

HOPE Cycle 3 – The Role of the Holy Spirit

How to have a student-led club:

- A student opens and closes meetings in prayer
- A student explains the purpose of First Priority
- A student reads the questions out loud to the group

Memory Verse:

John 14:26 (ERV): “The Helper will teach you everything and cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name.”

Why is it important to memorize scripture? Psalms 119:11 says, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

WEEK 1: HELP Week

The Bible talks about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, collectively known as the “Trinity”. The Trinity can be difficult to understand because nothing in our world is like it. Let's look at verses that talk about the Holy Spirit:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ERV): “You should know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit that you received from God and that lives in you. You don't own yourselves. ²⁰ God paid a very high price to make you his. So honor God with your body.”

Question: What is a temple? Why do you think God refers to our bodies as temples? What is the purpose of a temple and how should it be treated? How does this translate into our treatment of our bodies?

2. Read John 15:26 (NIV): But I will send you the Advocate [Encourager]—the Spirit of truth [the Holy Spirit]. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.”

Question: Why do you think Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the Advocate [other similar words are Encourager, Comforter, Helper]? How does this impact the way we view and call upon the Holy Spirit?

3. How does it **help** you to know that God has provided the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Jesus? Can you think of a time in your life when you felt comfort or guidance from the Holy Spirit?
4. The Trinity may be difficult to explain to someone else. Some give the example of H₂O: water, steam, and ice. All of these are water but in different forms. This is not a perfect example but it gives you an idea. How would you explain the Trinity? Do you believe that it is true that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are truly one? How can we know this is there is nothing like it that we have seen?

Challenge: Pray for a friend who needs to know Jesus.

WEEK 2: OVERCOME Week

Last week, we talked about the Holy Spirit as part of the Trinity: God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. This week, we will continue talking about the role of the Holy Spirit.

1. Read John 14:26 (ERV): “The Helper will teach you everything and cause you to remember all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name.”

Question: What is the role of the Helper/Holy Spirit? Is it easy or hard to view the Holy Spirit in this way? Do you struggle with the idea that a Holy Spirit you cannot see can provide you guidance or comfort? Have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life in a way that has proven God's promise of a Helper to you?

2. Read Acts 2:38 (NLT): Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Question: How do you receive the Holy Spirit and where does the Holy Spirit reside [live in]? Where does the Holy Spirit reside [live in] for those who believe in Jesus? Why is this important [explain]? Can we always rely on the Holy Spirit or does it come and go?

3. Read Psalms 143:10 (TLB): "Help me to do your will, for you are my God. Lead me in good paths, for your Spirit is good."

Question: How does this verse help you to overcome your own selfish desires? Why would you want to do God's will [follow His plan instead of your own]? If the Holy Spirit comforts, convicts, and encourages us, how should this affect our lives and the decisions we make? When we say we want to live for God, do you think we can do this apart from the Holy Spirit?

Challenge: At the end of the meeting, gather in a circle and pray for each other.

Week 3: PREPARE Week

In this cycle, we have talked about the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 1:13-14A (GW) says: " You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. ¹⁴This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance."

This is an important promise that when we believe in Jesus, we cannot be taken from God, and our inheritance is to spend eternity with God.

As we prepare for next week's Engage meeting, let us consider the following:

1. Have you learned the memory verse? Recite it together out loud. Why is it important to memorize scripture?
2. PREPARE for ENGAGE Week by asking for volunteers to:
 - Share his or her faith story [when and how Jesus has affected their life]
 - Read the salvation prayer and invitation (see below)
 - Be greeters at the door
 - Hand out the response cards [found on the FP website under the "Student" tab]
 - Report attendance for this week and next week
 - Be on the follow-up team (see below)
 - End the meeting in prayer

Challenge: Invite at least two friends to next week's Engage Week meeting.

WEEK 4: ENGAGE Week

Use your faith story to **ENGAGE** your campus for Christ. Share the gospel message and invitation (SEE BELOW). Please remember to use the response cards and to report attendance and decisions for Christ.

Challenge: Invite two friends to your youth group or church this week.

Gospel Message (To be read a out loud to the group):

- Admit that you are a sinner. To "sin" means to make a bad choice out of selfish desires, and sin separates us from God because we are pursuing our own path aside from what God's perfect plan for us.
- Believe in Jesus and put your trust in Him. Christ's death on a cross was an act of selfless love. He took on the whole sins of humanity, making it possible for all people to be reunited with God.
- Confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. This means acknowledging that you want Him in your life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." This means that we cannot be saved by being "good enough", but only through accepting Jesus as our Savior.

Invitation/Prayer (ask students to bow their heads):

If this message is speaking to you today, and you want to trust in Jesus as your Savior, then pray this simple prayer to yourself: Dear Lord, I have sinned and this has separated me from you because you are a Holy God. But, your Word says that Jesus died for me, and his grace is extended to me so that I can be forgiven. Today, I pray that you will come into my life and be my LORD, helping me to trust in you and live in a way that is pleasing to you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Follow UP Plan:

Once you've shared the gospel and invitation, collect the student response cards (can be downloaded from the First Priority website) and then follow these steps:

1. Student leaders commit to praying for and contacting any student who has made a decision for Christ and/or has questions.
2. When contacting these students, student leaders will want to:
 - Answer any questions they may have
 - Offer to pray for them
 - Invite them to the next week's HELP Week meeting
 - Invite them to your church, if they don't have one
3. Return all student response cards to the student leader or teacher (response cards or information on the cards must never be given to an outside adult or organization/church).