

# AMPLIFY

GROWING A  
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: HOLY SPIRIT  
LESSON 3: ROLES OF THE SPIRIT

**What we want students to learn:** That students would understand the role Jesus played in ushering in a new way of relating to the Holy Spirit.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** To begin to seek the Spirit's guidance in and through the roles Jesus described the Spirit playing in their lives.

**Scripture Focus:** John 14:25-26, John 16:5-11, John 16:12-13

**Supporting Scripture:** John 14:15-17

**Overview:** We can sometimes lose sight of the impact that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection have on how people interact with the Holy Spirit. As you studied in Lesson 1, the Holy Spirit was always active in creation and the lives of believers. But His presence was fleeting. In God's awesome plan, only after Jesus' purpose on this earth was fulfilled would the Holy Spirit permanently come to live in all Believers. In this lesson, your students will take an in-depth look at how Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's new role in the lives of all those who would come to a saving faith in Christ. Jesus gave a ton of insight into this new way of interacting with the Spirit, a new relationship that would empower and enlighten all of God's children from Pentecost until now. By looking at Jesus' words regarding the Spirit, your students will be challenged to see their interactions with the Holy Spirit in a new light.

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## TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **Holy Spirit** lesson 3 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 3, and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

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## BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the Bible Background to help summarize the context.

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## THE DETAILS

### John

- **Author:** The Gospel of John was written by John, son of Zebedee, a fisherman who left his trade to follow Jesus. John also penned the book of Revelation as well as the three letters in the New Testament that bear his name.
- **Timeframe:** The Gospel of John was probably written between 85 and 95 AD. John most likely wrote his gospel in Ephesus before he was exiled to Patmos.
- **Purpose:** John's stated goal for writing this book can be found in John 20:30-31, the last two verses in his gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name." John's goal seems to have been to communicate a full theology of Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

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## THE MAIN POINT

The sections you'll be covering from the Gospel of John are meant to highlight the roles of the Holy Spirit. What, exactly, does the Holy Spirit do? Why is the Holy Spirit so vital in the lives of Christ-followers? Depending on the background of your students, they may never have studied the Holy Spirit this in-depth before. Even though you won't be covering a lot of ground biblically, your students may be taking in a lot of new information. Throughout the lesson, make sure you continue to highlight the "big idea" of this lesson: The Holy Spirit helps us know Christ, grow in Christ, and tell everyone we can about Christ.

It's great to dive into some of the particulars of what it means that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, but if these are new ideas to your group, don't let the details distract from the main point you're trying to get across.

Last, make sure you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your teaching and to guide your students in their learning. It would be silly to teach a lesson on the Holy Spirit without asking for His help, right?

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## LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

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## THE LEAD IN

- **Goal:** To get your students thinking about how the ending of a perfect thing—as sad or disappointing as it can sometimes be—might be the beginning of something even better in the future.
- **Set-Up:** None.

[Before you get started, if you wrapped up last week's lesson with the rubber band/string activity, ask if anybody still has his or hers on. If so, engage these students in a brief discussion. Ask if seeing the rubber band/string worked in leading

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them to focus on the Spirit's presence in their lives. Ask how it made them feel. Ask how they feel like they relate to God differently because of the extra focus they put on this awareness of the Holy Spirit. Encourage them for following through. Explain to the other students that they'll have a similar chance this week to focus on an aspect of the Spirit.]

FIRST, give a glimpse into the lesson by explaining that Jesus told His followers that His going away would lead to better things for them in the future. Then ask,

- **Think about a time in your own life when something you loved ended and you were bummed about it, but it ended up being the beginning of something even better.**
  - To go a little deeper than surface-level answers, you may have to offer an example. Some possibilities include moving away, only to meet your best friend (or spouse) in your new city; a dog dying when you were six, but the memories you had with your next pet were even better; or moving up a school level (elementary-middle school or graduating from high school) and experiencing great things after that.

NEXT, ask your students to think about their situation. Ask if there was ever a time when they knew that even in the midst of their loss if something significant was just around the corner.

- If not, ask them if they had known could they have ever believed it.
- If so, ask how this affected how they felt about the "end" of whatever it is that ended.

FINALLY, explain that Jesus' followers felt the same way when He told them that He was about to go away. Say something like:

- **Jesus followers couldn't fully understand that He was going to die, rise from the dead, then ascend to Heaven. But they did grasp that He wouldn't be around much longer. What they couldn't have known was that His leaving would pave the way for the Holy Spirit to permanently indwell all Believers. That's what we'll be taking a look at today. Let's jump-in to our time of Bible study.**

Transition into the **Main Event** portion of your lesson.

