

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Welcome | 4 |
| Program Overview | 5 |
| Key Elements of the Program | 14 |
| Additional Support Information | 16 |
| Chapter 1 Holy Spirit, Come to Us! | 18 |
| Acts 2:1–6 | |
| Chapter 2 The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us | 25 |
| Luke 4:16–19,21 | |
| Chapter 3 We Are Born Again | 31 |
| John 3:4–6 | |
| Chapter 4 We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives | 38 |
| Matthew 28:16–20 | |
| The Renewal of Baptismal Promises | 44 |
| Confirmation Key Words | 46 |
| Acknowledgments | 47 |

Welcome

Welcome to *Go Seek Find: Discover God's Treasures!*

We at Saint Mary's Press are excited to partner with you in the important ministry of preparing children for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation as part of the restored order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Through this new and unique program, children are led on an adventure of discovery as they explore the rich and beautiful significance of this sacrament in their lives. *Go Seek Find* will engage and inspire children, creating a spirit of excitement and joy around their journey toward encountering the Holy Spirit through the treasure that is the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This program was developed with the real needs of children at its center. The program's core text is *The Saint Mary's Press® Catholic Children's Bible*. By using a Bible designed specifically for them and engaging with the Featured Stories within it, children will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation through the biblical lens of Jesus' life and works as empowered by the Holy Spirit and learn more about their faith in language they can understand. They will also experience interactive core activities that bring the chapter lessons to life in a fun and memorable way. And they will learn important information about the Sacrament of Confirmation, reinforcing this new knowledge through a variety of activities and family learning opportunities offered in the activity booklets that accompany each lesson.

Together, you and the children will *Go Seek Find* the incredible treasure that is the Sacrament of Confirmation. May an ever-expanding awareness of Christ's presence in our lives be the source of faith, hope, and love for all of us!

With hopes and prayers for every blessing,

The Publishing Team at Saint Mary's Press

**"Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened to you."**

(Matthew 7:7)

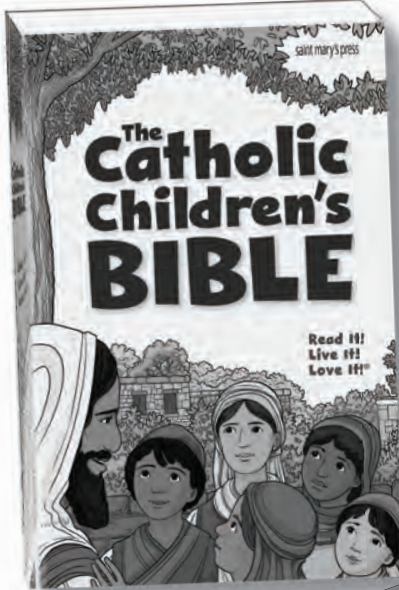
Program Overview

Program Outline

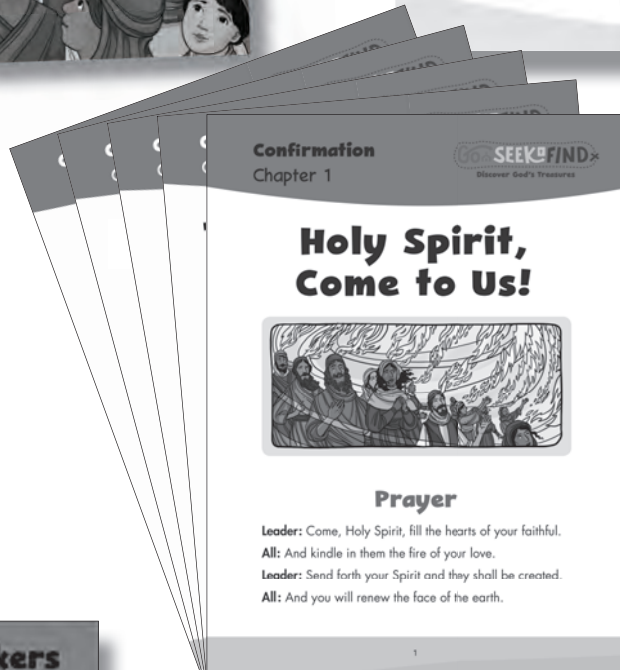
| Chapter Number | Chapter Title | Lesson Goals | Featured Story | Key Words |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | Holy Spirit, Come to Us! | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation | The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6) | symbol, confers |
| 2 | The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Us | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that the Holy Spirit helped Jesus bring us the Good News to express that the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the Liturgy of the Word to recognize that we are strengthened with the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit | Jesus Says He Came to Save Us (Luke 4:16–19,21) | Good News, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruits of the Holy Spirit |
| 3 | We Are Born Again | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recall that we first received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism to recognize that in Confirmation we renew our baptismal promises to follow Christ and to renounce sin to summarize that in Confirmation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism | We Are Born Again through Baptism (John 3:4–6) | baptismal promises, laying on of hands, anoint, Sacred Chrism |
| 4 | We Spread the Gospel with Our Lives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to recognize that Jesus wants us to spread the Good News everywhere to recall that Jesus is with us always through the Holy Spirit to express that the Holy Spirit helps us to follow Jesus in his mission of love | Jesus Wants Us to Help Others to Know Him (Matthew 28:16–20) | General Intercessions, Dismissal, witness |

