

When the Spirit's Story Unfolds



**Bible references – Acts 2:42-47; 13:2-4; 16:6-10;
1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Galatians 5:22-26**



As the story of the Holy Spirit continues beyond Pentecost, we begin to see what that change looks like in the lives of God's people. Rather than appearing in individual moments, the Spirit is at work throughout their lives. He brings people together, guides them, works through them and changes them over time. In this session the young people will explore a series of passages, tracing how the story of the Spirit unfolds in different ways. As they explore these moments, they will begin to see what the Spirit is doing and how his story continues today.

You will need:

- Paper and pens
- 'When the Spirit's Story Unfolds' handout



Beat

Say:

I'm going to show you a few close-up images. They're real things, but you might not recognise them straight away. See how many you can guess.

Watch:

Can You Guess The Close-Up Picture – 15 Questions (3:38)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPYNKDOfiUO

Say:

When you only see a small part of something, it can be hard to understand the bigger picture. Throughout this Bassline series we've been looking at specific parts of the Holy Spirit's story. Today we're going to see how the story of the Spirit unfolds and what he is doing through it all.

 **Bridge****Say:**

How much can you really understand something when you've only seen part of it?

 **Amplify****Say:**

In the last session we explored what happened when the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost. From that moment on, everything changed, and a new chapter in the story of the Spirit began. Now, instead of the Spirit appearing in specific moments, we begin to see what it looks like when the Spirit is at work in the lives of God's people.

Leader's notes:

Divide the young people into small groups and give them all a copy of the 'When the Spirit's Story Unfolds' handout. The handout helps the young people to explore a series of Bible verses and notice how the Holy Spirit is at work in each part of the story.

Encourage the group to focus on the questions provided on the sheet, using short phrases or key words to summarise what they notice. The aim is not to cover every detail, but to begin to recognise patterns in the way the Spirit is at work.

If needed, use the guidance below to prompt and support discussion. The Sound Check activity has been kept shorter to allow more time for the Amplify section.

The Story Unfolds in Community

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

– (Acts 2:42-47)

– How does the Holy Spirit empower the early Church to create a close community?

The Holy Spirit isn't named directly in this passage, but this is what life looks like after

Pentecost. The believers are brought together in a new way. They share life, support each other and grow together. Something has shifted, and this is the kind of community the Spirit creates.

The Story Unfolds in Mission

² While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

– (Acts 13:2-4)

⁶ Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us.’ ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

– (Acts 16:6-10)

– What role does the Holy Spirit play here, and what do you notice about the way he leads?

In these passages, the Spirit is clearly leading, but not always in the way we might expect. In one moment he sets people apart and sends them out, and in another he stops them from going where they planned. It’s a reminder that the Spirit’s guidance isn’t always straightforward, but he is actively involved, shaping the direction of the story as it unfolds.

The Story Unfolds in Service

⁴ There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

– (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

– What do these verses show us about how the Holy Spirit works through people?

– What do these verses show us about what everyone receives, and how that differs from person to person?

In these verses we begin to see how the Holy Spirit works through different people. Everyone is given a gift from the Holy Spirit, but it doesn’t always look the same. The gifts are different, but they come from the same Spirit and are given so that people can serve and support one another.

The Story Unfolds in Character

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those

who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

– (Galatians 5: 22–26)

- What kind of change does the Holy Spirit bring in people?
- What do these verses show about the kind of character the Spirit is growing within us?

In this passage, the focus isn't on what people are doing but on who they are becoming. The Spirit is at work within people, growing these qualities in them over time. They don't appear all at once, but develop as people learn to live by the Spirit and keep in step with him.

As the story of the Holy Spirit unfolds in different ways, how is he helping people to recognise and respond to Jesus?

The Holy Spirit draws people in, guides them and works through them, helping them to see who Jesus is and begin to follow him. Over time, he continues to work within them, helping them grow and become more like Jesus.

Leader's notes:

Bring the group back together to discuss what they have discovered about the Holy Spirit.

Say:

The Spirit is at work in different ways throughout the story. He brings people together, leads and directs, works through them and grows these qualities within them over time.

As we look more closely, we can see that these aren't separate things. In each moment, the Spirit is helping people to recognise what God is doing and to respond to it.

The story doesn't stop at Pentecost. It continues to unfold.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

What is your response to the following quote?

'The Holy Spirit transforms and renews us, creates harmony and unity, and gives us courage and joy for the mission.'

– Pope Francis





Sound Check

Say:

Over the past four sessions we have spent time tracing the story of the Holy Spirit. For our Sound Check activity we're going to step back and look at the whole story.

As you watch, think about what stands out and what connects to what we've explored.

Watch:

Why the Holy Spirit Isn't Just a 'Force' – Bible Project (stop at 3:49)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9i1Gjc

Discuss:

- What stood out for you as you watched the clip?
- What felt familiar from what we've explored in this series?
- Where did you notice the different parts of the Holy Spirit's story connect together?

In Amplify we explored how the Spirit forms community, leads people, works through them, and shapes who they are becoming. Where did you see those things in the clip?

What does this suggest that the Holy Spirit is doing today?

Say:

As we've traced the story and watched it brought together, one thing becomes clear.

The Spirit has been present from the very beginning. He brings life, he empowers, he leads and he transforms. The story of the Spirit continues today.

 **Bridge****Ask:**

What more would you like to discover about the story of the Holy Spirit?

 **Selah****Say:**

As we've seen throughout this series, the story of the Holy Spirit doesn't stop in the Bible. He continues to be at work in our lives.

Leader's notes:

A song is provided for a time of reflection. Encourage the young people to take a moment to think about their own lives.

- Where are they seeing the Holy Spirit at work?
- Are there areas where they sense he may be drawing them, leading them, working through them or helping them grow?

After the song has finished, pray on behalf of the group.

Watch:

'Holy Spirit Living Breath of God' (Official Lyric Video) – Keith and Kristyn Getty (5:04)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDYjn-YdnD4



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've discovered today about the way the Holy Spirit works through God's people?

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's Story Unfolds

The Story Unfolds in Community

Read: Acts :42-47, Acts 16:6-10

How does the Holy Spirit empower the early Church to create a close community?

The Story Unfolds in Mission

Read: Acts 13:2-4, Acts 16:6-10

What role does the Holy Spirit play here, and what do you notice about the way he leads?

The Story Unfolds in Service

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

What do these verses show us about how the Holy Spirit works through people?

What do these verses show us about what everyone receives, and how that differs from person to person?

The Story Unfolds in Character

Read: Galatians 5: 22-26

What kind of change does the Holy Spirit bring in people?

What do these verses show about the kind of character the Spirit is growing within us?

As the story of the Holy Spirit unfolds in different ways, how is he helping people to recognise and respond to Jesus?