## THE MAIN EVENT

- **Goal:** For students to understand the role that the Holy Spirit plays in our world and their lives as followers of Jesus.
- **Set Up:** Make sure you have some way to write down the roles of the Holy Spirit during the lesson so that they are visible to everyone in the group. It can be as simple as a flip chart or a dry-erase board, or if you're in a large group setting, you can have someone project the roles up on the screen as you go along. The important thing is that once a role is written down, it stays visible for the remainder of the lesson.

FIRST, instruct students to find the Gospel of John in their Bibles or Bible apps. While they're looking, provide the context for the book by using your Bible Background. Then, read or better yet, have a student read, John 16:5-7. Then, ask:

- **Jesus noticed that His disciples were filled with grief (or sorrow, depending on the translation). Why do you think they were sad?**
  - Answers will vary. But basically, it was because they knew Jesus was going away, even if they didn't fully grasp where or how.

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- **The thought that Jesus would be leaving the disciples had to be more than they could handle. Do you think Jesus' disciples believed Him when He said, "it is for your good that I am going away"?**
  - Answers will vary. If it helps, recall the opening question and whether your group understood that something significant was going to happen when they were sad about the ending of something they enjoyed.
- **In this verse, Jesus gives us the first "role" of the Holy Spirit. How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit here?**
  - Answers will vary based on translation. Different Bible versions differ widely on how they translate the word Jesus used for the Holy Spirit in 16:7; possibilities include Helper, Counselor, or Advocate. Since the Greek term indicates someone who came to someone's aid who needed help (often legal assistance), whatever the word meant to them, they knew it was a positive thing.

Explain that the flip chart (or whatever method for writing down the Holy Spirit's roles you chose) is for the group to keep track of different things they notice the Holy Spirit does as they read the passages in John. Inform students that as you read a passage of Scripture, they are going to come across various roles the Spirit plays. At the end of each passage, explain that you'll call for volunteers to call out a specific role they noticed in the verses. If you're using a method of displaying these roles that allow students to write them down, allow the volunteer to come up and write down the role they spot in the verses.

Before moving on, write down the word "Counselor" or whatever your Bible translation notes here for the Spirit. Then, say something like:

- **I'm going to start off the list with "Counselor" (or "Advocates" etc.). This verse doesn't let us know much about what the Spirit's role will be here. But, Jesus is very clear that the Helper—a word Jesus used for the Holy Spirit to indicate that He would be sent to help us—would not come until Jesus left. Keep that in mind as we move on to the other passages we'll read.**

NEXT, explain to students that you'll be jumping around a bit between John chapters 14 and 16, so ask for three volunteers to read: one to read John 16:8-11, one to read 14:25-26, and one to read John 16:12-13. Let them mark their places, and tell them that you'll let them know when it's their turn to read.

Start by having the first student read John 16:8-11. When he or she is finished, ask students what roles of the Spirit the passage mentioned. Ask something like:

- **What do you see in these four verses that the Holy Spirit does? What role is He pictured as playing?**
  - Answer: Convicts the world about sin (or proves them to be wrong), righteousness, and judgment.
- **What do you think it means for the Holy Spirit to "convict" someone of sin and righteousness?**
  - Answer: To show people that they're wrong, or possibly to prove that they're wrong, even though they may try to cover it up, or live outside concepts of right and wrong. The Spirit also leads people to righteousness, guiding people not only in what not to do but in righteous pursuits to go after.
- **Have you ever experienced this in your own life, feeling like the Spirit was "nudging" you, telling you that something you did was wrong? How do you typically respond?**
  - Answers will vary.
- **Verse 9 specifically points out that the Holy Spirit will convict people of sin because they don't believe in Jesus. Last week we learned that the Holy Spirit only dwells inside someone who has given their lives to Christ. So from just verse 9, what can we know about the role the Holy Spirit plays in the life of someone**

WEEK 3: LESSON PLAN  
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## who doesn't know Jesus?

- o Answer: That the Holy Spirit can still lead people to see that they don't live up to God's standard of living and are in need of a Savior.

Explain that the Holy Spirit is an essential part of how someone comes to know Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit showing us that we sin and rebel against God, there's no way for us to even know that we need a Savior. To make it even shorter, the Holy Spirit helps us meet Jesus for the first time.

NEXT, ask the volunteer assigned to John 14:25-26 to read the passage. Ask the students what roles are depicted here. The roles of the Holy Spirit that are evident in this passage include to "teach us all things" and to "remind us" of what we've learned. If applicable, allow students to write these on your board or flip-chart.

THEN, explain that one of the major things the Holy Spirit does is to teach us, which helps us grow in our relationship with Jesus. It's true that God gave us a brain so that we could read His word (the Bible), and see evidence of Him in nature. But ultimately, it is the Holy Spirit that helps us to learn about Jesus in a way that changes our lives.