Program Components

The Catholic Children's Bible



Teaching Guide

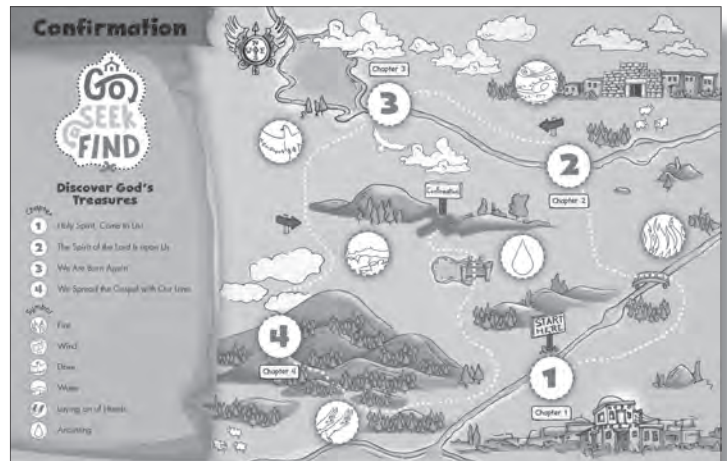


Activity Booklets

Stickers



Treasure Map



Understanding the Components

Teaching Guide

Background Focus provides quick, easy-to-read insights about the theme of the chapter.

Lesson Goals shows the key desired outcomes of the chapter.

A list of **Materials Needed** helps you adequately prepare for the lesson.

18

Chapter 1

Chapter 1

Featured Story
The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1-6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost
- to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols
- to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation

Lesson at a Glance

Go (10 minutes)
Opening Prayer
Engage Activity

Seek (30 minutes)
Featured Story
Core Learning Activity

Find (20 minutes)
God's Treasure of Confirmation
Lesson Wrap-Up
Closing Prayer


Materials Needed

- The Catholic Children's Bible and chapter 1 activity booklet
- red crepe paper streamers, one for each child
- lively music to accompany the streamer activity
- pictures of symbols of the Holy Spirit mounted or drawn on cards
- preparation materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- "Holy Spirit, Come," by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- "Breathe (Live)," by Hillsong Kids (Hillsong Church)

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of "father"; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can't forget. Then we realize: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit's presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God's love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God's new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 1 activity booklets.
- Begin prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Choose a child to read the leader's lines, and invite the rest of the children to read the lines for "all." Explain to them that the word *kindle* means "to light or set on fire."

The **Go** part of the lesson begins with an opening prayer that is found in the activity booklets.

Two **Music Suggestions** are offered for possible incorporation into the lesson. Links to these songs can be found at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books.

After the opening prayer, an **Engage Activity** will spark interest and create excitement in the children.

Engage Activity

- Invite the children to share what they know about the Holy Spirit, and record their answers on the board. Give them some examples if they need help. (Answers might include: the Holy Spirit is included in the Sign of the Cross; the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity; the Holy Spirit helped us prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; the Holy Spirit is our helper and inspires us to do good.)
- Tell the children that today they will learn that after Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to help the Church. Explain that Christians celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit each year on a very special and holy day.

Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to find Acts 2:1–6 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1712).
- Direct them to turn to page 1714 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the text between the leaves on page 1714 is a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1712.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on the pages 1714–1715. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork.
- Invite a volunteer to read the title on the page, and ask the children to share what the word *disciples* means. (A *disciple* is a follower of a teacher. A *disciple of Jesus* is a follower of Jesus. We are all disciples of Jesus.)
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask the children several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - > What do we call this special day when the Holy Spirit came? (*Pentecost*)
 - > What did the disciples hear? (*A strong wind blowing*)
 - > What did the disciples see? (*They saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread and touched each person.*)

The **Seek** part of the lesson invites the children to interact directly with the Bible and learn key sacrament-related themes through important Bible stories.

Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Use the symbol cards that you have made in advance to show the different symbols of the Holy Spirit as you discuss them. Symbols might include wind, fire, water, cloud and light, dove, finger of God. Some pictures can be found on the Internet.
 - > We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we use symbols to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us. A symbol is something that stands for something else. There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit. We already know that wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit. (Hold up the symbol cards of wind and fire.)
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is water. (Hold up symbol card.) Water reminds us of our Baptism. This is when the Holy Spirit first came to us, which we will learn about more in another lesson. When we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross, we are also reminded of our Baptism.
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove (hold up symbol card) because, when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove.
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is light. (Hold up symbol card.) The Chosen One was led by the Holy Spirit at night. When he became the Messiah, he was shadowed by the Holy Spirit. He cast a shadow on the ground.
 - > Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is the finger of God, the law of love in the heart.

Note: Further explanations can be found in *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 694–701. Note the laying on of hands in chapter 3, as they are part of the Order of Confirmation.

- > Suddenly there came a sound like the rushing of wind, and fire appeared and divided, and it sat upon each of them.
- > The Holy Spirit came and told them about the things that were to happen.
- Explain to the children that the Holy Spirit has been with the Church ever since the Holy Spirit was sent. Continue by telling the children the story of Pentecost. Tell the children that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples at Pentecost.

Live It

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! on page 1715 or read it aloud to the group.
- Ask the children to pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each line and ask the children to repeat it.
- Ask volunteers to memorize the prayer as suggested. Keep a record of their names. Tell them that you will ask them to recite the prayer aloud at the next session.
- Explain to the children that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit signs and seals us, and strengthens us with his gifts.

Tell It

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1715.
- Invite the children to find a partner and use the images to retell the Bible reading the best that they can.
- Encourage several volunteers to stand and summarize the Bible reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!
- Have the children use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story (pages 1714–1715) that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining three chapters.

Core Learning Activity

Wind and Fire Dance

- Choose a lively song or other piece of music ahead of time and have it ready for this activity.
- Prepare the children for the activity by reminding them that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as wind and fire.
- Distribute the crepe paper streamers, one to each child. (For each streamer, take three, 3-foot long, red crepe paper strips and staple together at one end.) Explain that the streamers are red because red is the color of fire and so it is the color of the Holy Spirit. Remind them that red is also the color of love, just like red hearts on Valentine's Day.
- Gather the children in a large circle, with space around each one. Explain that, when the music starts, they are to wave their streamers up, down, and around. Tell them that they will

Chapter 1

- Explain that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - > The Sacrament of Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit will come to each one of you personally. So we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day that you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - > We rejoice in it and celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit will strengthen you in Confirmation and will be with you always.
 - > At Baptism, you received your name. In Confirmation, you will be called again by your name to receive the Holy Spirit. (You may also be called by a new name, the name of a special saint that you will be as a friend in heaven to help you live as a strong follower of Jesus.)

Note: The Church gives candidates for Confirmation the option of using their baptismal name in Confirmation, to emphasize the connection of Confirmation to Baptism, or of choosing the name of a saint or holy person. For further information, please see page 17 in the front of this teaching guide.

- > For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop comes to our parish. The bishop is "the one who signs" of Confirmation. This means

The **Find** part of the lesson relays key information about the sacrament the children are preparing for.

be using the power of the wind to wave their streamers.

- Explain that you will occasionally stop the music. Have the children "freeze" in place until you start the music again.
- Start the music and lead the children in a dance around the circle or the room, stopping and starting the music as you wish. Finish the dance by gathering the children in a circle.

