

DAY FIVE

Meet the Holy Spirit

Morning Devotions

Location

Choose an outdoor setting filled with visual beauty and sound. Campers should be comfortably seated on blankets. This activity could be done at the campfire site. If you must be inside, choose a setting without distracting human noises.

Scripture

Pass out individual scriptures. These will be read one at a time, with a pause in between to listen to the sounds around them.

Be still and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10

Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me.

—John 14:1

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

—John 14:6

I will not leave you comfortless.

—John 14:18

The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said.

—John 14:26 NRSV

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!

—Philippians 4:4

God's Wake-up Call

Greet the campers for the final morning. Ask them to sit quietly and listen as each scripture is read. What sounds did they hear in between scriptures? Why do these sounds often go unnoticed during the day? How does getting quiet help identify these sounds? How does concentrating on listening bring additional information?

Reflection Activity

Read the scriptures again and ask the following questions. What thoughts are triggered by the words of the scriptures?

Which ones have they heard before? How can hearing words of truth help when it's time to make decisions? Sometimes the Holy Spirit is identified as the still small voice. How has the still small voice been helpful to them? (This may be one to think about and share as a testimony at campfire.)

Prayer

Offer a prayer addressed to the Holy Spirit. Ask directly for guidance, comfort, support, encouragement, new light, and a closer connection between each camper and this gift from God.

Music Suggestions

From *Hymns of the Saints:*

O Holy Dove of God, 285

From *Songs for Camps & Reunions:*

All Over the World, p.41

I'm Gonna Sing p.25

His Banner Over Us Is Love, p.52

Suggestions for Classes

1. Craft classes making Holy Spirit symbols: dove, fire, candles
2. Game classes: Let your conscience be your guide (ethics; choices)
3. Listening skills class: listen, reflect, summarize, feedback
4. Sensitivity development: getting acquainted with things in nature on their level. What do plants and animals need to survive and develop? How do humans hinder this growth? What can be done to provide habitats?
5. Hiking: Let the Spirit be your guide in life. Experience conscience, intuition, feelings. Where do these "guidance helps" come from?

Theme Class

1. Create a simple drama using the story line in John 14. The setting is the upper room with some of the disciples gathered with Jesus. He tells them he is going away, but will prepare a place for them. They object, saying they don't know where he is going and ask how they will know the way. He then gives them an abstract answer when he tells them he is the way, the truth, and the life. He then gives them concrete examples when he tells them to believe in God, in him, and in the things they have seen him do. But they hesitate, and Jesus assures them he won't leave them comfortless. God will send another comforter to guide and help them as they move out to bring ministry. This comforter, the Holy Ghost, will remind them of what Jesus has said. End with the scripture:

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

—John 14:27

Talk about how the disciples might have felt in that situation. Compare it to examples in the lives of the campers. Someone you have known, lived with, spent time with, and really care about tells you they are going away. You don't know where they are going or when you will see them again. What feelings would be present? What fears would you have?

Jesus knew what the Holy Spirit would be like. How did he try to help the disciples understand the characteristics and qualities of the Holy Spirit? How do you understand the Spirit? How has it been explained to you? What examples have you heard from the testimonies of others? What experiences have you had with the Spirit in your life?

2. It can be challenging to try to explain something you can't see or touch to another person. The Holy Spirit can be felt,

but not touched. It can be perceived, but not seen. And yet anyone who has ever experienced the Holy Spirit cannot deny it.

Play the following game to find out what it is like to explain something to someone who can't see or feel it. Place objects familiar to the campers in a bag. Place the bag inside an open cardboard box turned on its side, large enough to hold the bag and object without being seen by the group. Divide into teams. One person comes up and removes an object from the bag by touch only. The object is placed in view inside the box so only the person can see it. The person then describes the object one step at a time. After each description, the team members agree on an answer. The quicker the object is identified, the better. Demonstrate how to describe the object to get the game started. "It's blue. It's larger than a CD. It's something to wear. It keeps the sun out of your eyes." (Cap) When the game is finished, talk about the challenges. Which was more difficult—trying to describe the object simply but thoroughly or trying to see what was being described from the word pictures? How would the people in Jesus' time have had the same problem with the Holy Spirit? The gospel writers used symbols to help explain the unexplainable. Look at the statement, "The Holy Spirit descended like a dove to rest on Jesus after his baptism." Was the Holy Spirit in the form of a bird? What might the writer have been seeing? Look at the statement, "The Holy Spirit rested on the disciples like tongues of fire." Find and read the story in Acts 2:1-18. What might the experience have been like for those present? Why did the writer use phrases like "rushing mighty wind" and "cloven tongues of fire"? How would you have described the scene? Close with a song about the Holy Spirit.

Questions for Chats

1. What does the Holy Spirit mean to you?
2. What would you like the Holy Spirit to do for you?
3. How would you explain the Holy Spirit to someone else?

Evening Activity

Part of learning how the Spirit works is learning to listen for the still, small voice. Plan a game that requires good listening skills as well as processing information stored in the brain. Possibilities include:

Name That Tune using songs the campers are familiar with. Categories could include popular songs, camp songs, or hymns/.

Name That Sound using a variety of objects to make sounds the players identify.

Match Game where teams try to match the answer written by one of their players. Points are given for matches only. Example: Name a disciple who was a fisherman or name a member of the trinity.

Campfire Ideas

Plan a closing campfire that will meet the needs of the campers at this point. What you choose will depend on the spiritual level they have come to. Use music that is familiar and enjoyed by all. *Spirit of the Living God* would be especially nice. Plan for shared testimonies from those who are willing to talk about the Holy Spirit in their lives. Invite the presence of the Spirit to be a part of the experience. Choose ways to guide the campers to encounters with the still small voice within them. Take plenty of time for this closing. Don't rush the experience.

Cabin Devotions

Prepare a worship center with candles. Sing something peaceful to quiet the group. Light the candles and turn off the

light. Ask them to watch the candle flames. Gently fan the air near the flames to move them. Ask the campers what they observed. No one sees the wind, but we see the results of the movement of the wind. No one sees the Spirit, but we see the results of the work of the Spirit in our lives. Like the air around us, the Spirit is always present. We may not feel the Spirit until it moves in our lives.

Ask the campers to think about times when they have listened to the still small voice that guides them in their choices. The Spirit is not pushy. The Spirit is gentle. Take turns offering prayers of appreciation for the Spirit in our lives.