- **Why do you think Jesus' followers would need to be reminded of His words?**
  - o There may be many answers, but the point you'll want to drive home is that following Jesus would be hard for them because of discouragement and persecution. Make the connection that it's also hard today to follow Jesus, which is why it's amazing that the Holy Spirit reminds us of Jesus: what He said, what He did for us, and how He's changed our lives.
- **So, we say that the Holy Spirit teaches us, but what does that mean? What are ways you can think that the Holy Spirit could teach someone about what Jesus did and taught, His purpose for coming to Earth, etc.?**
  - o Answers will vary. The idea is to get students thinking on a practical level. So, possible answers might include merely helping you understand something as you're studying the Bible; maybe an "Aha!" moment as you hear a Christian song; riding down the road when a specific train of thought pops into your mind, and you're lead to think about Christ or spiritual issues; possibly even some thing dramatic like a vision, and so on.
- **Have you ever personally experienced something like one of these examples?**
  - o Answers will vary. If the students share anything from their own experience, encourage them to "unpack" what they experienced. Help them to see how the Holy Spirit has already been working in their lives.

FINALLY, have the last volunteer read John 16:12-13. At this point, you're moving toward wrapping up your discussion about the Holy Spirit. Ask something similar to the following:

- **Jesus says that He has more to say to the disciples, but "it's more than you can bear." What do you think would have been hard for them to hear at the time, that they heard later?**
  - o Possible Answers: The fact that they would be the ones to begin spreading the message of Jesus' resurrection and the salvation available through the power of the Spirit; that they would be persecuted for telling people about Jesus.
- **Why do you think it was necessary for the disciples to have the Holy Spirit after Jesus left? I mean, they already knew Jesus and had a front-row seat to His ministry. What would they need help with after His death and resurrection?**

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- o Answers: Students may mention a variety of things here, but the point you are looking to drive home is that the Holy Spirit would help the disciples to tell people about Jesus and to do the work of advancing God's Kingdom. Make sure that this last role makes it on the flip chart.

Explain that God gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit not just for our own personal, private, walk with Jesus, but to help us tell others about Jesus so they, too, might experience freedom and life in Christ. Say something like:

- **The Holy Spirit helps us know Christ, grow in Christ, and tell everyone we can about Christ. If we forget about the fact that the Holy Spirit is given partly to help spread the Good News of Jesus, we've missed a big part of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does. Let's wrap up our lesson with a quick look at how we might put this new knowledge to use in our lives.**

Ask if there are any questions, then transition into the *Last Word*.

## THE LAST WORD

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- **Goal:** The goal of this section is to allow students to connect personally with at least one of the roles of the Holy Spirit that has been written down.
- **Set-Up:** You'll want to have the list of roles handy, preferably still visible to the whole group. You'll also need a 3 x 5 card and a pen/pencil for each student.

FIRST, review the list of roles that are on the chart. Ask the group if they feel like there are more that could be added to the list. Then, say:

- **It's one thing to learn about the Holy Spirit and be able to list some of the things that he does. But if it's all up here (point to your head), then it's about as useful as being able to recite the Pythagorean theorem but not knowing how to use it. I want to finish this week by issuing a challenge, similar to last week, that encourages you to focus on one of the Holy Spirit's roles in your life.**
  - o At this point, pass out the 3 x 5 cards and pens/pencils, if you haven't already.
  - o If you're looking for a more creative option, you could always have students use a note taking app on their phones.
  - o Or you could choose to encourage them to utilize one of the many sketchbook apps to make a more visual presentation. If they do this, they can make the image a screen saver on their phones.

NEXT, explain that they will have a minute or so to consider the list and choose one of the roles of the Spirit they want to focus on. Then, when they've had time to decide, say something similar to:

- **We're all unique, and in different places on the journey with Jesus, so we may all choose different roles. If you aren't sure about Jesus and haven't submitted your life to Him yet but you're intrigued about what it means to have a relationship with Him, you might ask the Holy Spirit to convict you this week or help you understand who Jesus is.**
- **Or, you might be in a place where you're lacking courage or confidence in sharing about Jesus with a friend or family member, and you may want to ask the Holy Spirit to help you tell that person about Jesus. In that**

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**case, you might write the word “Reminder” on your card. Just choose a role from this list that you’re drawn to.**

- o Allow the group time (and silence) to write one of the roles down, and encourage them to keep the cards where they will see it each day this week. If you’re in a small group setting, you might ask your group to share what they wrote and then have your group pray for each other specifically.

FINALLY, tell them that you’d love to hear about any ways that they see the Holy Spirit working during the next week. Explain that you’ll be in contact via text or social media throughout the week to remind them to look at their card, and they can respond either publically or privately about what they see God doing.

Close in prayer.

- **Don’t forget to distribute the devotions to your students this week. If you’re posting them on Instagram, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.**
- **Use the Social Media guide to stay in touch with students via text or Instagram, and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions.**

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn’t work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at [feedback@youthministry360.com](mailto:feedback@youthministry360.com).