



Group Session

Small Group Study

Volume Overview

Who is the Holy Spirit?

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (Galatians 5:22–23)

When it comes to God, we frequently think about and discuss God the Father and God the Son. The concept of God as our Heavenly Father and Jesus' life on earth are

generally easy to understand. However, Scripture makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is equally God. Through these sessions, we'll look at the following questions: Who is the Holy Spirit? What role does the Holy Spirit play in our life? What can we learn about the nature and ways of God through what Scripture tells us about the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit help me in my faith? God living within us can empower us, help us grow, and equip us in a unique way that God among us could not.

You Will Need

- Two small prizes (candy bars, etc.)
- **Countdown60 Video**

Getting Ready

- *First time leading Learn for Youth? Look here for the Facilitator Guide.*

To access the Bible Engagement Project library from a computer, visit

App.BibleEngagementProject.com.

Engage

Welcome

Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.

QUESTION

What's the first thing you do when you get home from school or when you're finished for the day?

Opening Prayer

Prayer thoughts: Thank God for the students. Ask Him to make the session fruitful and impactful. Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal himself through the truth of Scripture during this session.

Introduction

Today we'll be focused on answering the following question: Who is the Holy Spirit? We're going to find the answer in a very interesting story in the New Testament. Along the way, we'll learn how we should interact with and view the Holy Spirit.

Group Activity

Creativity Challenge

You Will Need

- *Two small prizes (candy bars, etc.)*
- **Countdown60 Video**

No prep is needed for this activity.

We're going to find out who is the best at spotting the truth. I'll give you one minute to come up with two statements about yourself. One statement must be true, and one statement isn't true. After each person shares, I'll ask everyone to guess if the first or second statement is true. We'll do this for every person in the room.

There will be two winners. Winner #1 is the person who makes the most correct guesses. Winner #2 is the person who has the fewest people correctly guess their true statement. Are you ready to come up with your statements? I'll start the countdown.



- *Go around the group, letting students say their statements and having everyone guess. Keep track of the students who get the most and least correct votes. This game should go quickly if you push it along.*
- *Determine the winners and award their prizes.*

Sometimes it's easy to tell the truth, and sometimes it's not so easy. We even have the term "little white lies" to label something untrue that seems small and harmless. We often say those when we want to avoid hurting someone we care about.

- *Share a personal story of something that you lied about that was silly. The idea here is to break the ice.*

QUESTION

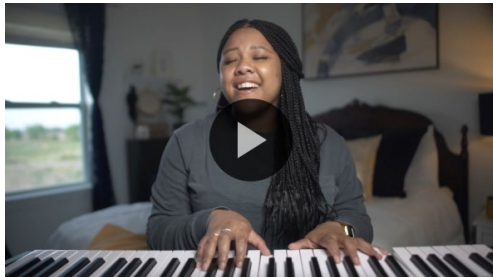
What's something small or silly you've lied about?

QUESTION

What are some potential problems that could develop in our life if we don't tell the truth?

Let's explore this idea of telling and knowing the truth a little more deeply. First, let's watch this video.

Watch



Consider What the Bible Says

Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.

As I mentioned before, we're going to look at a very unusual and interesting Bible story about a couple who told a lie to church leaders. They suffered dramatic consequences as a result.

Read Acts 5:1–4.

In this story, Ananias and Sapphira decided to tell a significant lie. They conspired to be deceptive about how much money they were giving as an offering. We can tell in verse [2](#) that Ananias followed through with the plan to lie, stating that the full amount of money had been given to the church.

QUESTION

Why do you think Ananias lied to Peter and the other leaders?

Maybe they wanted to give the appearance of extreme generosity. In the previous chapter, other believers were selling property and giving away all the money. Ananias and Sapphira could have

felt pressure to do what seemed like everyone else was doing. They made a sacrifice by giving, and keeping some of the money for themselves was okay. The lie was the problem.

The Holy Spirit Is God

QUESTION

To whom did Ananias really lie?

QUESTION

Why do you think Peter made the distinction that Ananias didn't lie to him, but to the Holy Spirit?

Notice in these verses a very important combination of statements by Peter in verses 3 and 4. "You lied to the Holy Spirit," and "You weren't lying to us but to God!"

QUESTION

What do these statements teach us about the Holy Spirit?

It's important to know that in this moment, the Bible is making it clear that the Holy Spirit is indeed God.

Dishonoring the Holy Spirit Has Consequences

Read Acts 5:5–6.

God had a very strong reaction to Ananias's lie.

