of all.
- Explain that they have one half of a heart and their task is to find the matching piece. Instruct that the hearts should fit together like a puzzle piece.
- Guide the children to line up against the wall. On your command, they are to find their match as quickly as possible. Tell them that when they find their pair, they are to shout "God's love!"
- Begin the game and encourage them as they seek their pairs. Continue until all pairs are matched. If you have an odd number of children, use a leader to play.
- Congratulate the kids when they have all found their partners. If time allows, mix up the hearts and play again.
- Remind the children of Paul's message that nothing can separate Christians from God's love and that is one reason why He sent the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit lives in Christians and helps them to live more like Jesus.**



PAINTING SYMBOLS

Tools: red and white washable paint, paint smocks, paint brushes, markers, grey construction paper, paper plates, (Optional: hair dryer)

- Say: “Today we talked about two symbols. What did we say that a heart symbolizes?” (God’s love) “What does a dove often symbolize?” (the Holy Spirit)
- Say: “Today we are going to paint both of these symbols.”
- Give each kid a piece of grey construction paper and a marker. Lead kids to print today’s Text Truth on their paper, along the edges. ***The Holy Spirit lives in Christians and helps them to live more like Jesus.***
- Then squeeze a small amount of each color of paint onto a paper plate for each kid. Guide kids to paint their version of a dove and a heart.
- Option: Ask an adult helper to use a hair dryer to dry paintings faster. Then allow kids to use markers to add details to their doves and hearts.



PRAYING FOR MYANMAR

Tools: Item 18: “Myanmar Flag” (Printables); yellow, green, red crayons or markers; pencils or pens

☐ **Print a copy of the flag for each child. Color a sample flag using the directions below.**

- Remind the boys and girls that even though there are many Christians in Myanmar now, especially among the Karen tribe, the country is still predominantly Buddhist. Missionaries continue to work in the country to help people understand that God sent His Son, Jesus, to be their one and only Savior.
- Distribute a copy of the flag to each child. Provide the crayons or markers. Point out that this is the flag of Myanmar and the star should be left white while the top section is colored yellow, the middle section green, and the bottom section red. When kids have completed coloring the flag, ask them to list on the backs of the flags prayer requests related to the country of Myanmar, such as: the specific work of Christians and missionaries in the country, the personal health and strength of the missionaries, that the people living in Myanmar would be open to hear the good news about Jesus, and so forth.
- Allow volunteers to pray for some of the prayer requests they listed. Close the prayer, praying that the gospel continues to be taken to people groups around the world.