

What Do I Teach?

K-Ch 18

The Gift of the Spirit

First Thoughts

Scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus' disciples when they were gathered in the upper room on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost (see Acts of the Apostles 2:2-4). That event includes the manifestation of the Spirit as a strong wind and tongues of fire, empowered the disciples to proclaim the Good News. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter and the other disciples obeyed Jesus' command to take his mission into the world. This Feast of Pentecost is considered the birthday of the Church. The Church professes its faith in the Holy Spirit, "the giver of life" (Nicene Creed). The Holy Spirit first sparks faith within us. We come to know and believe in Christ through the grace of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our guide, our teacher, our advocate, and our helper. The Spirit is our constant and ever-present companion. The Holy Spirit empowers us with gifts to live as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

More Background: For further reading and reflection see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 683-686.

For Reflection

Where have I discovered the Holy Spirit at work in my life?
 In what ways can I cooperate with the Holy Spirit to be a giver of life in my family? In my community?



SR. MARIE:

We see beautiful paintings and stained-glass windows in which Christian artists have portrayed the Holy Spirit as a dove. The dove is a symbol for peace, gentleness, love, and forgiveness. Other artists use flames of fire to depict the Holy Spirit. This image reminds us that the Spirit gives us the courage and power to live as children of God. Let the peace of the Holy Spirit fill your heart with courage to fulfill your call to serve the children as a catechist and teacher.



JANICE:

Trust that the Holy Spirit is always with you and with the children. Kindergarten children are always wanting to help. Sometimes their eagerness and readiness to help comes at a time that just does not fit the demands of the schedule that you need to follow. Create time to welcome and affirm the children's desire to help. Encourage the children to use their gifts to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of other people.

Faith Focus

The Holy Spirit is always with us. The Holy Spirit helps us live as members of God's family.

Objectives of the chapter

After completing the chapter, the children should be able to:

- Know that the Holy Spirit is always with us to help us live as children of God.
- Explain that Jesus made a promise that the Holy Spirit would be our Helper.
- Demonstrate ways the Holy Spirit helps us.
- Identify ways to call on the Holy Spirit in prayer.
- Celebrate that the Holy Spirit is with us.

Materials needed

- Pencils
- Crayons or markers

Optional

- Large sheet of butcher paper
- Small kite cut from construction paper
- Ribbon streamers

Enriching the chapter

- **Faith First Kindergarten Additional Activities Book**, pages 18 and 18a
- **Faith First Kindergarten-Primary Music CD and Music and Prayer Celebrations Book**, Song 10, "Make Good Choices"
- **Faith First Kindergarten Family Resource Book**, pages 18 and 18a
- **www.FaithFirst.com**
- **Books to read**
 - The Incredible Discovery of Lindsey Renee* by Joni Eareckson Tada (Crossway Books, 2001)
 - Whaddaymean* by John Burningham (Crown Pub., 1999)
 - What Did Jesus Promise?* by Helen Haidle (Zondervan Publishing House, 2000)

Parish program notes

- Each lesson plan is divided into five parts. The fifth part is a celebration, which is found only in the guide.
- The highlighted portions of the lesson plan will help you teach the main objectives of the chapter in forty-five to sixty minutes. As your time allows, you may choose to use the sections of the lesson plan that have not been highlighted.



School program notes

- Each lesson plan is divided into five parts. The fifth part is a celebration, which is found only in the guide.
- The lesson plan for the chapter can be adapted to three, four, or five fifteen- to twenty-minute sessions.

Lesson plan for this chapter begins on page 219. Tell the story when indicated.

