

## Central Study Hour – Sabbath School Lesson Notes

### *The Holy Spirit and Spirituality, Lesson Two, “The Holy Spirit: Working Behind the Scenes”*

SABBATH AFTERNOON: Share highlights from the opening paragraph. *Why do we know so comparatively little about the Holy Spirit? Read the **memory verse**. The Holy Spirit’s “role is to advance the work of someone else in the Godhead—Jesus, the Son of God—and to give glory to God the Father.” Share/read the final paragraph.*

#### SUNDAY: THE ELUSIVENESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Read John 3:3-4.** *What did Jesus say each of us must experience in order to see the kingdom of God? We must be born again. Note: Nicodemus asked how one could be born again. He didn’t get it. **Read John 3:5-6.** Who or what did Jesus say causes one to be born again? The Holy Spirit. **Read John 3:7-8.** To what did Jesus compare the Holy Spirit? The wind. Why is the wind a good symbol of the Holy Spirit? You can’t see the wind, but you can see what it does or has done. The wind picks up, dies down, and changes direction in an elusive uncontrolled manner. The Holy Spirit is like that. He “is active where He wills. No one can control Him,” but “we can know He is active and at work. Just like the wind, the Holy Spirit is invisible but can be most powerful.” Ask the question in the Teacher’s Comments at the bottom of p. 27. Discuss the content of the paragraph above it (“Opening Discussion”) as desired.*

**Read Ezekiel 37:5&9.** *Do you see the Holy Spirit in these verses? Read two sentences in the middle of the page. See “When the Holy....capable of doing.” Share/read the final three paragraphs of the page. Discuss the two questions in the box at the bottom of page.*

#### MONDAY: THE HOLY SPIRIT AT CREATION

Read the first short paragraph. **Read Genesis 1:2, Job 33:4, and Psalm 104:30.** *What was the role of the Holy Spirit at creation? The Holy Spirit was active with the Father and Son in creation. He has the same power to create life that all members of the Godhead have, yet, “He does not appear as the central actor in the creation story. Instead, He is ‘hovering’ over the void.” “Psalm 104:30 suggests that the Creation act was possible only through the work of the Holy Spirit and that He played an active part during the process.”*

Read the box at the bottom of the page, and ask the first question (“How are both of these activities [creation and recreation] related?”). It takes the same power to re-create human beings into the image of God as it did to create something from nothing in the original creation. *How does it make you feel to know that same power is available to us today to be like Jesus? Ask the last question in the box. “What does the Sabbath tell us about this work of Creation and re-creation?”* The Sabbath teaches about both creations. It’s a memorial of Creation week. It is also a symbol of God’s ability to make us holy, to make us new. It is the sign of sanctification, the sign of who are God’s people.

#### TUESDAY: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SANCTUARY

After Creation and before the time of Moses and the building of the sanctuary, the Holy Spirit is directly mentioned in the Bible just once. In Genesis 41:38 Pharaoh said Joseph had the Spirit of God. Scriptures mentioning the Spirit of God being upon Moses include Num. 11:16-17 and Isaiah 63:11. **Read Exodus 31:1-6.** *What do we learn here about the involvement of the Holy Spirit in the building of the sanctuary?* We see that the Holy Spirit gave Bezaleel and Aholiab the gift of craftsmanship so that they could construct all the items of the sanctuary. Read the box and ask the questions at the bottom of the page.

**Note:** There are many mentions of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. Examples include the 70 elders (Num. 11:16-17&25), David (1 Sam. 16:13), Elijah & Elisha (2 Kings 2:15), Jahaziel (2 Chron. 20:14), all the prophets (Neh. 9:30), mentions of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah (40:13, 44:3, 48:16), and famous Holy Spirit verses (Joel 2:28-29, Ez. 36:26-27, Haggai 2:5, Zech. 4:6).

#### WEDNESDAY: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN GLORIFYING JESUS

Share highlights from the opening paragraph. **Read John 16:13-14.** *What does Jesus say is the work of the Holy Spirit?* 1.) He guides us to see truth, 2.) He helps to understand what will come, and 3.) He glorifies and shows us Jesus. **Read John 15:26.** *How does Jesus explain here the Holy Spirit's work to show us Jesus?* The Holy Spirit *testifies* of Jesus. That's what the Old Testament and New Testament are! They are the Holy Spirit's two major testimonies of Jesus! The Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of truth." Everything points to Jesus. Jesus is the center of all truth. "The Holy Spirit speaks not of Himself but of Jesus. His work consists in elevating the redemptive work of Jesus." Discuss and ask the questions in the box at the bottom of the page.

#### THURSDAY: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CHRIST

*In what ways was the Holy Spirit in Christ's life?* For answers, share highlights from the top paragraph of the page. Conclude: "In all this, the Holy Spirit remained in the background and helped to bring Jesus Christ to prominence." **Read Galatians 5:16-18.** These verses contrast walking in the Spirit with fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. The Spirit and the flesh are at war in us. *What does verse 16 say is the way to overcome the lusts of the flesh?* We must "walk in the Spirit." *What does it mean to "walk in the Spirit"?* **Read Galatians 5:19-23.** *When a person is walking in the Spirit, what is manifest in their life? What shows?* The fruit of the Spirit shows in their character. **Read Ephesians 4:23-24.** *What do we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit in both the Galatians and Ephesians verses?* We must conclude that the Holy Spirit is power from God, and that walking in the Spirit is receiving power over the lusts of the flesh and living out the fruit of the Spirit. The renewal of the Spirit is manifest in a new person living in righteousness and holiness. Highlight the four ways that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus given in the bottom half of the page. Then ask the question in the box at the bottom (Make sure there's a deep answer to this question).

**Conclusion: Open Bibles to Gal. 5:16-25.** Think about what it means to walk in the Spirit. Consider the "Discussion Questions" from the Teacher's Comments on the bottom of p. 29. *Do you lack any of the fruit of the Spirit from verses 22-23? Do you have any of the traits of the flesh in verses 19-21?* **Read Gal. 5:25 & 16.** **Special prayer:** That all of us will be delivered from any work of the flesh and that the fruit of the Spirit will be mature in our lives.