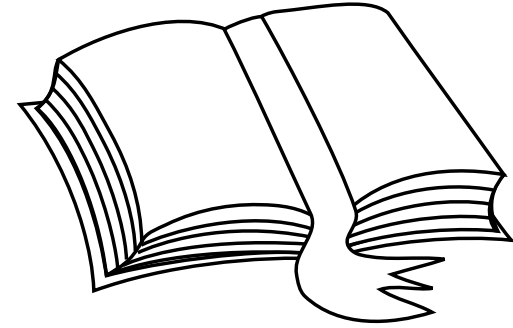


NOTES



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?

SECTION III.

A. You may want to mention that Jesus grew up quietly for 30 years, and there is not much known about His life between the age of twelve and the beginning of His public ministry at the age of 30. When He was 30 He began to travel around to teach and preach publicly.

Although the emphasis here is not on the Trinity, it is probably necessary to say that Christians believe that there are three persons within one God—the Father; the Son, Jesus; and the Holy Spirit. If people ask how this is possible, it may suffice to say that not even Christians fully understand this mystery, but the Bible says that it is true and so we accept it as truth.

SECTION IV.

A. 3. b. Some possible answers might include:

1. Our own consciences as we pray.
2. Bible passages as we read them.
3. Other people, especially other Christians, who confront us about our sin.
4. Christian pastors and teachers speaking to us and teaching us.

LEADERS' NOTES

SECTION I.

This introduction allows internationals to consider how they make decisions. On what do they base their choices? Many people never really think about how they decide what to do. What is the moral and ethical basis for the decisions that they make? What guides them? The Bible clearly says that the Holy Spirit will lead us, guide us and teach us. We also are told to consider God's Word—the Bible. Christians have a firm basis for decision making in God's Word.

SECTION II.

B. Talk briefly about God rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and explain that they journeyed through the desert on their way to the Promised Land. Moses was their leader, and they were always demanding things from him.

B. 3 God had not put His Spirit upon the 70 Elders before this time and thus they did not help Moses in the same way.

C. 3. If there are no Christians in the group, you may have to answer this question yourself or simply skip it.

D. Christians look to God in all areas of their lives. Jesus says in John 15:5 that we can produce no fruit without Him. We can do nothing. God provides us with all things and without Him we are powerless. The Bible has many examples of people trusting in their own power and failing, and many others when the impossible was achieved because of the power of God.

E. The four verses include the ideas that:

1. The Spirit of God was present at creation. He is God because nothing else existed. This is reinforced in the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove when all three Persons in the Trinity were present at the same time during the baptism of Jesus.
2. God sends His Spirit to us, giving us power to make decisions and do the work He wants us to do.
3. God's Spirit teaches us and leads us.
4. It is God's Spirit who gives us power. We do not succeed or do well because of our own power or knowledge.

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?

restore make right, bring back to original condition

blind not able to see

shattered broken suddenly into many pieces

favor God's approval

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?

John 15:26

truth fact, reality

declare to announce publicly

John 14:26

remind to cause to remember

John 16:8

convict to prove guilty

approval the act of thinking (and often saying) that what was done was good, or that a person is thought of favorably

convince cause someone to believe

judge to form an opinion about whether some thing is right or wrong

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?

Luke 4:1

Jordan River the river where Jesus was baptized

Luke 4:14-21

Galilee country which formed the northern part of the Kingdom of Israel

power force, strength

surrounding everything around

synagogues churches of Jewish people

praise to offer thanks and honor, warm approval, admiration

Nazareth the town where Jesus grew up

brought up place where he had grown up, been raised

worship time to honor God

attendant person who helps with the worship service

prophet person through whom God spoke His message to the people on earth.

anointed to set apart

announce to make known publicly

forgiveness sins are gone

prisoners being held captive, cannot leave

sin a thought, word or action that is against God's will

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?

**WHO IS THE SPIRIT OF GOD?
VOCABULARY**

Genesis 1:1-2

created	made something new from nothing
heaven	the place where God, all His holy angels and saints (believers in Jesus Christ) live
formless	without shape
Spirit of God	Holy Spirit, third person of the triune God
hovering	floating

Numbers 11:13-17

take care of	care for, watch over
treat	act towards
face (verb)	deal with, handle
officers	authorities
tent of meeting	movable meeting room

Nehemiah 9:20-21

manna	food God provided to the Israelites
keep to oneself	to not share
quench	get rid of thirst
thirst	want and need something to drink

provide	to give what they need
wear out	to use something until it is unusable.

Zechariah 4:6

Zerubbabel	the leader of the Jews who returned from captivity in Babylon
might	power or strength
Lord of Armies	God

Luke 3:15-16, 21-23

rising	increasing, getting bigger
Messiah	Jesus, promised savior of the world
baptize	to admit into the Christian faith by a ceremony of purification (washing); water and the Word of God are used
worthy	deserving
sandal straps	shoe strings for sandals to keep them on your feet
heaven	place where God is
form	shape, appearance
dove	a bird, usually white—Often this bird is used as a peace symbol. Here the dove was the Holy Spirit of God descending upon Jesus in a visible form
ministry	preaching and teaching