QUESTION

What was wrong with what Ananias did?

QUESTION

While it is certainly not normal for someone to die as a result of telling a lie, what does this teach us about how we should interact with the Holy Spirit?

It's much more important to honor and be right with the Holy Spirit than it is to try and impress others.

QUESTION

Why do you think God takes lying so seriously?

QUESTION

Do you think there are always spiritual consequences when we lie? Why or why not?

QUESTION

Is anyone willing to share a time when you lied and faced the consequences? What happened?

While we may not always experience the consequences of lying immediately, it doesn't mean that we can get away with not telling the truth to others. More importantly, we can't get away with lying to God. He already knows the complete truth about us.

Respect the Holy Spirit in a Way That Reflects He Is God

Read Acts 5:7–11.

QUESTION

When Peter questioned her, do you think Sapphira should have sensed something was wrong and told the truth? Why or why not?

QUESTION

How do you think Ananias and Sapphira's deception impacted the people around them?

The last verse we read let us know that fear was one result. Rather than this generous gift making people happy, the lie connected to it brought fear.

QUESTION

Do you think the lies we tell impact people around us? Why or why not?

QUESTION

If so, how do our lies impact others?

QUESTION

How could the way you interact with God impact others?

We can be grateful that the Holy Spirit probably won't cause us to drop dead when we lie. But we can tell from this Bible story that God takes lying to Him very seriously.

QUESTION

What has been your response toward others when you're caught in a lie? How about when you sense the Holy Spirit has caught you telling a lie?

Did You Know?

There is an account similar to Ananias and Sapphira in Greek history. The Greek historian Herodotus tells of a man from Sparta named Glaucus, who was believed to be an honest, honorable man. But he withheld a large sum of money that he had been entrusted with, resulting in his rebuke by the prophetess of Delphi. As punishment, Glaucus was struck with infertility, not death. Any Greek reading the Book of Acts would

have made an immediate connection with this story. These more severe consequences would reinforce that the God of the Bible will not be mocked.

Reflect

The Holy Spirit Is God

It seems from this passage that the Holy Spirit was less concerned about what Ananias and Sapphira did with their money than the condition of each one's heart. The Holy Spirit was more interested in them being honest with Him.

The way we can best respect the Holy Spirit and honor Him as God is to be completely transparent and truthful. It's foolish to think that we can deceive the Holy Spirit since He is God and knows all things. An open and honest relationship with God's Spirit is the beginning of the direction, improvement, and power He wants to bring to our life.

Listen to God

Let's take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

- *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

QUESTION

Is there any area in your life that you have others believing a lie about? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do about that?

QUESTION

The Holy Spirit is God, He knows all things, and He lives in you if you are a follower of Jesus. How should that change the way you live daily? Be specific.

Activate

As you reflect on this session, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you are not being honest. We're going to take a moment and listen to the Holy Spirit. I want you to ask Him to reveal any lie you've told someone.

If needed, ask God to forgive you. If the Holy Spirit leads you to, let the person know that you lied, and ask for forgiveness.

Conclusion

Although what we discussed today is very serious, and maybe a little scary, you'll see in the coming weeks that the Holy Spirit is your greatest ally. Yes, He must be respected and honored, but we don't need to live in fear that God will strike us down when we fail. The experience of Ananias and Sapphira established a healthy reverence for the Holy Spirit in the Church. God is our Father, who lovingly saved us through Jesus. Because of this, we should treat the Holy Spirit with the dignity and honor He deserves. As you work through the devotions this week, ask God to give you a healthy respect for His Spirit.

Salvation Opportunity

Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

We can often convince other people to think certain things about us. We can shape how people see us. We can fake being happy and make others think we have it all together. We can even keep deep secrets from our closest friends. However, we cannot hide our true self from God. He knows us fully and completely. This may be a little intimidating, but it's also liberating. He loves you and wants to do great things in your life. Choose to be completely honest with Him.

Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn't have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?

Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as we close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.

Prayer

God, we're humbled that between us there are no secrets. You know when we wake up, when we go to bed, and everything that happens in between. You also know our deepest thoughts. Help us to live respectfully and honorably toward You. Help us to resist the urge to try and hide things from You. Help us to be completely honest with You and with those in our life. We ask for Your mercy for any deception in our heart, and we ask for grace to live well for You. Amen.

Next time we're together, we'll talk about how the Holy Spirit fills us with power to live and serve Him. Be sure to work through your devotions this week. They'll allow you to have some private time with the Holy Spirit to work through any secret challenges you're facing.