

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE RCIA

INQUIRY SESSION: THE HOLY SPIRIT

Inquiry Session (Approximately 60 minutes)

Prepare

For this session you will need copies of the participants' handout.

You may find it helpful to review page 50 of *Our Catholic Heritage, Levels I and II*.

Set the space with chairs in a circle and in the center place a prayer table covered in the color of the liturgical season. On the table place a candle, a shamrock plant or a shamrock, and a Bible opened to Acts 2:1-11.

If needed, have nametags. Provide light refreshments.

Gather (10 – 15 minutes)

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Invite them to introduce themselves to the group and to share something good that happened since the last time the group gathered.
2. Read together the *My Story* section of the participants' handout and discuss the questions found there.
3. Show them the shamrock plant or the shamrock.
4. Share with the group that Saint Patrick used the shamrock to talk about God. He explained to people that there is One God, represented by one shamrock, and there are Three Persons in One God—there are three distinct leaves, but one shamrock.
5. Give the children time to look at the shamrock and to make the connection about the Three Persons in One God.

Expand (15 – 20 minutes)

1. Continue the discussion, highlighting the following points:
 - Each of the Three Persons has a special role or attribute:
 - God the Father is often referred to as the Creator.
 - God the Son, Jesus, is referred to as Savior, Redeemer, and Messiah.
 - God the Holy Spirit is referred to as Helper, Guide, Teacher, and Advocate.
2. When we speak of One God, all three Persons are included.
3. We call the Three Persons in One God the Holy Trinity.
4. Read and discuss the *God's Story* section.
5. Proclaim Acts 2:1-11.
6. Lead a short discussion about the Holy Spirit using the following or similar discussion points:
 - Jesus promised that when he ascended to Heaven he would send the Spirit to be with the Apostles.
 - The Spirit gave the Apostles the courage to tell others about Jesus.
 - The Spirit inspired them to speak with so much conviction that thousands wanted to be baptized that day.
 - The Holy Spirit continues to be our special guide and helper in many, many ways today.
 - Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with us until the end of time.
 - The Spirit is always ready to help us.

Our Response (15 – 20 minutes)

1. Share with the group that in Confirmation we celebrate the Gifts of the Holy Spirit coming to each of us in a special way. There are seven gifts attributed to the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord.
2. Invite volunteers to share the gift that they would most want to have and why.
3. Read and discuss the ***Our Response*** section of the participants' handout.
4. Review the ***Faith Words***.

Pray (2 – 3 minutes)

Invite the group to echo you in praying the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

*Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in them
the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
and they shall be created.
And you will renew
the face of the earth.
Amen.*