Junior Soldiers

Unit 1 : Lesson 3

The Whole Holy Spirit

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand how the Holy Spirit gives special gifts and abilities to <u>ALL</u> believers and how we, as Junior Soldiers, can use those gifts to strengthen our local corps and live God's way.

God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. ...God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–25

Consider & Prepare

Read:

John 15:26–27
John 16:5–15
Galatians 5:22–26
Ephesians 1:15–18

The Holy Spirit is promised to all who follow Jesus. Your Junior Soldiers have asked Christ to be their Saviour and are on the journey of becoming more spiritually-aware people. Pray to the Holy Spirit that He will interact and lead the discussion and give knowledge to both you and the Junior Soldier during the lesson.

Although young, our Junior Soldiers have many spiritual gifts that need to be nurtured and used. Arrange with other ministry leaders to take on some of the Junior Soldiers as a "work experience" type scenario. As the Junior Soldiers get a look into ministry in their gifted areas they will develop a desire to mature those gifts and abilities and step up into leadership roles within the corps.

It's also worth finding out what your spiritual gifts are before you start this lesson. There are many good surveys around to help with this. Probably the most comprehensive and easiest is the one "Finding your Spiritual Gifts" updated and expanded by C. Peter Wagner. Koorong stock these for only $5.95 each and you can order online if you don't have a Koorong bookseller nearby (www.koorong.com).

The Holy Spirit is alive and wants to be active in every person's life - it is not dependent on age or experience. There is a quote that says, "There is no junior Holy Spirit". In this lesson we will look at how the Holy Spirit gives special gifts and abilities to all believers and how we as Junior Soldiers can use those gifts to edify and strengthen our local corps.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Gather a variety of maze puzzles and pens
- Chairs, tables and blindfolds

For 'The Main Thing'

- 3 boxes gift-wrapped with big bows on top
- 3 cardboard pieces with the words "HELPER", "POWER" and "DOCTRINE 3" written on them (inside the boxes above)
- Printed copies of John 14: 15–26
- A variety of coloured highlighters

For 'Tying In'

- Bibles
- Butchers paper, pens, textas, bright coloured sticky notes etc.

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off a Home & Beyond card for each child.

Connecting In

Navigating the maze ...

- Gather together a bunch of maze puzzles, you will find plenty on the internet or you could use some *Kidzone*s that you have or you could purchase a book with maze puzzles in it.
- Have a variety of maze puzzles out on the table for the children to choose from
- Let the children complete a couple of puzzles before making the link and moving on to the next section.
- **Link:** Explain to the Junior Soldiers how, in life, it is hard to know where to go, what to do and how to live. This is why the Holy Spirit was sent to guide us through life - so that we can live God's way and then join him in heaven.

Blind man's path ...

- If numbers permit, divide the group into two smaller groups.
- Create a maze with chairs, tables, etc.
- Have each group choose one child, blindfold the chosen child and place them at one end of the maze.
- Choose a second child from each group to act as the "guide" for the blindfolded person and place them at the opposite end of the maze.
- Have the other children stand along the sides of the maze. Then ask the children on the sides to start yelling and making noise while the blindfolded children try to make their way through the maze with their "guide" standing at the far end yelling out directions, e.g. "left 2 steps", "right 4 steps", "stop", "turn around", etc.
- When both children make it through and if time permits, choose four more participants and do it all over again.
- At the end of the games ask the Junior Soldiers:
    - What was hard about that game for the blindfolded person and for the guides?
    - Ask the blindfolded person, 'How did you feel? Did it help to have a guide? Why or why not?'
- **Link:** Explain to the Junior Soldiers how, in life, it is hard to know where to go, what to do and how to live. This is why the Holy Spirit was sent to guide us through life - so that we can live God's way and then join him in heaven.

The Main Thing

Holy Spirit ...

To gain an understanding of how the Holy Spirit interacts with us today we first need to see the context in which the Spirit came to us from God.

