

Chapter
6

Discover!
Finding Faith in Life

The Spirit Fills Us

Scripture Focus: Acts of the Apostles 1:4–5, 8

Lesson Goals

- to explain that the Holy Spirit is a gift of God's love to us
- to identify that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in Confirmation
- to recall that Confirmation is one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation into the Church

Parent Preview

- Review the Scripture on page 1709 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 1:4–5, 8).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

Get Ready! (10 minutes)

Pray the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.

Discuss with your child the last gift she or he received and how your child used it.

Tell your child that today's lesson explores an important gift from God: the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Dive In! (20 minutes)

Read the Scripture on page 1709 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Acts 1:4–5, 8).

Invite your child to answer the numbered questions on page 2 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.

Answers: 1. Do not leave Jerusalem and wait for the gift I told you about. 2. Jesus' Father (God the Father), 3. the Holy Spirit, 4. power, 5. Be witnesses for Jesus.

Discuss together the questions in the blue box on page 2 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.

Read the Understand It! and Live It! sections on page 1 of the chapter 6 activity booklet. Invite your child to retell the Scripture passage in her or his own words.



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Discover! (20 minutes)

Read with your child the article “The Holy Spirit, God’s Gift to Us” on the third page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words. Use the review questions to check your child’s understanding.

Invite your child to complete the activity on the top part of page 3 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
Answers will vary.

Optional: If you have additional time, you may ask your child to color the Scripture verse on page 2 of the activity booklet or to answer the journal question in the box at the bottom of page 3.

Go! (10 minutes)

Invite your child to share one thing he or she learned from today’s lesson.

Choose one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet to complete together during the next week.

Invite your child to pick a mission strip from the hat or bowl you have prepared.

Ask your child to locate in the mission booklet the challenge that was selected and to mark it with a bookmark or sticky note. Encourage your child to complete the mission during the coming week.

Conclude by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.





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The Holy Spirit, God's Gift to Us

What is your favorite fruit? You might think of apples, oranges, grapes, or bananas. A fruit is any plant growth that carries the seeds of that plant. In other words, the fruit carries the life of the plant into the world and into the future.

The reading for today explains that the Holy Spirit is the gift of God's love to us. Jesus promised this gift so that we could be his witnesses. To help us, the Holy Spirit forms in us the **fruits of the Spirit**. In this case, a *fruit* is the effect we gain from a particular activity. The fruits of the Spirit are qualities that help us become better people who live like Jesus and carry his message into the world.

In his Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul names these fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

humility, and self-control. The Church's Tradition adds three more fruits: generosity, modesty, and chastity.

Just as apples grow on trees, we can see the fruits of the Spirit in great people of the faith, such as **saints** and **martyrs**. But all of us gain the fruits of the Spirit by being close to the Holy Spirit and letting him work in us. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in Confirmation, one of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. Confirmation makes us full members of Christ's Body, the Church.

Look again at the list of fruits of the Spirit. Which one do you struggle with, and why? Pray to ask God to strengthen that fruit in you today.

Key Words

fruits of the Spirit Qualities that help us go forward to become better people and to live more like Jesus; the fruits include love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, self-control, generosity, modesty, and chastity.

martyrs Those who die for the faith.

saints Baptized people who live holy lives following Christ; some are officially recognized by the Church.

We Know and Live Our Faith

The following article in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource corresponds to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "The Sacrament of Confirmation," page 30

If you have additional time, read the selection together, and ask some questions to check your child's understanding.

Review

1. Why did God give us the gift of the Holy Spirit?
2. What is a Fruit of the Spirit?
3. What happens during Confirmation?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. Because he loves us; to empower us to be witnesses of Jesus. 2. A quality that the Holy Spirit gives us and forms in us to help us be better people. 3. The Holy Spirit is strengthened in us.