Our Holy Helper

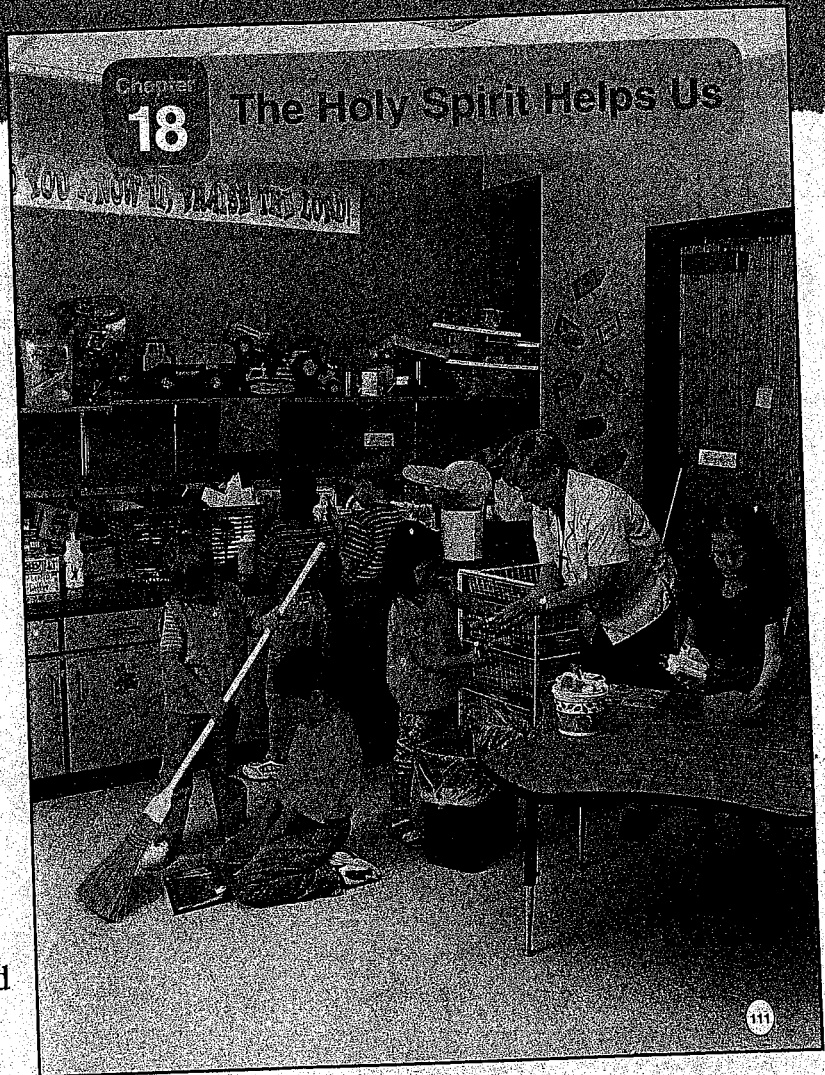
Megan, Jill, and Zach were helping to clean up the art center of their parish at All Saints parish. Just then Destri came in from the school and. "Can we help?" asked Destri. "Always use helpers!" said Megan with a smile and a wave, inviting them to

Alberto swept the floor, Alberto held the broom for her. Just then Meili said in a loud voice, "Sister Lucy, we're acting just like the Holy Spirit you talked about today. We're helpers."

"That's right," said their teacher. "The Holy Spirit helps us all the time, just as you're helping me right now."

"Can the Holy Spirit clean classrooms?" asked Destri with a very curious look on his face as he stopped painting paint bottles on a shelf. The other children stopped what they were doing too and wondered what Sister Lucy might say.

"Wow," exclaimed Zach before Sister Lucy could answer Destri. "The Holy Spirit helps us remember to help each other."



"That's right," said their teacher. "The Holy Spirit helps us volunteer to help other people—just as you are helping to clean this classroom."

"The Holy Spirit can join in with classroom cleanup anytime!" added Meili. All the children giggled.

"Keep cleaning," said a smiling Sister Lucy. "Keep cleaning."

Teach

OBJECTIVE

Explain that the Holy Spirit helps us live as children of God.

