

When the Spirit Walks with Jesus



**Bible references – Luke 1:35; 3:21-22; 4:1-2;
Matthew 12:28; Luke 10:21; 11:13; John 14:16-17**



As the story of the Holy Spirit moves into the Gospels, the way he is described begins to change. Rather than appearing in particular moments, the Spirit is present throughout the life of Jesus, shaping what he does and how he relates to the Father. In this session the young people will explore a series of passages from the Gospels, tracing the work of the Spirit through the life of Jesus and beginning to discover what these moments reveal about what the Holy Spirit is like. The story also begins to shift beyond Jesus, with the Spirit described as a gift to be given to others.

You will need:

- 'When the Spirit Walks with Jesus' handout (printed A3 if possible)
- Felt-tips/markers



Beat

Say:

When we spend a lot of time with someone, they often start to shape us in different ways.

Leader's notes:

Share an example with the young people of someone who has shaped your own life. Invite them to share their own examples of people who have influenced them. You could discuss the following questions:

- What characteristics or habits have you picked up from them?
- How have they influenced the way you think or act?
- What difference has that made over time?
- Have you ever realised you're doing something and thought, 'That's exactly what they would do'? Invite the young people to share an example.

Say:

In the Old Testament we saw the Holy Spirit at work in particular moments with particular people. As we move into the Gospels, we begin to see something different. Instead of just moments, we see the Holy Spirit with Jesus throughout his life, shaping what he does and the way he lives.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

What difference might it make if someone is shaped by the Holy Spirit?

 **Amplify****Say:**

In our first session of this series, we explored the story of the Spirit in the Old Testament.

Ask:

What do you remember about the way that the Holy Spirit was at work in the Old Testament?

Say:

In the Old Testament we saw the Spirit at work in particular moments with particular people. As we move into the Gospels, that begins to change. Today we're going to explore the story of the Spirit through the life of Jesus and notice what is different.

Leader's notes:

In this section, the young people explore the Scriptures for themselves and begin to notice patterns in how the Holy Spirit is at work throughout the Gospels.

You can organise this activity in a way that suits your group. You may want to work through it together or divide the young people into smaller teams.

Each group will need a 'When the Spirit Walks with Jesus' handout and some pens to jot down their notes. If possible, copy the handout on to A3 paper so that they have more space, as they will be using it again in the Sound Check section. Encourage the young people to take their time with each passage and read around the verses to understand the context.

For each Scripture passage, ask the group to consider:

- How is the Holy Spirit involved in this part of the story?

Although the young people are exploring the Scripture passages independently, background

notes are provided below to support discussion if needed. Use these to prompt and guide rather than to explain everything.

Leader's notes – Additional Guidance

³⁵ The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'

– (Luke 1:35)

The Spirit is present at the very beginning of Jesus' life. The angel Gabriel makes it clear that the birth of Jesus will take place through the work of the Spirit.

²¹ When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

– (Luke 3:21-22)

As Jesus is baptised, the Spirit descends and rests on him. This is a clear moment of identification, as Jesus is marked out at the beginning of his ministry.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

– (Luke 4:1-2)

Jesus is described as full of the Holy Spirit and is led into the wilderness. The Spirit is with him as he faces temptation.

²⁸ 'But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.'

– (Matthew 12:28)

Jesus explains that what he is doing here is happening through the Spirit, as he drives out demons. His actions and authority are connected to the Spirit, and what is happening points to the Kingdom of God at work.

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.'

– (Luke 10:21)

Jesus is described as being full of joy through the Holy Spirit as he speaks to the Father. In this moment, the Spirit is not only present but is also the source of that joy and is involved in what is being revealed.

¹³ 'If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

– (Luke 11:13)

Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit being given by the Father to those who ask. The Spirit is no longer only connected to what we see in Jesus, but is spoken about as a gift that others will receive.

¹⁶ ‘And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.’

– (John 14:16-17)

Jesus describes the Spirit as one who will be given by the Father to be with them for ever. He says that the Spirit is already with them, but will be in them. This points forward to a new way of experiencing the Spirit, not only alongside them, but within.

The young people will use what they have discovered in Amplify in the Sound Check activity.

Say:

As you’ve worked through these passages, you may have started to notice a pattern in the way the Holy Spirit is described.

At the beginning of Jesus’ life, the Spirit is already at work. As the story continues, the Spirit rests on him and leads him. We see the Spirit at work in what Jesus does and in his relationship with the Father.

