



WHO IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD?

SECTION I. Introduction

- A. When people in your country have a decision to make, what kind of moral or spiritual principles do they use as a guide?

- B. How and where do they learn these principles?

- C. Do most of the people in your country agree on these principles?

SECTION II. The *Spirit of God* is talked about in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible says that the *Spirit of God* was present with God's people during Old Testament times and later times.

- A. Read Genesis 1:1-2. As the creation of the universe began, where was God's Spirit?

- B. The book of Numbers tells the story of the Israelites and their leader Moses while the Israelites were in the desert. Read Numbers 11:13-17. Here Moses is talking to God.

1. What were the people asking Moses to do and how did Moses feel about this?
2. What was God's solution to the problem?
3. Why weren't the 70 leaders helping Moses before this?
4. What might Moses' experience teach us about how to face any problems and frustrations that we have?

B. In the Book of Nehemiah, the prophet Nehemiah also tells about the Israelites while they were in the desert. Read Nehemiah 9:20-21.

1. How does Nehemiah say that God helped the Israelites while they were in the desert?
2. What was it that God's Spirit did for the Israelites?
3. What evidence do you see in your life that the Spirit still does this?

C. Read Zechariah 4:6.

1. What does this verse say that humans usually think will help them to succeed in whatever they are doing?

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2. What does God say will bring success?
3. If we believe that the Spirit of God provides our *power*, how does that change how we approach problems in our lives?

D. On the basis of the four Old Testament verses above:

1. What are four things we know about the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit)?
2. When in your life have you especially experienced the power of the Holy Spirit?

SECTION III. The New Testament speaks in many places about the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. As Jesus began his time of public ministry, the Holy Spirit was present with Him.

A. Read Luke 3:15-16 and 21-23.

1. How does John describe the difference between how he himself was baptizing and how *the One who is to come*, Jesus, would baptize?
2. Where was Jesus and what was He doing when the Holy Spirit visibly came down upon Him?
3. Who spoke from heaven at the same time?

B. After being baptized, Jesus spent some time by Himself in the desert. Read Luke 4:1.

1. What was Jesus filled with as He left the Jordan River?
2. According to this verse, what did the Holy Spirit do?

C. The Spirit remained with Jesus during His life on earth.
Read Luke 4:14-21.

1. What was Jesus doing while He was in Galilee?
2. What was the reaction of the people?
3. When Jesus read the lesson from the book of Isaiah, who did the lesson say was with Jesus?
4. What had God's Spirit anointed Jesus to do?

SECTION IV. Jesus talked often about the Holy Spirit and taught a great deal about Him.

A. Jesus taught the people about who the Spirit is and what the Spirit does.

1. Read John 15:26.
 - a. Where will the Spirit come from?
 - b. What is another name for this Spirit?

c. What will the Spirit do?

2. Read John 14:26. What will the Spirit do for us?

3. Read John 16:8.

a. What three things does Jesus say that the Spirit will do?

b. What are some ways the Holy Spirit uses to convict us of our sin?

4. How do you think the Spirit can show us what has God's approval?

B. The Holy Spirit was sent to us after Jesus returned to His Father in heaven. The Spirit is here to guide us, lead us and teach us.

1. Are there some ways that we can be more open to the power of the Spirit in our lives?

2. Are there some ways that we may be refusing to listen to the Spirit's guidance in our everyday lives?