INTRODUCE

- Ask the children to tell about times when they helped someone clean up. Affirm the children for being helpers.
- Have the children look at the photo on page 111 of the child's book. Tell the children that you are going to tell a story about the Faith First Kids helping to clean their classroom.

TELL A STORY

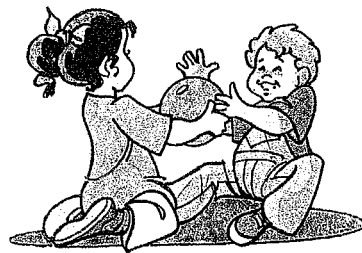
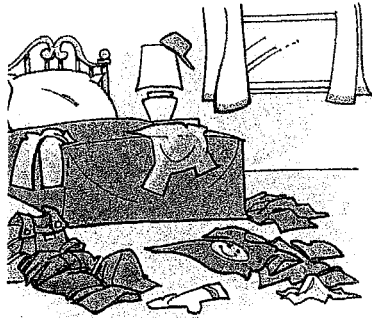
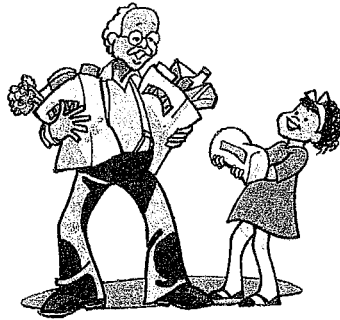
Tell the story "Our Holy Helper" to the children.

Apply

INTEGRATE

- Review the main ideas of the story with the children. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit helps us live as children of God.
- Have the children look at the pictures in the column on the left on page 112 and describe the situations in which people need help.
- Ask volunteers to share what they would do to help in each of these situations.
- Invite the children to match these situations with the pictures in the column on the right that depict someone helping out.

Match the pictures.



FROM: SR. MARIE

Holy Spirit

When Jesus ascended to his Father, he promised the Holy Spirit would come to help the disciples. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the form of wind and small flames of fire that rested on each of the disciples. The disciples, filled with courage, left the upper room and boldly proclaimed the Good News of Jesus.

A NOTE FROM: JANICE

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

Some of the symbols of the Holy Spirit that are mentioned in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 694-701) are:

Water—the symbol of Baptism and new birth. Water is also the symbol of our birth into new life in Christ given to us in the Holy Spirit.

Anointing—the symbol of being chosen. Jesus received the primary anointing of the Holy Spirit. The names *Christ* and *Messiah* mean the one anointed by God's Spirit.

Fire—a symbol of the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit.

Teach

Jesus Made a Promise



Jesus said to his friends,
"The Holy Spirit will come to you.
He will be your teacher and helper."

Based on John 14:16, 26

OBJECTIVE

Jesus' promise about the Holy Spirit

EXPLORE

Ask the children to give examples of people who help them.

Continue by talking about times when the children help other people.

Ask the children that Jesus made a promise to his friends. He promised that the Holy Spirit would come to help them.

