

POWERED UP

nine sessions on the Holy Spirit



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Lunchtime Group
Resources

POWERED UP

nine sessions on the Holy Spirit



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.

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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1 set of leader's notes for an outreach meeting.
- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- 8 student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passage (NIV) and discussion questions. Note there is no student page for Week 5, which is an outreach week.
- 2 colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and questions before the group meets.
- A variety of video clips and other resources are used in this series. All resources, including video clips, should be checked before the meeting to make sure they are appropriate for your group and there are not technical problems. The resources can be accessed from the Web Extras section of the CRU website:

www.crusaders.edu.au/ministry/resourcewebextras

- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting, so divide your time accordingly.
- Note that Week 5 (the outreach meeting) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs to be done.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29

POWERED UP

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Identity Crisis	John 14:16-17; 16:7 2 Corinthians 3:17; 13:14	The Holy Spirit is both a person and God.
2	Given by God	Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38-41	The Holy Spirit is given to Jesus' followers by the Father to do His work.
3	All About Jesus	John 15:26 and 16:8-15	An essential part of the Spirit's ministry is pointing to Jesus.
4	Into All Truth	2 Peter 1:20-21 1 Cor 2:9-16	The Holy Spirit is at work in both creation and understanding of Scripture.
5	The Verdict <i>Outreach Week</i>	John 16:7-11	The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and our need for Jesus.
6	Sealed and Delivered	Ephesians 1:13-14	The Holy Spirit's presence in our lives is a sign that our salvation is safe in Jesus.
7	Praying for Me	Romans 8:26-27	We can pray with confidence because the Holy Spirit is integral to our prayers.
8	Inside Out	Galatians 5:16-25	The Holy Spirit changes the Christian's character.
9	Giver of Gifts	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to Christians to build up the Church.

IDENTITY CRISIS

Who is the Holy Spirit?

John 14:16-17, 16:7; 2 Corinthians 3:17, 13:14

AIM

To help students discover that the Holy Spirit both a person and God.

PREPARE

- Pray as you prepare that God's will might be done and the students are drawn closer to Him.
- Read through the focus verses, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the passages.
- Photocopy the Week 1 Students' page for everyone. (p.22)
- Print enough copies of the Web Extras document 'Match the Attributes' for each group to have one set of name and attributes.
- Bring blank or scrap paper and pens for students to add new attributes.

FUN ACTIVITY

Match the Attributes

Divide your group into 2 - 4 smaller groups. Explain that each group will be given a list of attributes and the name of a person or thing. They must choose from the list of attributes to form the most accurate description of the person or thing. (eg Elvis would be "Famous", "Male" and "Dead" but not "Biblical" or "Woman"). More than one attribute can be chosen.

From the Web Extras document 'Match the Attributes' give each group a copy of the first name. Ask them to choose the attributes they think best describe the person or thing. Get each group to report back and compare what they've done and discuss why they made their choices. See if you can then reach a consensus on the attributes you would

give to each thing. Encourage passionate discussion so that the activity remains engaging.

Repeat with the next name on the list until the Holy Spirit is the last name remaining. Ask the group to make their lists of attributes and discuss why they chose what they did to describe the Holy Spirit.

Once each group has made their list of attributes for the Holy Spirit, explain: *There is often a lot of confusion over what the Holy Spirit is like. People don't know if the Holy Spirit is a thing or a person, real or made up, God, less than God, part of God or one of three Gods. While these things can be confusing, the Bible is quite clear. Over the next term we're going to examine who or what the Holy Spirit is and what the Bible has to say about it all. Right now we're going to look at some verses from the Bible to give us a better idea about the Holy Spirit.*

Give each group a copy of the relevant Bible verses and some blank paper. Tell them to match the verses with the attributes listed. If they find a verse that describes an attribute which they don't have on their list, encourage them to add it to the list. If they have a verse which contradicts something on the list tell them to remove the attribute from the list.

Once this is done, in groups have a discussion about what they have noticed about their list.

DISCUSS

1

What do the list of attributes and the matching verses teach you about the Holy Spirit?

Some of the things that should become clear to the group are that the Holy Spirit is:

God - 2 Cor 3:17 and 13:14

A Person - John 14:16-17, 16:7¹

¹ It is important to note that the Holy Spirit is given a male personal pronoun. This indicates the Holy Spirit's personal nature. He is a "He" not and "it".



Eternal - Gen 1:1-2, Heb 9:14
Powerful - Luke 1:35
Part of the Trinity - 2 Cor 13:14
A possessor of feelings - Eph 4:30

2 Why is it important that the Holy Spirit is a person (though not a human)?

Knowing that the Holy Spirit is a person means that God has not just given us a force, good feelings, or an impersonal power. Instead God has given us a person to live in, and empower us. He is a person who deeply cares about, and loves us. He is able to be in relationship with us and help us to relate to God. The Holy Spirit can be trusted, called upon, and turned to in times of need. God has not left us alone. This is a great comfort.

The personhood of the Spirit also means that the Holy Spirit, because He is a person, must be loved, treated with respect, and honoured. He is not given just to be used for our own personal gain, but to facilitate the eternal relationship between God and humanity, made possible by the work of Jesus at the cross.

3 Why is it important that the Holy Spirit is God?

As the Holy Spirit is God, it means that God has chosen to live inside us. He has not given us some second rate force – God has given us Himself! The power that is available to Christians is exactly the same power that was available to Jesus and raised Him from the dead (Rom 1:4; Eph 1:18-20). God will never leave us; He is with us by the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is God, we don't just know about God, we can know God!

The truth that the Holy Spirit is God also means that the Holy Spirit is as worthy of our obedience and worship as the Father and the Son. He was not

created, but has been around since the beginning of time. The same Holy Spirit you see at work in the Old Testament is the same Holy Spirit you see at work in the New Testament and is the same Holy Spirit who lives in Christians today.

4 How can knowing that the Holy Spirit is both a person and God change how you live?

There are many ways this knowledge can change how you live. Let your group make suggestions. Some ideas might be:

- **Prayer** - It can help us pray with confidence because we know God hears.
- **Faith** - It can help us live confidently according to God's standards because we know God lives in us strengthening us and our faith.
- **Comfort** - It can comfort us to know that we are not alone; God is with us wherever we are, and He knows us and loves us, here and now.
- **Assurance** - It can help us to know that we really are saved by the work of Jesus, because God is with us now.
- **Truth** - Having God with us in His Spirit can help us to read and understand the Bible for ourselves.

PRAY

Spend some time in prayer thanking God that He gave us His Spirit who strengthens, guides, and loves us.