

# Gifts of the Spirit

## Kids Church - Lesson 1

Date:

Lesson 1: Who is the Holy Spirit?

### Learning Objective/s:

Children will learn that:

1. The Holy Spirit is God
2. The Holy Spirit is given to everyone who believes in Jesus
3. The Holy Spirit is given to help us help others

### Equipment:

- Weekly overview board and lesson timetable board (*see series overview for more info*)
- Speaker and device to play the song.
- Sponge and a bucket of water
- Memory verse cards
- Parent cards
- Small sponges, googly eyes, sequins, felt tips, glue, spirit sponge instruction card

### Parent Card:

At the end of the lesson, hand out the **parent cards** to the children so that they can continue reflecting on this weeks lesson at home.

### Welcome Time:

Before starting the lesson, sit the children down and ask each one about their week, not forgetting to share about yours too. This is a great chance to build relationship with each other and to teach the children important skills like communication and listening.

### Ice Breaker: Invisible Ball

Have all the children stand in a circle. Tell them you are holding an invisible ball, indicate this by pretending to hold something round in your hand. You then choose someone to catch your invisible ball. Throw your invisible ball to them. The child with the invisible ball now must choose someone else to throw it to. This is then repeated several times.

The game can be varied by telling the children the ball is now really heavy, really light, really big or really small.

### **Ice Breaker: Invisible Ball continued...**

**Learning point:** After you have finished playing, tell the children that today they are learning about the Holy Spirit.

**Learning point question:** What do you think the invisible ball game teaches us about the Holy Spirit?

Listen to the children's answers, then explain that like the ball in the game, the Holy Spirit is invisible, but even though it's invisible, the Holy Spirit is still God and He plays an important part in our lives as Christians.

[Original idea from Woodcraft Folk: The Invisible Ball](#)

### **Song: *Gifts of the Spirit*, whispering Hope**

Start by teaching the children the actions to the chorus. Then play the whole song so they can begin to learn it, encouraging them to join in with the chorus.

### **Object Lesson: The Sponge**

**Show the children a sponge.** Ask them to describe it, getting them to touch it and talk about its texture. Ask them what a sponge is used for and then ask them if, in its current state, it can be used for this purpose. Tell them that the sponge is dry and useless because it hasn't got any water in it so it can't be used to clean anything or anyone.

**Bring across a bucket of water.** Explain that the water represents the Holy Spirit. When someone says yes to Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes into their life and that person is filled like a sponge is filled with water.

**Put the sponge in the water.** Ask the children to describe the sponge now it is filled with water, and ask them if it can now be used to clean something. Explain to them that the sponge is full of water and ready to be used.

**Now squeeze the water out of the sponge.** Explain that the Holy Spirit can be released from us to help others just like this sponge can be squeezed to clean something that's dirty. The Holy Spirit might be invisible, but it fills us up and then helps us to help others.

[Original idea from Revival Fire For Kids: Saturated by the Holy Spirit Kidmin Free Object Lesson](#)

## Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:7

*'Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone.'*  
(ICB) 1 Corinthians 12:7

**Game:** Hide the memory verse words around the room. Get the children to find the words and put them in the correct order. If you have a large group of children, print the words twice in two different colours, then split the children into two groups, give them a colour to find, and see who completes the task first.

**Remembering:** Teach the children the Makaton sign for the SOMETHING. Get the children to say the memory verse out loud, doing the action for SOMETHING each time they say the word. Repeat this several times, telling the children they will be learning this memory verse over the next few weeks.

## Craft: Spirit Sponge

The children get a small sponge to decorate with googly eyes, sequins, felt tip pens, etc. Somewhere on their Spirit Sponge the children can glue on the instruction label saying - "Spirit Sponge: Fill me up so I'm ready to use"



## Prayer:

The children will line up with their Spirit Sponges. The leader will read out each line of the prayer and after each line the children will lift up their sponges and shout out "Fill me up so I'm ready to use." For extra movement, after each line, get the children to run to the other side of the room.

*Lord Jesus, Thank you for your Holy Spirit. (leader)*

*Fill me up so I'm ready to use. (children)*

*Even though you're invisible, I know you live inside my heart. (leader)*

*Fill me up so I'm ready to use. (children)*

*Thank you that you've washed me clean. (leader)*

*Fill me up so I'm ready to use. (children)*

*So now you can help me help others. (leader)*

### **Prayer: continued...**

Fill me up so I'm ready to use. (children)

Amen (leader)

Amen (children)

### **Thinking Time:**

Get the children to sit down. Tell them this is a time for them to think about what they have been taught today.

**Question:** How is the Holy Spirit like a sponge? (Give the children 30 seconds to think before asking for their answers).

Remind the children that earlier on they were taught that although the Holy Spirit is invisible, He is God, and He fills people who believe in Jesus. Then, like a sponge, He is squeezed out and helps us to help others. Ask them the next question but give them 30 seconds thinking time before getting their answers.

**Question:** How do you think the Holy Spirit helps us to help others?

**Next week:** Explain to the children that they will be discovering how the Holy Spirit helps us to help others over the next few weeks.

### **Optional Game: Duck, Duck, Goose**

Sit the children down in a circle and choose one child to be "it". This child will then walk around the outside of the circle, tapping each person's head and saying the word "duck".

When the child who is "it" chooses, they will tap the next head and say "goose" instead of "duck". The person who has been chosen to be the "goose" will stand up and chase "it" around the outside of the circle, trying to tag "it" before they make it around the circle and sit in the "goose's" empty space.

If "it" makes it back to the space first, the "goose" becomes the next "it". If the "goose" tags "it" they can sit back in the circle and the child who was "it" must try again.

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Something

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can be

**seen**

**in each**

**person,**

**to help**



seen

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person,

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seen

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person,

to help

**everyone.**

**1 Corinthians**

**12:7**

**everyone.**

**1 Corinthians**

**12:7**

**everyone.**

**1 Corinthians**

**12:7**

**Spirit Sponge:**

Fill me up so I'm ready  
to use!

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# Parent Card

## What I've learned in Kids Church today

Date:

Lesson 1: Who is the Holy Spirit?

### We're so glad your child has joined us today!

During our session we learned about the Holy Spirit being like a sponge.

We learned that when someone says yes to Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes into their life and is filled, just like a sponge is filled with water. The Holy Spirit is then released to help others, just like a sponge can be squeezed to clean something that's dirty.

### Key phrase for your child to know:

The Holy Spirit helps us to help others.

### The song we are practicing:

*Gifts of the Spirit*, by whispering Hope

### The memory verse we are learning:

*'Something from the Spirit can be seen in each person, to help everyone.'*  
(ICB) 1 Corinthians 12:7

### Talk together:

Over the next few weeks the children will be learning about the gifts of the spirit.

Can you, as a family, think of any ways the Holy Spirit helps us to help others?

Talk about your ideas at mealtimes, when going to school, or at bedtime.

### Pray together:

Lord Jesus,

Thank you for your Holy Spirit. Even though you're invisible, I know you are God and you live inside my heart. Thank you that you've washed me clean. Fill me up so I'm ready to use and help me to help others.

Amen

See you next time!