

TEACHER GUIDE

TELL Bible Pathway

Part 1

Lesson 17



The Holy Spirit | tellnetwork.org

Lesson Goal: The goal of this class is to study and understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Pre-Lesson Preparation: Read the story in Acts 2:1-13.

How did Jesus send his Holy Spirit to the disciples on Pentecost?

Read John 14:26-27.

What name did Jesus call the Holy Spirit when he promised to send him to his disciples after he left?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 139:7-8; and Genesis 1:1-2.

What is the biblical evidence that the Holy Spirit is God?

Read Acts 5:1-11.

How did Ananias and Sapphira sin against the Holy Spirit?

Live Class Greet those who are listening to the class.

Prayer Asks for God's blessings, focusing on the theme of the lesson, and effectively ending the greeting time and calling the lesson to order. The following prayer can be used:

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you that you have not left us without our Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

We thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us after your ascension into heaven. Teach us more about him today in our lesson. In your name we pray. Amen.

Introduce The Course

- Explain the purpose of the course.
- Ask all to show respect for the teacher and other students by writing appropriate questions and comments on the Facebook Live chat.
- Explain that the **TELL** method is a teaching style with the goal of telling others what you've learned. The letters **T-E-L-L** represent four sections of study: **T** for Think, **E** for Evaluate, **L** for Learn and **L** for Lead.

Think: A powerful introduction that gets you thinking about an interesting topic, or question

Do you like farewells? Why is saying good-bye so hard sometimes?

They can be tough. I don't enjoy saying goodbye to my family and friends knowing I won't see them for a while. People often make promises when they leave each other, like "I'll call you!" or "I'll never forget you." Jesus, prior to his ascension, made many promises to his disciples. One of them is in John 14:16-18: "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you as orphans." This Advocate was not a second-best option—he is God the Holy Spirit. The disciples did not have to wait long for Jesus to fulfill his promise. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the day of Pentecost arrived. We read about it in Acts chapter 2.

Evaluate (brings more meaning and context to the lesson)

1. Who are the characters in the story? *The disciples, God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven*
2. What are the objects in the story? *Tongues of fire*
3. Where did the story take place? *In Jerusalem*
4. When did the story take place? *On Pentecost—10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. On Pentecost—10 days after Jesus ascended into heaven. Pentecost was Jewish religious festival that happened on the 50th day after the Sabbath of Passover week (Leviticus 23:16-17). So this was the first day of the week (Sunday). Pentecost is also called the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:10), the Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16) and the day of the first fruits (Numbers 28:26).*
5. What is the problem? *Before Jesus ascended into heaven, he told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem, where they would be baptized by the Holy Spirit. They were waiting to receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*
6. What happened in the story? *When the disciples were together in one place, they heard the sound like a violent wind blowing, and saw what looked like tongues of fire resting on each one of them. The Holy Spirit filled them, and they were able to speak in other languages. There were other God-fearing Jews staying in Jerusalem from other parts of the world, and they were amazed when they heard the disciples speaking about God in their own language. Some were amazed, but others thought the disciples were drunk.*
7. Is the problem solved? *Before Jesus ascended, he promised his disciples that they would be "baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5) and they would receive the "power" they needed to be witnesses "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (v. 8). When the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in other languages on Pentecost, they were able to share the gospel with people from all parts of the known world. Those people were then able to take the Good News back to their home countries.*

Learn (identify that sin is the problem and only God has the answer)

1. What is the main theme of the lesson? *Jesus, before he ascended into heaven, promised that he would send his Holy Spirit to his disciples. This was fulfilled on Pentecost.*

2. What sin does this lesson teach you to confess? *Our sin of sometimes not revering the Holy Spirit as part of the Triune God and asking him to sanctify us and give us the power to witness our faith.*
3. Where do you see the love of God in the lesson? *Jesus left his disciples and went back to heaven, but he didn't leave his disciples (or us) powerless here on earth. He sent his Holy Spirit to renew us and give us faith and the power to spread the gospel.*
4. What does God teach you to do in the lesson? *God teaches me to revere the Holy Spirit as part of the Triune God and his role in creating and strengthening faith in believers.*

Lead (share this with a group of your brothers and sisters in Christ)

1. What would be a good situation in which to share this message? *We can share this message with someone if they feel powerless to share the gospel with others. Just as the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost, so he also comes to us to strengthen our faith and give us the power to witness to others who need to hear the Good News of the gospel.*

Additional questions (add depth to the lesson)

1. Read John 14:26-27. What name did Jesus call the Holy Spirit when he promised to send him to his disciples after he left?

Jesus called the Holy Spirit our Advocate. An advocate is someone who speaks up for and supports and defends someone publicly. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit "will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." He further promises to give believers "peace" and urges us to "not be afraid."