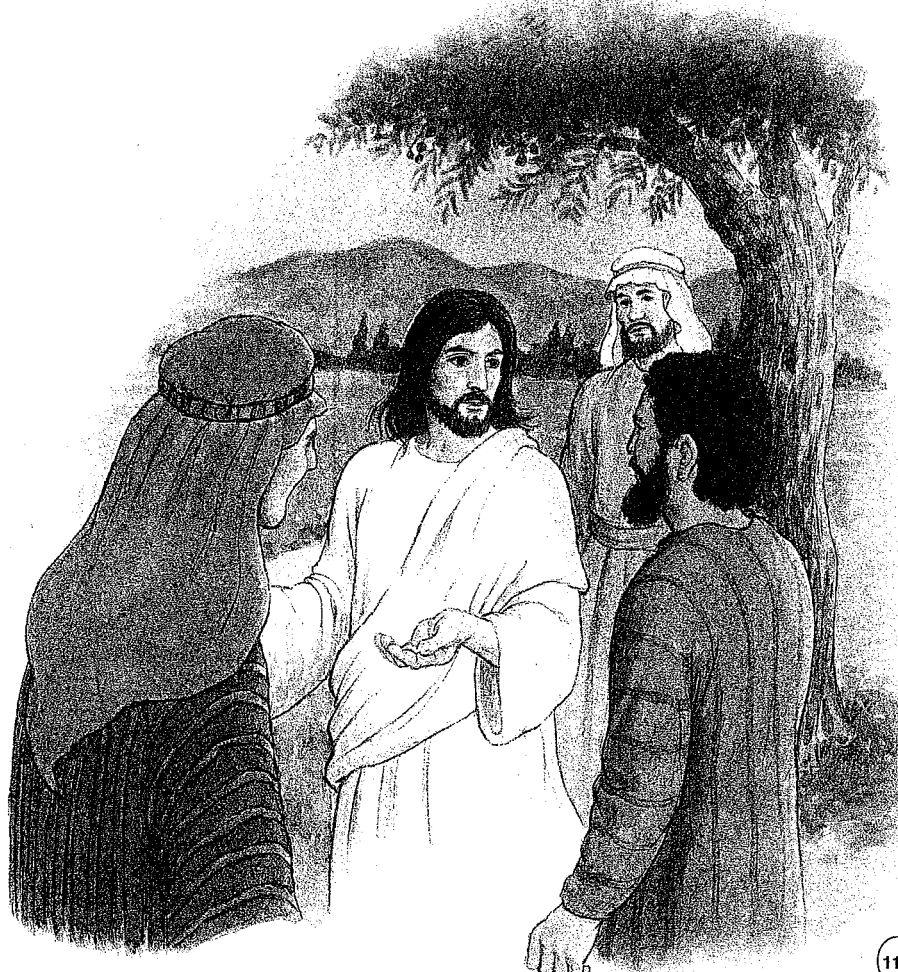
Ask the children to look at the illustration on page 113 as you read the text aloud.

Remind the children that the Holy Spirit came to the friends of Jesus just as Jesus promised. Emphasize that the promise Jesus made to his friends is true.

EXPAND

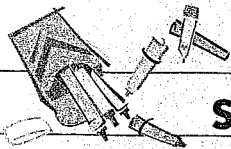
Ask the children to tell the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit found in Acts 2:1-13. You may want to use the children's version of the Bible to tell this story.

Ask the children to role-play the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Encourage them to improvise dialogue as you tell the main part of the story.



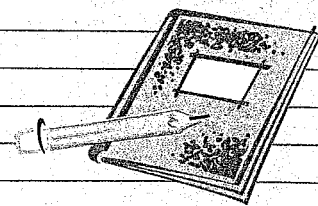
113

Bright Ideas



Special Needs Children

At times we need special helpers in our class. If you have a child with special needs in your class, you may need the help of another person. Perhaps a teacher's aide can provide one-on-one assistance to the child. This makes for a good learning experience not only for the special needs child but also for all the children. There are many helpers around; we just have to ask.



Learn to sign these words.

HOLY

SPIRIT



114



Apply

INTEGRATE

- Reinforce the children's awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit with them, reminding the children that the Holy Spirit is their teacher and helper.
 - Review the words and gestures of the Sign of the Cross.
 - Praying the Sign of the Cross will help develop a readiness for the teaching of the Trinity in the future.
 - Tell the children that we can use sign language to talk to others.
 - Have the children look at the photos on page 114 and practice how to sign the words *Holy Spirit*.
 - Holy*: with right hand, extend the index and middle fingers over the left open palm, slide the right hand down over left hand.
 - Spirit*: with right palm down and left palm up and both thumb and index finger touching, raise right hand up in a spiral motion.
- Have the children speak the words aloud as they sign them.
- Encourage the children to teach the signing of *Holy Spirit* to someone in their family.