Process the Activity

- Explore the symbol of wind for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - > Can you think of a time when the wind is very powerful? (*a tornado, hurricane, or wind-storm*) But wind has power for good things also. How do we use wind for energy and electricity? (*We use windmills to capture the power of the wind to use for energy.*)
 - > Wind is also refreshing and cleansing. When is wind refreshing or cleansing? (*a cool breeze on a hot day; wind can blow dust and dirt away and leave things clean*)
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like wind because he is very powerful, but also very refreshing and cleansing.
- Explore the symbol of fire for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - > Can you think of a time when fire is very powerful? (*a forest fire; a house fire*)
 - > How do we use fire for energy and other good things? (*We use fire for heat, for cooking, for campfires, to light candles in church and at home.*)
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like fire because he is very powerful, but he also gives us energy and light. Remind the children that fire is also a sign of love, and the Holy Spirit gives us the energy and power of love to do good things. Tell them that the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts to understand the love of God the Father for us, and also what Jesus wants us to think and do.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on page 23 in its place.

Each lesson is anchored by a **Core Learning Activity**. This activity presents an aspect of the chapter theme in a fun, engaging, and memorable way.

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take some time to get input from the class, and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, came upon the Church at Pentecost.
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols.
 - The Holy Spirit comes to strengthen us in a special way in Confirmation.
- Ask the children to place the chapter 1 sticker in the correct circle on their Confirmation treasure maps. Then remind them that the symbols of fire, wind, and the dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit, and have them place these stickers in the correct circles.

**Closing Prayer**

- Begin the prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross and saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, come to us. Come upon us, not in wind and fire, but in the love and joy you place in our hearts. Bring us closer to Jesus and to all of God's children." Encourage the children to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.

The **Lesson Wrap-Up** encourages the children to recall what they learned and mark their progress on their interactive treasure map.

Additional Activities offers substitute options for the core learning activity. These additional activities also may be used to extend the lesson.

Additional Activities**Holy Spirit Headbands (15 minutes)**

- Distribute the paper strips. Fit them around the head of each child, and staple or tape them together. After fitting the headbands, ask the children to take them off and put them on their desks.
- Distribute a red flame to each child. Ask the children to staple the flame to the front of their headbands.
- Explain that, just as they were called by name in the Sacrament of Baptism, so they will be called by name in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Instruct the children that, when you call their names, they will come up and hand you the Holy Spirit headband.
- Place the headband on each child's head, using these or similar words, "[Name], I place this flame upon your head as a sign that the Holy Spirit will come to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May you follow the Holy Spirit, now and always." Prompt the child to respond, "Amen."
- Play a song about the Holy Spirit to conclude the activity.

Materials Needed

- yellow construction paper, cut into strips, lengthwise, one or two for each child
- red flames cut from red construction paper
- stapler, scissors, and tape

The Wind Blows Wherever It Wishes (15 minutes)

Note: Balloons are used in this activity. If any of the children have an allergy to latex, you should choose a different activity.

- Ask the children to open *The Catholic Children's Bible* to the following verse: John 3:8. Help the children as needed. Read the passage aloud.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit leads us all through life, but we don't always know exactly where the Holy Spirit is leading. Tell them that sometimes God works in mysterious ways, and we just have to follow in trust.
- Explain that we will illustrate this verse now, using our own breath.
- Invite five children to form a line across the front of the room and facing the back of the room. Give each child a balloon of a different color.
- Explain that the object of this game is to get the balloon to the other side of the room by blowing it up and then letting it go. Tell the children that when their balloon falls to the floor, they should pick it up at the spot where it landed, blow it up again, and then release it again. Instruct them to repeat these actions until their balloon touches the wall in the back of the room.
- Mark the beginning of the race, and invite the rest of the class to cheer for those who are racing. Continue until the last child's balloon has touched the wall. Choose five more children, if time allows, and have the race again.

Materials Needed

- balloons, one for each child

Key Elements of the Program

Teaching Guide

The teaching guide divides each chapter into three main parts: “Go,” “Seek,” and “Find.” The “Go” section begins with an opening prayer and continues with a short activity to engage the children in the topic of the day. The “Seek” section involves exploring Scripture related to the sacrament of focus and a core learning activity centered on the chapter theme. The “Find” section gives the children a deeper look into the meaning of the sacrament and concludes the lesson with a summary and closing prayer.

Activity Booklets

A fun and colorful activity booklet is provided for each chapter. Although intended for use as supportive group-learning activities, these booklets also may be completed at home with the family. They include the opening prayer used for each lesson, two activity pages that support the learning of the chapter, and a family page that offers families background on the chapter topic, strategies to integrate the values of Christian life into family life, and suggested activities related to the lesson to be done at home.