Then, as we move further on, the focus begins to shift. The Spirit is no longer only connected to Jesus, but is spoken about as something that will be given to others.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

What have you noticed so far about the way the Holy Spirit is described in the life of Jesus?

 **Sound Check****Say:**

We’re now going to look again at those same passages, but with a different focus. In Amplify you explored how the Holy Spirit is involved in each part of the story. In Sound Check we’re going to think more carefully about what these passages show us about what the Holy Spirit is like.

Using a different-coloured pen, go back over your ‘When the Spirit Walks with Jesus’ handout and add to what you have already written.

This time, as you read each passage, think about this question:

- What do these Bible verses show us about what the Holy Spirit is like?

If needed, you could prompt their thinking with the following questions:

- What is the Spirit like?
- How does the Spirit relate to Jesus?

Give the groups time to work through the passages again and develop their understanding of the Holy Spirit. Bring them back together to share what they have discovered.

Although the young people are exploring the Scriptures independently, background notes are provided below to support discussion if needed. Use these to prompt and guide rather than to explain everything.

Leader's notes – Additional Guidance

Luke 1:35 – The Spirit is the one who brings life and is present at the beginning of what God is doing.

Luke 3:21-22 – The Spirit is the one who remains close and identifies Jesus, showing that the Spirit is not distant but present.

Luke 4:1-2 – The Spirit is the one who leads and guides, even into difficult or challenging situations.

Matthew 12:28 – The Spirit is the one who brings power and works through what Jesus does, revealing God's Kingdom.

Luke 10:21 – The Spirit is the one who brings joy and is part of a close relationship with the Father.

Luke 11:13 – The Spirit is the one who is given as a gift, showing that the Spirit is for others, not just for Jesus.

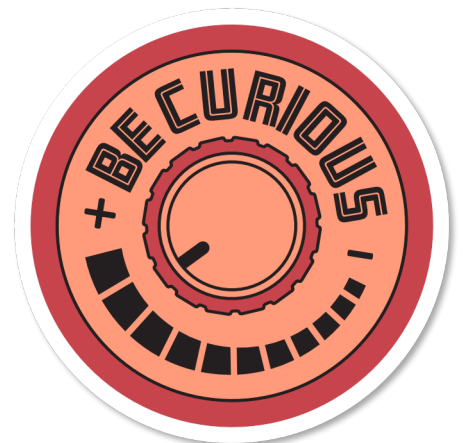
John 14:16-17 – The Spirit is one who is close and personal, who remains with people and will be within them.

Ask:

- What have you discovered about what the Holy Spirit is like?
- What stands out for you?

Leader's notes:

As the group shares, help them to notice the developing picture. The Spirit is present, remains close, leads, empowers, brings joy and is given. The Spirit is not distant but actively involved and close, and is spoken about as someone who will remain with people in a new way.



 **Bridge****Ask:**

If this is what the Holy Spirit is like, what questions does that raise for you?

 **Selah****Say:**

In these passages, we see the Holy Spirit with Jesus throughout his life. At his baptism, as he is led into the wilderness, in what he does, and in his relationship with the Father. In each of these moments the Holy Spirit is not distant. He is close, present and involved.

Ask:

Where do you notice the Holy Spirit most clearly in the life of Jesus?

Say:

As the story unfolds, we also begin to see that the Holy Spirit is not only with Jesus, but is also spoken about as someone who will be given as a gift to others.

Ask:

What does it mean for us that the Holy Spirit is not only with Jesus, but is with us too?

Say:

Today we've seen that the Holy Spirit walks with Jesus in every part of his life.

We're going to listen to a prayer that invites the Holy Spirit to be at work in our lives in that same kind of way.

Watch:

'Prayer to the Holy Spirit by Saint Augustine' – Francesca LaRosa – Official Lyric Video (3:24)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nF2bHZ_WUKQ

 **Bridge****Ask:**

As you look at this part of the story, what stands out to you about the way the Spirit is described?

Coda

Say:

In a piece of music, the coda brings the different aspects of the melody, harmonies and bassline to a conclusion. It pulls together the different themes and often, but not always, brings resolution to a piece of music.

Ask:

- As you reflect on everything you have learned today, what is your coda?
- What is the one thing you have discovered about the Holy Spirit as he walked with Jesus?

Leader's notes:

Give the young people a moment to think about your question and briefly share their coda with the group before the session comes to an end.





When the Spirit Walks with Jesus