NOTE FROM: **SR. MARIE**

Keeping Promises

Children put their trust in their teacher. This is an awesome privilege. We need to live up to that trust each and every class. One of the most important things we can do is to follow through on the promises that we make to the children. Sometimes we may promise something or verbalize a thought or an idea to the children. Kindergarten children will hear us promise something and expect that to happen. We need to remember to keep our promises and do what we say we will do.

A NOTE FROM: **JANICE**

Promises

The children have learned that Jesus kept the promise he made to his followers. This is a good time to talk about the promises they make. Tell the children they sometimes make promises to their parents and their friends. Children need to be reminded of what it means to make a promise and the importance of keeping their promises.

Teach

OBJECTIVE

te ways the Holy Spirit

EXPLORE

ith the children some of that we help one another.

children that the Holy Spirit helps each and every one of us in many ways throughout the year as children of God.

text aloud on page 115 to help children understand that the Holy Spirit is always with them as their helper.

to the children that no matter where we are or what we are doing, the Holy Spirit will help us as children of God.

Apply

INTEGRATE

he children deepen their understanding of the presence of the Holy Spirit with them. This understanding will make a difference in their lives.

he children complete the activity, invite them to first trace the maze with their fingers and then use a pencil to draw the path through the maze. Tell the children about the pictures of the ways the Holy Spirit helps them.

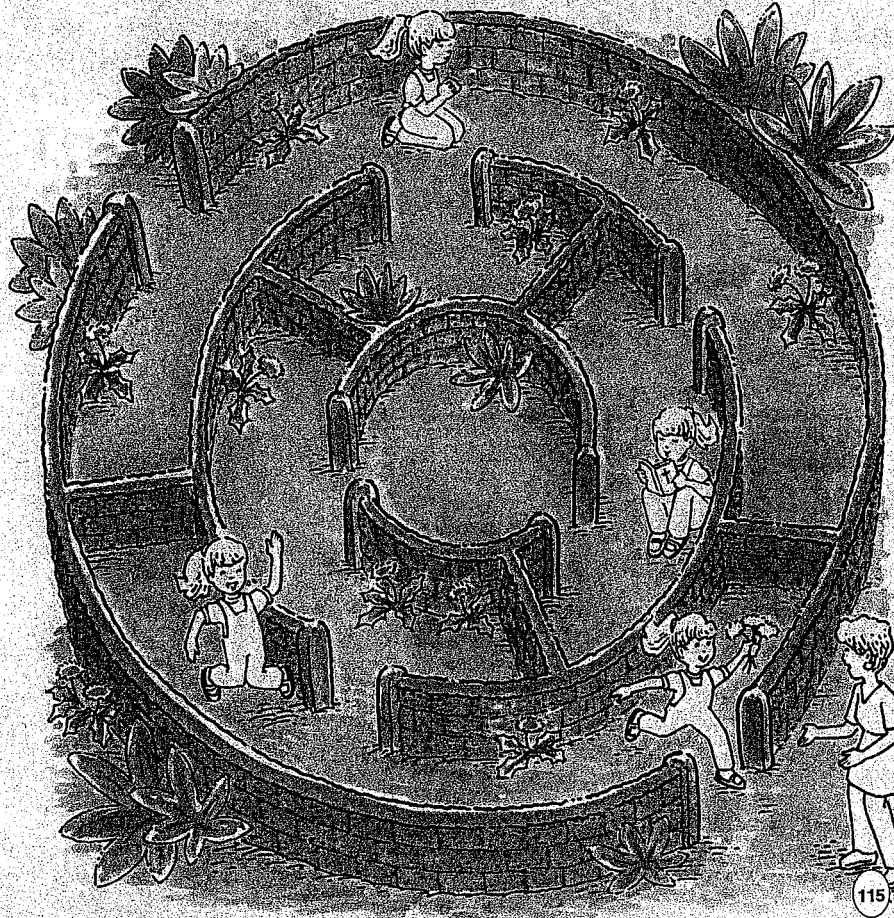
n volunteers to share some examples of ways that the Holy Spirit helps us. Begin by giving examples illustrated on page 115.