2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16; Psalm 139:7-8; and Genesis 1:1-2. What is the biblical evidence that the Holy Spirit is God?

There is much scriptural support for saying that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is called God in 1 Corinthians 3:16. He is omnipresent (he is everywhere) as Psalm 139:7-8 says. And Genesis 1:1-2 confirms that the Holy Spirit participated in the work of creation.

3. Read Acts 5:1-11. How did Ananias and Sapphira sin against the Holy Spirit?

Some people think that the Holy Spirit is simply an inanimate representation of the Father or is simply a poetic way of describing the action of God in the world. However, the Bible shows that the Holy Spirit is completely God and a distinct person of the Trinity. In the early church, many of the believers gave money and possessions to support other believers, like Ananias and Sapphira did. They sold some of their property and gave the money to the church. However, instead of saying, "We are giving the church part of the money we received" (which would have been just as God-pleasing), they lied and said, "This is all that we received." Perhaps they wanted people to look up to them and admire them. Peter, by a gift of God, knew they had lied. He accused Ananias of lying against the Holy Spirit, and Ananias died as punishment. Later, when Sapphira, Ananias' wife, came, Peter accused her of lying against God, and she died as well. Peter, with both of his conversations, equated the Holy Spirit with God. As Bible-believing Christians, we do the same.

Lesson Wrap-Up

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the life of a believer?

Allow time for answers and various wordings, but talk about the fact that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity—true God—present at creation and still with believers today. Jesus baptized his disciples on Pentecost with the power of the Holy Spirit so they could become witnesses to him. Ananias and Sapphira lied about the gift they gave to the church, which Peter said was a lie to the Holy Spirit.

Closing End with a prayer thanking God for the people he has brought together to learn about him and his Word, or with a blessing for the group.

Extra Information for the Teacher: Topics that May Come Up During the Class

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31 and 1 Corinthians 14:1-20, 26-33a. What are some of the questions you would ask your friend if she says she just visited a church where they speak in tongues and asks your opinion on it? Let the students discuss. As needed, add the following thoughts. This can be a difficult question. It may be necessary to prompt the questions with the hints of the verse references.

Do they overemphasize speaking in tongues? (12:4, 29-31, 14:5) Speaking in tongues was certainly a gift of the Holy Spirit, particularly seen in the first century. However, to demand that all people speak in tongues or to give the impression that you are a lower Christian because you don't is unscriptural and false doctrine. The Holy Spirit gives many different gifts, and speaking in tongues was actually one of the least important (14:19).

Are they using it as proof that the person has truly received the Holy Spirit? (12:30) This question is very similar to the previous one. The Holy Spirit does not promise to give this gift to every believer. If someone insists that if a person does not speak in tongues they have not received the Holy Spirit, they are going against what the Bible says.

What do they use the speaking of tongues for? (14:12) The gifts of the Holy Spirit are never to be used to build oneself up. Instead, God wants all his gifts to build up the church. We want to use the gifts in love for others.

Is everyone able to understand the message of the ones speaking in tongues? (14:27-28) This question connects to the previous. God wants his church to be edified through his gifts. So, if the speaker is unable to interpret for himself and no one else can, he should remain silent. If he claims that he is unable to remain silent, he is not speaking with a gift from God. According to these passages, a true gift of speaking in tongues could be controlled.

What do I do if I can't speak in tongues? A student may ask this question. Many churches, especially the churches with Pentecostal roots, teach incorrectly about speaking in tongues (see Question 1 above). Therefore, many people feel guilty that they are not able to speak in tongues or that they have to fake their supposed gift. They are made to feel like second-class Christians because they don't have the gift of speaking in tongues. Their previous/current churches have led them astray from God's Word. They need to realize that those gifts of speaking in tongues are not the most important gifts, and the Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different people.

Above all, the greatest gift the Holy Spirit gives is faith that offers life and salvation in Jesus. He gives that greatest gift equally and graciously.

Possible extra question: How can you still have confidence in God when you do not speak in tongues?

Why isn't the Holy Spirit mentioned in the greetings of many of the Epistles? Some people may be concerned that the Holy Spirit is not a person of the Trinity because he doesn't appear in many of the greetings of the Epistles (e.g., Philippians 1:2). This illustration may help: When a family goes on vacation, many times one person is missing from many of the photos—the photographer. He's always behind the camera (unless they are selfies, of course). The Holy Spirit acts in a similar way. He wants Jesus and the Father to shine, and he works behind the scenes to do so. He is the one telling the story. He is the one taking the pictures.

Possible extra question: Where is the Holy Spirit in verses like Philippians 1:2?

