



Primary Collective Worship Resources

How the Holy Spirit helps us

Step 1: We gather

Gather the children and begin your session by introducing some music to create the mood. This session is about the Holy Spirit, so you might want to use the refrain to “Spirit of the Living God” by Daniel Iverson.

Suggest that the children think about what it feels like to sit and let snow fall on them.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Step 2: What the Bible says

You now move to the Sacred Place for the Scripture-based part of the session. When they have settled, you might listen to or sing the refrain to “Spirit of the living God” again as a way of preparing to listen to Scripture.

Now, invite the children, if they want to participate, to copy you as you trace the sign of the cross on yourself with your thumb, and pray:

God be in my mind (sign the forehead)
God be on my lips (sign the lips)
And God be in my heart (sign the chest).

Explain to the children that Christians believe that God speaks to them through the words of the Bible and they show this by treating it with great reverence.

The reader picks up the Bible and, holding it up high, reads a simplified version of the reading from the Gospel of John 14:23-26:

Those who love me will obey my words, and, as I have said,
my Father will love them – and he is the one who sent me.
I am telling you this while I am still here
but my Father will send you the Holy Spirit,
who will teach you everything you need to know,
and will remind you of everything I taught you.

Tell the children a little bit about the passage they have just heard. Jesus was speaking to his twelve disciples not long before he died, and he was preparing them for what it would be like after he was gone. Catholics understand this passage to mean that Jesus is telling people that God loves them and that his Holy Spirit will teach them what they need to know.

Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit inspires people to do good things; to offer helping hands to those they live with, study with, pray with and meet.

When people offer helping hands under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, their hands are *holy* hands. Catholics believe that the Holy Spirit will help people who ask for help, because Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would always be with people and Jesus keeps his promises.

You might consider bringing this part of the session to a close by singing or listening to the first part of Carey Landry’s “Holy hands”.

These are holy hands. God’s given us holy hands.
God works through our hands and so our hands are holy.
These are holy hands. God’s given us holy hands.
God works through our hands and so our hands are holy.
These are holy hands. God’s given us holy hands.
God is present here and so has crowned us holy.



Step 3: Our life experience

The focus in this session is on how the Holy Spirit helps people.

The children are familiar with the concept of having “helping hands” so you might make a poster of their hands using finger paints.

Invite each of them to put their hand print on a sheet of A4 paper.

As they are doing this, you might ask them to think about all the things they can do with their hands to be helpful.

Let this part of the session be relaxed and fun.

Guide the conversation towards all the gifts they have, that allow them to be helpful.

Don't forget to include a sense of humour, a smile to cheer others up, a listening ear. And how their hands can help their friends by:

- giving a comforting pat on the back when they are upset
- shaking hands with a newcomer at school to make them feel welcome.

There are so many ways our hands help. (While the children wash their hands, the poster will have a chance to dry a little.)

Step 4: How God's word affects our lives

Hopefully, the children will have enjoyed their finger painting activity.

You might ask the children to write on the image of hands on the activity sheet the gifts that people could get from the Holy Spirit; and how the Holy Spirit will help them if they ask for it:

- Will they help at home, by picking up their toys and tidying up after themselves?
- Will they help their friends and siblings when they are having trouble doing something?
- Will they cheer their friends and family up when they are sad?
- Will they think of ways to celebrate with their friends and family when there is a special occasion, like a birthday?
- Will they visit their elderly relatives and tell them about what they are doing?
- Will they smile at people?
- Will they be kind, even when they don't want to be?
- What other ideas might the Holy Spirit give them?



Activity Sheet: How the Holy Spirit helps us

Opening song

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Now, trace the sign of the cross on yourself with your thumb as we pray:

God be in my mind (sign the forehead)
God be on my lips (sign the lips)
And God be in my heart (sign the chest).

A reading from the Gospel of John 14:23-26:

Those who love me will obey my words, and, as I have said,
my Father will love them – and he is the one who sent me.
I am telling you this while I am still here
but my Father will send you the Holy Spirit,
who will teach you everything you need to know,
and will remind you of everything I taught you.

Closing song

These are holy hands. God's given us holy hands.
God works through our hands and so our hands are holy.
These are holy hands. God's given us holy hands.
God works through our hands and so our hands are holy.
These are holy hands. God's given us holy hands.
God is present here and so has crowned us holy.