Additional Booklet

The Sacrament of Confirmation resources include an additional booklet that contains all the key words used in the program as well as the Renewal of Baptismal Promises from the *Order of Confirmation*.

Treasure Map

The Sacrament of Confirmation has its own treasure map. This unique and colorful resource is designed to build excitement as the children journey through the various chapters on the way to the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Using stickers with key images from the Bible stories to be read in each chapter, the children track their progress on a fun, engaging treasure map as they recall the key themes and lessons offered in the four Confirmation chapters.

Stickers

A sticker sheet is included in the resources for the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition to the stickers that allow the children to track their progress on the treasure maps, there are stickers that allow the children to mark Featured Stories or key verses in the Bible that have special significance to them. This immerses children in the Bible and helps them retain key lessons and messages throughout.

Music Suggestions

Music can add another wonderful dimension to this program. Each chapter includes two song suggestions that correspond to the chapter theme. These songs can be purchased and downloaded online. For a complete list of all of the songs for the program, along with direct links for purchasing, please visit the online resources for this program at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books. Of course, you may also wish to add your own favorite hymns or songs such as those that are popular in your parish community.

Videos

Options for activities that incorporate fun and engaging videos are provided throughout the program. Settings with the necessary technology can utilize this additional media to further enliven learning. These video suggestions are also included on the family page in the children's activity booklets, so if they are not used within the formal learning environment, they can be enjoyed at home with the family. Quick links to the video resources that are referenced throughout this program are available as part of the online resources for this program at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books.

Additional Support Information

Teaching with *The Catholic Children's Bible*

Go Seek Find is a unique sacrament preparation program, as it immerses children directly in *The Catholic Children's Bible* and introduces key themes involved in sacrament preparation through Bible stories. This focus on Scripture builds important biblical literacy as it roots the themes of the sacraments in God's Word. It is important, therefore, that you are familiar with *The Catholic Children's Bible* in order to help children become comfortable and confident with its navigation and use. To this end, *The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide* was created. This invaluable resource will help you introduce *The Catholic Children's Bible* to children, as well as provide you with essential insights into how to help children read and understand Scripture. You can learn more about this helpful resource by contacting your local Saint Mary's Press representative or by visiting www.smp.org.

Home Guide

For those programs that encourage parents to become the key educators of sacrament preparation in the home, *Go Seek Find* offers a Home Guide. This guide presents the core content of *Go Seek Find* in a way that is adapted for teaching and learning in the home. Clear instructions, accessible language, and activities that work in a home setting are the focus of this guide, making sacrament preparation at home an easy, fun, and engaging possibility. This free resource is offered online at www.smp.org/resourcecenter/books.

Optional Yearlong Program

Some parishes and schools prefer to devote the entire year to preparation for the first reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. *Go Seek Find* can be adapted to a yearlong program by adding appropriate seasonal and liturgical lessons presented in *The Catholic Children's Bible Leader Guide*. Chapter 10 of this leader guide offers thirteen Scripture-based lessons that include an opening prayer, the reading of a Featured Story, an activity, and a closing prayer, and can easily supplement the lessons in the *Go Seek Find* program.

Godparents and Sponsors

The restored order of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation links the three Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist together very closely. The Church particularly makes an effort, in catechesis and in practice, to emphasize the close link between Baptism and Confirmation. This is reflected in Canon Law. In canon 893, candidates for Confirmation are encouraged to choose their

baptismal godparent or sponsor as their Confirmation sponsor. When the Sacrament of Confirmation is delayed until the teen years, this is not always possible. It may be more possible when the sacraments are conferred more closely together in time, as in the restored order.

However, the option to choose a sponsor other than the baptismal godparents remains. It should always be kept in mind that the sponsor at Confirmation should be someone who is at least sixteen years of age (or the age determined by diocesan guidelines), has been confirmed, is receiving the Eucharist, and is in good standing with the Church.

Choosing a Confirmation Name

There are two main practices regarding the name pronounced by the bishop at the moment of anointing, when he says, “[Name of child], be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit” (*Order of Confirmation*, 27). The first practice is to use the baptismal name of the candidate. The second is to select a new name. The first option, using the baptismal name, emphasizes the close link between Baptism and Confirmation. Confirmation completes the process of initiation that was begun in Baptism. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation perfects the grace received in Baptism. When Confirmation candidates are confirmed using their baptismal names, the close connection between Baptism and Confirmation is highlighted.