The Holy Spirit Is with Us

The Holy Spirit helps us to learn about Jesus.
The Holy Spirit helps us to pray.

Follow the path.

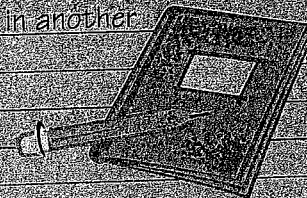
Show ways the Holy Spirit helps you.



Bright Ideas

A Holy Spirit Banner

Make a large sign or banner to help the children remember that the Holy Spirit is always with them. Print the heading "God Is Always with Us" on a large sheet of butcher paper or on a piece of poster board. Invite the children to decorate the letters. They could paint the letters or color them with brightly colored markers. The children could also paste small pieces of construction paper on each letter. Hang the banner in the room or in another place where everyone can see it.



I Pray to the Holy Spirit

Pray to the Holy Spirit.

Come,
Holy Spirit,
 fill our hearts
 with love.

116

The Sign of the Cross

When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we bless ourselves, saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

We profess our faith in One God in Three Persons. This central mystery of faith is inaccessible to the human mind on its own.

It is the object of faith because it was revealed by Jesus Christ.

Praying the Sign of the Cross is one way to provide the children with a readiness for the future presentation of the Trinity, the great mystery of faith.



Teach

OBJECTIVE

Encourage the children to pray to the Holy Spirit.

DISCOVER

- Talk with the children about ways they receive help from other people. Emphasize that sometimes we have to ask for help from others. Usually when we ask someone who loves us for their help, they are very happy and willing to help us.
- Tell the children that the Holy Spirit loves us and always wants to help us. Explain that we pray to the Holy Spirit to help us.



Apply

INTEGRATE

- Ask the children to give examples of ways the Spirit can help us to live as children of God at home, in school, in the community, and at church.
- Encourage the children to pray to the Holy Spirit each day and ask the Spirit to be their helper and teacher.
- Ask the children to give examples of when they can pray to the Holy Spirit.
- Read aloud the words to the prayer on page 116. Invite the children to decorate the prayer.
- Encourage the children to take the prayer home and say the prayer each day with their family.
- Pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit with the children.

Celebration

OBJECTIVE

that the Holy Spirit is with us.

GETTING READY

permits, have the children make kite-shaped

each child a piece of brightly colored construction paper cut in the shape of a kite on which you have written the words *Holy Spirit*. Invite the children to decorate the kite.

Attach ribbon streamers or pieces of ribbon to the kite. Invite the children in attaching the streamers or pieces of ribbon as tails to their kites. The tail could be made from crepe paper.

Write the words to the **Faith First** song "Make Good Choices" or another appropriate song with the children.

AND NOW WE PRAY

Use the instrumental version of the **Faith First** song. As you gather the children in the prayer area, invite the children to bring their kites with them if they have them.

As the children focus on the prayer celebration, invite the children to wave their kites if they have them. When the children are ready, lead them in prayer.

(Begin by praying the Sign of the Cross.)

LEADER: *(Have the children pray the prayer to the Holy Spirit after you.)*

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with love.

LEADER: When the Holy Spirit came to the friends of Jesus, they heard the sound of a strong wind. It filled the house where they were staying. *(Based on Acts of the Apostles 2:2)* Let us pretend the wind is blowing in our room.

(Invite the children to wave the kites which they made in the air.)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with love.

(Sing the song.)



Make Good Choices

Verse 1:

God's Holy Spirit lives in me
to help me do what's good.
He whispers, "Feel and do and see
all things like Jesus would."

Chorus:

Yes or no?
Stay or go?
Will or won't?
Do or don't?
Choose what's best and you'll be blest.
Make good choices, God rejoices!

Verse 2:

The Holy Spirit deep inside
says, "I am here with you."
He always helps us to decide,
"Just what would Jesus do?"

Repeat chorus