



DATE(S)

April 30/May 1, 2022

SERIES AND LESSON TITLE

Step It Up – Week 2 (Holy Spirit)

TAKE-HOME POINT (THP)

The Holy Spirit is our greatest helper!

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Galatians 5:25
John 14:15-17, 25-26

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Give any Campus-Specific Announcements

OPENING GAME / GROUP TIME

LARGE-GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

"A Game About Gummy Fish"

Everyone loves Swedish Fish! This game tests if you know them too. 12 multiple choice questions will be asked. Students must determine which answer is correct. Game can be played four corners style for a last man standing or by raising fingers in the air to indicate the guess and the student with the most points wins. Bonus points if you reward the winner with a big bag of Swedish Fish. Double Bonus if you provide a few for everyone!

OPENING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

ACTIVITIES

Take attendance and make sure to welcome anyone who is a first-time guest!

What was the highlight of your week?

When is everyone finished with school? What are you most looking forward to about the summer?

When you're finished (and there's time), pray for our time of worship/singing.

STUFF TO ASK TO UNIQUELY CONNECT THE LESSON TO KIDS' LIVES

STUFF TO DO SO THINGS AREN'T BORING



LARGE-GROUP SCRIPT

THE MESSAGE

"Step It Up" – Week 2 (Holy Spirit)
April 30-31, 2022

We are ready to jump into Week 2 of our Step It Up series. This series is about looking into specific things God has given us to strengthen our relationship with Him. This is an important series! It will help us put our faith in Jesus into practice!

Today, we are going to talk about the Holy Spirit's role in our life. For those who may not be familiar with Christianity or church, Christians believe that God is a Trinity. That means we believe there is one God, but there are also three distinct identities with three different roles...but still part of the same God. There's God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. Pretty confusing and mind-blowing, I know. However, the last role – the Holy Spirit – is often the most difficult to understand. Let me give a quick illustration of how the Holy Spirit can function in our life and why it's a necessary part of strengthening our faith.

(Teacher's Note: Share a story where you had to rely on the leadership or encouragement of a guide – particularly something adventurous like rock climbing, hiking, high ropes course, scuba diving, etc. If you don't have personal examples of that, feel free to use your own experiences to highlight the need for a guide.)

For this entire series, we are focusing on a verse from the New Testament that the author, Paul, writes in the book of Galatians...Galatians 5:25 which says, *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* Well, how do we actually do that? How do we keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

In the book of Romans in the New Testament, it says the same Spirit that raised Jesus Christ from the dead lives in us if we are followers of Christ. For those of us who follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit acts as a guide for our life and helps us put our faith into practice! That's what our **THP (Take Home Point)** focuses on today.

The Holy Spirit is our greatest helper!

I believe that statement with all my heart. The Holy Spirit is our helper, He is our counselor, He is our conscience, and He is our comforter when life is hard. Did you know that Jesus was led by the Spirit? Did you know He predicted His own death and then came back from the dead? In fact, He also told the disciples that after that happened, He would be leaving them, but He promised that he would send them a helper: the Holy Spirit. In other words, the same Holy Spirit that was in Jesus and guided Him in everything we did is promised to dwell in all those who put their faith in Jesus!

THE MESSAGE

Check out this passage from the New Testament in John 14:15-17, 25-26: *“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you...I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.”*

Now, that word Advocate means someone who supports you or encourages you. That’s what the Holy Spirit does! The Holy Spirit gives you that extra strength, that extra boldness, that extra grace to forgive someone – it’s given to us so that we can live out God’s truth in our lives. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we really CAN live out our faith in a meaningful way. Not a perfect way – but a meaningful way!

Every week, we gather to worship, sing, pray, read the Bible, have great conversations about what God is doing in our lives, and even talk about some of the challenges/problems we are facing. However, if we just do that during a church service or in our life groups and it never affects how we live our life during the rest of the week, I really think we are missing the most important part of our Christian faith: **living our life in such a way that it makes other people around us hungry for what we have.** People see the outward change, but we know the INWARD change is what’s most important: believing in what Jesus did for us, trusting in Him, and then allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us! The INWARD leads to the OUTWARD.