In some parishes and dioceses, candidates have the option of selecting new names or using their baptismal names. In helping children select a new name, consider introducing books and materials highlighting the lives of the saints. A new name should be a source of inspiration in living life as a confirmed follower of Jesus Christ.

Chapter 1

Featured Story

The Holy Spirit Comes to the Disciples (Acts 2:1–6)

Lesson Goals

- to recall that the Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost
- to identify that the presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols
- to recognize that the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation

Lesson at a Glance

- Go** (10 minutes)
 - Opening Prayer
 - Engage Activity
- Seek** (30 minutes)
 - Featured Story
 - Core Learning Activity
- Find** (20 minutes)
 - God's Treasure of Confirmation
 - Lesson Wrap-Up
 - Closing Prayer

Materials Needed

- *The Catholic Children's Bible* and chapter 1 activity booklet
- red crepe paper streamers, one for each child
- lively music and locate the prayer on the page
- pictures of symbols of the Holy Spirit mounted or drawn on cards
- materials for any of the additional activities you choose

Music Suggestions

- "Holy Spirit, Come," by Spring Harvest (Elevation Kids)
- "Breathe (Live)," by Hillsong Kids (Hillsong Church)

Holy Spirit, Come to Us!



Background Focus

We tend to think of the Holy Spirit as elusive. We can know something of God the Father through our own experience of "father"; we can know something of God the Son through our reading of Scripture. The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is a little bit harder to pin down. How do we come to know the Holy Spirit? Often it is through a nudge, an intuition, a word or phrase from Scripture that we can't forget. Then we realize: the Holy Spirit has visited us.

Certainly the Holy Spirit's presence was felt in a big way at Pentecost. As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and gave them both comfort and courage as they were beginning something new—a Church that would live and spread the Good News of God's love. The Holy Spirit that hovered over the chaos of creation was now hovering over them. They were God's new creation. Their lives would never be the same. As the Holy Spirit comes to our children in the Sacrament of Confirmation, their lives will never be the same either. What a wonderful, powerful message to share!

Go (10 minutes)

Opening Prayer

- Invite the children to turn to page 1 of their chapter 1 activity booklets.
- Begin prayer by leading the class in the Sign of the Cross, then say, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God." Allow about 10 seconds of silence.
- Choose a child to read the leader's lines, and invite the rest of the children to read the lines for "all." Explain to them that the word *kindle* means "to light or set on fire."

Engage Activity

- Invite the children to share what they know about the Holy Spirit, and record their answers on the board. Give them some examples if they need help. (*Answers might include: The Holy Spirit is included in the Sign of the Cross, the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit helped us prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Holy Spirit is our helper and inspires us to do good.*)
- Tell the children that today they will learn that after Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit was sent to help the Church. Explain that Christians celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit each year on a very special and holy day.

✚ Seek (30 minutes)

Featured Story

- Invite the children to find Acts 2:1–6 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* (page 1712).
- Direct them to turn to page 1714 and place an "I found it!" sticker next to the Featured Story.
- Tell them that the text between the leaves on page 1714 is a shortened version of the Scripture story on page 1712.
- Ask the children to look at the artwork on pages 1714–1715. Invite them to describe what they see in the artwork.
- Invite a volunteer to read the title on the page, and ask the children to share what the word *disciples* means. (*A disciple is a follower of a teacher. A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus. We are all disciples of Jesus.*)
- Read the Bible story to the children. Then ask the children several questions to check for comprehension, such as:
 - What do we call this special day when the Holy Spirit came? (*Pentecost*)
 - What did the disciples hear? (*They heard a strong wind blowing*)
 - What did the disciples see? (*They saw what looked like tongues of fire, which spread and touched each person.*)
- What happened to the disciples? (*They were filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in other languages.*)
- Remind the children that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.
- Ask the children to pause and make the Sign of the Cross prayerfully and to recall how we mention each Person of the Trinity in this prayer.
- Have the children turn to 2 of their activity booklets and complete the activity with their Bibles open. *Answers: Pentecost, noise, wind, tongues of fire, Holy Spirit*

Understand It!

