

SESSION 7 : Jesus did not leave us on our own



Opening prayer

Lord, we ask you to help us share our thoughts and ideas together this evening and in so doing come to a deeper understanding of the meaning and role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Amen.

DVD Extract: 'The Miracle Maker' (1.07 – 1.22)... 15 mins

During the last part of the DVD of 'The Miracle Maker' look for and listen to any references to the Spirit. Note these down as they happen. (You **will have** to listen carefully!)

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In Groups

What do you understand by the meaning of the word spirit?

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What do you think the Holy Spirit looks like?

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When do you recall the Holy Spirit being referred to in the gospel?

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Find the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- **Reading 1 : Creation of the world Gen 1:1-2**

'In the beginning God created the heavens and earth. Now the earth was a formless void, there was darkness over the deep, and the spirit of God hovered over the water.'

What was the Holy Spirit doing at the beginning of time?



- **Reading 2 : Creation of man Gen2:7**

'God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.'

In what way did the Spirit change the dust?



- **Reading 3 : The day of the Lord Joel 2:28**

'After this I will pour out my Spirit on all mankind; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream and your young men see visions.'

How did the Holy Spirit change people?



Find the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- **Reading 4 : The Annunciation** *Lk1:26-35*

The angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce the coming of her baby....and the angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you , and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.'



In what ways did the Holy Spirit change Mary?

- **Reading 5 : Jesus' Baptism** *Mk 1:10-11*

'As Jesus came out of the water of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove; and a voice came from heaven " Thou art my beloved Son, with thee I am well pleased."



This event marked a turning point in Jesus' life. In what ways did His life change?

- **Reading 6 : Reading 6 : Last Supper** *Jn 14: 16-17*

At the Last Supper, the night before He died, Jesus told His followers not to be afraid. He was leaving them, but His Father would send them a counsellor to be with them forever.



Who was the counsellor?

What difference would he make to the followers?

The Holy Spirit In the Life Of the Church

If you watch the news you may wonder what is happening to the world. There are riots, killings, thefts, muggings, kidnappings, stabbings, war, pollution, tsunami and other forms of destruction.

You may wonder where the Holy Spirit is working to produce good effects.

The news often highlights bad happenings but there are plenty of examples of people doing good. The Holy Spirit is still working in people today.

See if you can answer the following questions.

Comic Relief

- What is it about?
- What type of work do they do?
- Where does the money raised go?
- Who are some of the famous names associated with it?
- What part does the Holy Spirit play?

Mother Theresa

- What do you know about her?
- What sort of work did she do?
- Where did she carry out her work?
- Does she have any helpers?
- What part did the Holy Spirit play in her life?

Bob Geldorf

- What do you know about Bob Geldorf?
- What did he try to do and how?
- Did Band – Aid make any difference to the starving?
- What part did the Holy Spirit play?
- Can one person affect millions of others?

Lourdes

- What do you know about Lourdes and St. Bernadette?
- Why do ill people go to Lourdes today?
- Why do healthy people go to Lourdes?
- Does St. Bernadette's life inspire people today?

Communist Countries

- What changes have there been in the Soviet Union and other communist countries during your lifetime?
- How was the Church treated before these changes took place?
- What kept the people's faith going even though they were persecuted?

Closing
Prayer.

Come, Spirit of love and peace!

Spirit of wisdom, inspiration of minds and hearts,
direct science and technology
to the service of life, justice and peace.

Render fruitful our dialogue with the followers of other religions,
lead the different cultures to appreciate the values of the Gospel.

Spirit of life, by whose power the Word was made flesh
in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the woman of attentive silence,
make us docile to the promptings of your love
and ever ready to accept the signs of the times
which you place along the paths of history.