→ Jesus had been with his disciples for three years and they were saddened when he predicted his betrayal and death. He also told of his resurrectionandt he helper that God would give those who believe in His Son, Jesus. This helper is the Holy Spirit.

- Ask a Junior Soldier to open gift box number 1 with the word “POWER” in it; take the word out and display it.
- Read the passage from John 14: 15–26.
  - → What conditions does Jesus tell us that God places on sending His Spirit?
  - → In this passage, who asks the Father to send the Holy Spirit?
- Ask another Junior Soldier to open gift box number 2 with the word “HELPER” in it; take it out and display it.
- Re-read the passage nothing the verses where Jesus makes these statements about the Holy Spirit.
- (You could also print this out for each of the children and, when you come to these statements, the children could highlight them in different colours.)
  - → The Holy Spirit will help you (v16)
  - → The Spirit will always be with you (v16)
  - → The Spirit will show you what is true (v17)
  - → The Spirit is a gift only for believers (v17)
  - → Believers know the Spirit (v17)
  - → The Spirit lives in the believers (v17)
  - → The Father sends the Spirit (v26)
  - → The Spirit comes to take Jesus’ place (v26)
  - → The Spirit will teach you (v26)
  - → The Spirit will remind you of what Jesus taught (v26)
- Ask another Junior Soldier to open gift box number 3 with the words “DOCTRINE 3” in it; take it out and display it.
- Doctrine 3 states:
  - → We believe that there are three persons in the God-head; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost (Spirit), undivided in essence and co-equal in power and in glory.
  - → (Visual images can be used here to explain the links between the God-head, e.g. water/ice/steam, father/son/brother, a three-leaf clover, or a three-legged stool.)

Reinforce to the Junior Soldiers that just as God (the Father) and Jesus (the Son) want the very best for us, so, too, does the Holy Spirit. Our ‘three-in-one’ God loves us, helps us and guides us. We are each unique and have our own gifts and talents, but these can be used best when we use them in a way that pleases God. To know how to do this, we have to learn to rely on the guidance of God’s Spirit in our lives. If we come near to God, he will come near to us (James 4:8).

Tying In

What's my spiritual gift?

Many people go through life as a Christian and don't realise that we have all been given gifts and abilities by the Holy Spirit to use in our life, including in our church community. Jesus taught his disciples that when he would leave them he would be replaced by the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit would give gifts and abilities to all believers to help them live a holy lifestyle - pure in all that we think, say and do (a life that is clean in thought, word and deed).

There are many spiritual gifts and we can find them in a variety of passages in the Bible. Let's look at a few now, together.

- Divide the group into two
- Give each group a large sheet of butchers paper, a Bible, textas, pens and some bright, square sticky notes
- Write on the sticky notes all the gifts that you find in the following passages
- Read Romans 12:6–8, 1 Corinthians 12:8–10 and Ephesians 4:11.
- Ask if the kids know any other gifts they have seen people use to glorify God and live his way.
- You may want to list some that are found in the Old Testament, such as:
  - → craftsmanship
  - → leadership
  - → strength
- Compare the lists and see if there are any that only one group thought of.

Questions:

- → Have you seen any of these gifts being used? Where? How? By whom?
- → Which gifts do you think the Holy Spirit has given you? Why?
- → What gifts do you think the Holy Spirit has given … (the person on your right)? Why?
- → What gifts do you think the Holy Spirit has given your leaders? Why? (Share your spiritual gifts with the kids.)
- → How do these help us to live God's way?

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- Pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to give wisdom to you and the Junior Soldiers to show what your gifts are.

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

- With your Big Bud talk about some of the ways that they use their spiritual gifts to serve God in their everyday life including some of the things that they might do at church.
- Ask to help your Big Bud in one of their areas of ministry at church, or get them to arrange for you to help in another area in the church.
- Share some of the ways that you enjoy living God's way at home.

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