



Helping Kids Understand the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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The night grew darker and the Kids Church planning meeting was just about wrapping up when over all of the other voices one rose to the top, and in a great outcry blurted, "Please, don't make me be the one to teach the Holy Spirit lesson next month...I can barely understand it myself!!"

Unfortunately, this can often be the case in our children's settings at church and in our homes. There are many other Bible stories and spiritual concepts we would rather spend time covering, because they are easier taught and understood. We must not neglect, however, this important component of our faith. But how can we teach it at a level that children will understand and that we can explain?

Let's look at it this way...

Kids love to play house! From the time they are walking, whether boy or girl, they are rearranging household items, attaching clothespins to blankets and making fort-like homes to hang out in. Inevitably, this element of "fun" eventually has to include a time of clean-up by those involved, or they may find themselves tripping over the creation!

House Cleaning vs. House Furnishing

Both house cleaning and house furnishing are concepts

which even young children become familiar with rather quickly. Likewise, in teaching children about the Holy Spirit, He can be easily understood as a "House Cleaner" and a "House Furnisher." You see, at salvation the Holy Spirit comes in and cleans house. He dusts away the filth of the past. He vacuums up the little crumbs that try to hide under the carpet. He even disinfects the dirtiest of...mouths! He wants the house which He is going to live in to be as clean as



can be—in fact, spotless! Jesus enjoys living in a clean house!

Most children will get the picture thus far. Once this understanding is there, along with the personal experience of accepting Jesus Christ into their house (life), we can begin to take the next step as a spiritual teacher.

Moving In

Consider what happens to a

house when someone moves in. It goes from being a house to becoming a home as furniture is put in place, walls are decorated, and pictures are hung. Also carried into the house are things which people need in order to function on a daily basis...appliances, tools, and yes, even food. It is at this point that a person can begin to live comfortably.

This is just like the Holy Spirit. He does, in fact, reside in us at salvation, but it is not until we receive His baptism (or house furnishing) that we really have the tools required for daily living. The baptism of the Holy Spirit enables believers, young and old, to be powerful and effective children of God.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

In order for our children, and us as their spiritual teachers, to fully understand who the Holy Spirit is and why we need Him in our lives, we must understand and appreciate His character qualities:

Teacher, Helper

✦ The Holy Spirit teaches us more about Jesus. In fact, He teaches us all things. He is our Helper because He is our Teacher (John 14:16,17;15:26).

Praise Giver

✦ The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus as we give praise to God (Acts 2:11, 2:47, 10:46, 16:14).

Bible Instructor

✦ The Holy Spirit gives us a deeper love for the Word of God. He helps us to understand the Bible better and who Jesus is in our lives (Eph. 1:17-23).

Evangelist

✦ The Holy Spirit gives us a greater desire to reach the unsaved with the gospel by sharing or preaching about Jesus (Acts 2:14-41; 3:31; 4:19-20; 5:29-33; 6:6-8; 11:22-24; 19:6; 26:28,29).

Love Giver

✦ The Holy Spirit pours out God's love in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). This love is demonstrated in how we treat one another.

Prayer Helper

✦ In our quiet times (devotions), the Holy Spirit helps us in prayer (Acts 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4; 10:9). He prays through us as we speak in our heavenly language (Jude 20, Eph 6:18; 1 Cor. 12:4-11). When we don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us.

Power Source

✦ The Holy Spirit gives us greater power to witness (Acts 2:41; 4:31-33; John 15:26,27; 1 Cor. 2:4,5). He gives us courage and boldness to stand up for Jesus and tell others about Him.

Our children need to realize that they need the Holy Spirit to help them live the Christian life.

The Holy Spirit will help them make the right decisions in life and will give them the ability to live a life that pleases God. The Holy Spirit will also help them to remember the Bible verses they have learned so they will know how God wants them to live.

Cleaner / Furnisher

Our children must realize that *both* aspects of the Holy Spirit are significant. As a teacher and spiritual leader of the children of this generation, you must understand the importance of encouraging them to allow the Holy Spirit to not only keep their houses (lives) clean and but also to keep them fully furnished!

Questions For Further Study—

1. What does the Holy Spirit do when someone accepts Jesus into his heart and life?
2. Name three things the Holy Spirit helps us to do.
3. How can the Holy Spirit help us in our devotional times?
4. How can you as a teacher take this concept and build an interactive, learner-based lesson for children?

Looking for a good lesson to teach kids about the Holy Spirit? Check out *Radiant Life's Young Explorer Route 66: Lessons On Bible Doctrine*. Lesson 9 is entitled "Our Traveling Companion" In this interactive lesson, children will learn the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the challenge to seek to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

