

Lesson 9 – The Holy Spirit and Grace

Grades 6-8

Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 9 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to have some Bibles for this session. Also, you will need to make copies of the crossword activity.

Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ Jesus will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little.” 1Peter 5:10

Leader: Lord, You have sent us the Holy Spirit, and You have given us grace. We pray that our hearts are always open to receive these wonderful gifts. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening:

A large part of this lesson will be about the Holy Spirit. Ask students to consider what they know, or think they know, about the Holy Spirit. Perhaps have them write a paragraph about the Holy Spirit. They will not be sharing those paragraphs, but will look them over and evaluate them at the end of the lesson, hopefully with a clearer vision.

Using the attached sheet, ask the students true / false questions about the Holy Spirit in order to stimulate their background knowledge and clarify the basics at the start.

Watch the Lesson 9 Video on Catholic Brain

Comprehension Questions: *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but*

be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on

1) Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity, sent by the Father and the Son to dwell in the Church.

2) What is grace?

Grace is a gift of God, given to us for our salvation.

3) What is sanctifying grace?

It is a sharing in God's life. He lives within us and makes us holy through sanctifying grace.

4) What is actual grace?

Special help God gives us so we can do good and avoid evil.

Discussion Questions: *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) What does St. Paul mean in Ephesians 2:4-5 – “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ – by grace you have been saved”

We have all sinned and can not save ourselves. Christ saved us – this is a supernatural gift – a grace. He offers us sanctifying grace.

2) What are the ways we can say “yes” or “no” to God's grace?

Like every gift, grace can be accepted or rejected. We say “yes” when we love God and follow His commandments. We say “no” through sin.

Go Deeper:

Break the students into pairs and give the following instructions:

Working with a partner, and using the following Scripture passages:

Acts 15:11

Romans 5:15

Romans 12:6-8

1Corinthians 15:10

2Corinthians 9:8

Ephesians 4:7

How would you explain the concept of grace to someone who had never heard of it before?

Activity:

Do the attached crossword, based on the Holy Spirit and grace.

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Thank You, Lord, for the gift of grace. We were lost in sin and You have offered us the gift of salvation. May we receive it with joy, and respond to it with love. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.