

Lesson 37

Question

How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Memory Verse

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:17-18

Answer - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin, and he enables us to pray and to understand God's Word.

Main Idea

God the Holy Spirit is at work in his people

Lesson Outline

Open in prayer

Introduction: You will need a whiteboard divided into three sections. Section 1 should have "The Role of a Teacher" written at the top; section 2 should have "The Role of a Parent" written at the top; and section 3 should have "The Role of a Soccer Coach" written at the top. Write the following on individual slips of paper:

Teaching children to read

Organizing school events

Teaching children how to behave in the classroom

Planning lessons

Training players

Developing new ball skills

Teaching team members how to be good sports

Giving pointers on how to score

Planning match tactics

Providing pregame nutritional advice

Doing the laundry

Cooking meals

Teaching children to obey

Comforting children when they have a bad dream

Keeping the family safe

Lay out the fifteen different pieces of paper and invite the children to stick them on the whiteboard (using Sticky Tack) in one of the three sections. Encourage the children to consider which action is consistent with the role of a parent, teacher, or soccer coach. The aim of this activity is to help the children understand the role and responsibilities that come with a job title. Introduce Question 37: "How does the Holy Spirit help us?"

Explain to the children that this lesson will help them understand more about the role of God the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian.

Activity: The Bible references below speak of the role of the Holy Spirit. Stick the Bible references up around the room. Do not include the job titles.

John 14:16 (helper)

John 14:27 (giver of peace)

John 15:26 (helper and teacher)

John 16:7-8 (helper and convictor of sin)

John 16:13 (teacher of truth)

Romans 8:11 (giver of life)

Romans 8:26 (helper in prayer)

Divide the children into small groups and assign each group one or two verses. Give each group a Bible. Tell the children that they need to figure out the role or job description for the Holy Spirit by looking up their Bible verses and figuring out what they say about the role of the Holy Spirit. Once the children have had sufficient time to investigate their verses, ask them to share what they've discovered about the Holy Spirit. Write a job description list for the Holy Spirit on the whiteboard. Ask the children if anything surprised them or confused them. Assure them that the teaching time will bring more clarity.

Lesson: Have Q37 illustrations of Roman Armor (RB) ready.

Begin the teaching time by asking for God's help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Remind the children that God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and that he has a vital role in bringing people to faith in God and also in helping God's people to live for him in the world. The Holy Spirit indwells Christian believers the moment they put their trust in Jesus, and from that time onward he is at work in Christians, helping them to understand more about Jesus and to become more like Jesus. Highlight for the children all the different things detailed on the Holy Spirit's job description (which they listed when they looked up the Bible references) to emphasize how significant he is for Christians. Particularly remind the children that the Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin, helps Christians to pray, and helps them understand the Bible.

Read Ephesians 6:10—20. Provide Bibles for the children to read along. Hold up the illustrations of Roman armor while you read.

Explain to the children that Paul is writing to the Christians in Ephesus and is preparing them to contend for Jesus in the world. He uses the imagery of Roman armor to help them understand how to equip themselves for war against the Devil, who works to keep people away from Jesus. Paul writes about putting on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of peace, the shield of faith, and the helmet of salvation. Paul also speaks about taking up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; this is the only weapon Paul identifies as necessary for facing the battle.

Ask the children what a sword is capable of. It can do real damage; it can pierce and wound and even kill. Ask the children what they think Paul is saying by describing the Bible as the sword of the Spirit.

Explain to the children that God describes his Word as a sword (Heb. 4:12). God also declares that his Word was written down by men inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:20—21). So, the sword of the Spirit comes from God.

God's Word protects Christians from spiritual attack as they study it and believe God's promises. It cuts away the truth from the lies told by the world.

Paul also commands the Ephesian Christians to pray in the Spirit. This is a great reminder that the Holy Spirit is an essential component of a Christian's prayer life. Explain to the children that to pray in the Spirit means to pray in a way that is consistent with God's Word. Ask the children to think of ways people might pray that are not consistent with God's Word. Ask them to give examples of ways to pray in line with God's Word. Remind the children that the Holy Spirit lives in each Christian and that he also prays for each Christian (Rom. 8:26).

Explain to the children that God knew his people would struggle with prayer, so he didn't leave his people without help. He sent the Holy Spirit to teach, encourage, and expose the hearts and minds of Christians. He leads, instructs, and inspires the prayers of Christians.

Recite: Help children memorize this week's verse, question and answer.