This idea of how the Holy Spirit should change the way we live was illustrated in a really cool way by pastor and author, Francis Chan. Check this out...

(Teacher’s Note: Show “Francis Chan Football” message clip)

I think we all need the help of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I don’t know about you, but I don’t want to sit here and sing songs, read Scripture, pray prayers, and say we love God...and then run back to the sidelines as Francis said. For those of you who are Christians, I think the Holy Spirit has already been at work in your life. He has helped you make choices that honor God and helps you stay away from sin. I believe the Holy Spirit can help every Christian do that!

Just like most things, it takes practice, trial/error, mistakes...all of which are ok...to help us know what the Holy Spirit wants us to do. You might think to yourself, “How will I know the difference between what I want to do and what I think the Holy Spirit wants me to do?” That’s a GREAT question to ask even though it might be hard to answer! It’s something where you will have success at times and failure at times.

THE MESSAGE

Here's the deal: the Holy Spirit is going to want you to honor what God says in His Word. He will never ask you to do something that goes against what the Bible says. In fact, in order for us to actually live out what God commands us to do in Scripture, we **NEED** the Holy Spirit. We also need to do it in community so that other followers of Christ can help us do that or might be able to tell whether something's coming from you or from the Holy Spirit.

There are some of you who want to invite a friend of yours to church or tell them about God and every time you want to, you get nervous, and you just can't. Maybe you don't feel like you have the words to say. Maybe there's a person at school and people say terrible things to him/her about the way he/she looks or acts, or they say it behind their back...and you **KNOW** it's wrong and you feel like you need to say something. Instead, you avoid saying anything because it's awkward or you're afraid of what those other people will think of you. In all these situations, pray and ask God for help. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading! Keep in step!

As we wrap up today and head into our groups, think about our **THP (Take Home Point)** one last time: **The Holy Spirit is our greatest helper!** Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to help you? Are you scared of taking a risk for God or afraid of what people might say or think if you obey God's Word even when it's unpopular? How can you "keep in step" with the Holy Spirit each day?

We are going to do another SOAP study in our closing group discussion today. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Today's verse will focus on the Holy Spirit and I want you to ask God to give you more of the Holy Spirit and to be bold/willing to allow Him to help you live your life for God. Before we start, let me pray for us!



CLOSING GROUP TIME

CLOSING SMALL GROUP

QUESTIONS

*****Leader's Note:** Make sure to have some Bibles for the students to use.

What was the THP today and why was that important during the message?

Now let's do a **SOAP** study, which is an acronym for **Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer**. It's a way to study the Bible.

SCRIPTURE – Have someone read the Scripture out loud two times.

John 14:15-17, 25-26 – *"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you...I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative – that is, the Holy Spirit – he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.*

OBSERVATION – Write down words/phrases that stick out to you, that you don't understand, or that are interesting to you. Questions are also great!

APPLICATION – Think about and write down how the Scripture applies to your actual life and how you can live differently because of it this week.

PRAYER – Pray together at the end of your group discussion! Ask God to help you remember and apply what you learned from the Bible today!

How will the THP help you to live differently this week? Be specific.

How can this group pray for you this week?

ACTIVITIES

Encourage the students to take a couple of minutes to write down observations and applications. We want it to be different than simply responding to a question like we usually do. You can set a timer for this, and when it's done, go around and have the students share their observations. Once enough people have shared, move to the applications.

*****This is the last week to sign up for Never2Young! Make one last push for students to get registered and join us next weekend!**

After your group is finished with your discussion questions, close in prayer!



PREP NEEDS

SMALL-GROUP SUPPLIES

Some Bibles for students to share during group discussion
Pen/paper for SOAP study (optional)

LARGE-GROUP SUPPLIES

Stupid Video of the Week
Message script
Message slides

AUDIO/VISUAL NEEDS

Pro Presenter or Playlister