- Read Understand It! on page 1715 to the children, or invite a volunteer or volunteers to read.
- Invite the children to summarize what they just heard, asking them key questions about the reading to check for comprehension.
- Explain some of the following points:
 - Jews came from all around the region for the Jewish feast of Pentecost. This is a harvest festival and a time to recall the Ten Commandments being given at Mount Sinai. This feast is still celebrated by Jews today.
 - Mary and the disciples had gathered together and were praying. Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit, so Mary and the disciples were praying and waiting.
 - Suddenly there was a great noise, and the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. The wind and fire were signs of his presence.
 - The Holy Spirit gave the disciples courage to tell others about Jesus.
- Explain to the children that the Holy Spirit has been with the Church to lead and guide God's people ever since that day of Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit will stay with the Church always. Continue by telling them that the Holy Spirit guides the Church through the teaching of the Pope and bishops, and through the faith of all the people.
- Tell the children that Christians celebrate the feast of Pentecost as a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church.

Live It!

- Invite a volunteer to read Live It! on page 1715 or read it aloud to the group.
- Ask the children to pray the prayer with you. You may want to read each line and ask the children to repeat it.
- Ask volunteers to memorize the prayer as suggested. Keep a record of their names. Tell them that you will ask them to recite the prayer aloud at the next session.
- Explain to the children that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Holy Spirit signs and seals us, and strengthens us with his gifts.

Tell It!

- Ask the children to look at the images in Tell It! on page 1715.
- Invite the children to find a partner and use the images to retell the Bible reading the best that they can.
- Encourage several volunteers to stand and summarize the Bible reading for the class, using the images in Tell It!
- Have the children use some of the smaller stickers to mark parts of the Featured Story (pages 1714–1715) that capture their interest. Remind them to save enough stickers to use on the remaining three chapters.

Core Learning Activity**Wind and Fire Dance**

- Choose a lively song or other piece of music ahead of time and have it ready for this activity.
- Prepare the children for the activity by reminding them that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples as wind and fire.
- Distribute the crepe paper streamers, one to each child. (For each streamer, take three, 3-foot long red crepe paper strips and staple them together at one end.) Explain that the streamers are red because red is the color of fire and so it is the color of the Holy Spirit. Remind them that red is also the color of love, just like red hearts on Valentine's Day.
- Gather the children in a large circle, with space around each one. Explain that, when the music starts, they are to wave their streamers up, down, and around. Tell them that they will

be using the power of the wind to wave their streamers.

- Explain that you will occasionally stop the music. Have the children “freeze” in place until you start the music again.
- Start the music and lead the children in a dance around the circle or the room, stopping and starting the music as you wish. Finish the dance by gathering the children in a circle.

Process the Activity

- Explore the symbol of wind for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - Can you think of a time when the wind is very powerful? (*a tornado, hurricane, or wind-storm*) But wind has power for good things also. How do we use wind for energy and electricity? (*We use windmills to capture the power of the wind to use for energy.*)
 - Wind is also refreshing and cleansing. When is wind refreshing or cleansing? (*a cool breeze on a hot day; wind can blow dust and dirt away and leave things clean*)
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like wind because he is very powerful, but also very refreshing and cleansing.
- Explore the symbol of fire for the Holy Spirit by asking the following questions:
 - Can you think of a time when fire is very powerful? (*a forest fire, a house fire*)
 - How do we use fire for energy and other good things? (*We use fire for heat, for cooking, for campfires, to light candles in church and at home.*)
- Explain that the Holy Spirit is like fire because he is very powerful, but he also gives us energy and light. Remind the children that fire is also a sign of love, and the Holy Spirit gives us the energy and power of love to do good things. Tell them that the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts to understand the love of God the Father for us, and also what Jesus wants us to think and do.

Additional Activity Options

If the core activity would not work for your group for any reason, you may choose to use any of the Additional Activities on pages 23–24 in its place.

X Find (20 minutes)

God's Treasure of Confirmation

- Use the symbol cards that you have made in advance to show the different symbols of the Holy Spirit as you discuss them. Symbols might include wind, fire, water, cloud and light, dove, finger of God. Some pictures can be found on the Internet.
 - We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we use symbols to remind us that the Holy Spirit is with us. A **symbol** is something that stands for something else. There are many symbols of the Holy Spirit. We already know that wind and fire are symbols of the Holy Spirit. (*Hold up the symbol cards of wind and fire.*)
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is water. (*Hold up symbol card.*) Water reminds us of our Baptism. This is when the Holy Spirit first came to us, which we will learn about more in another lesson. When we bless ourselves with holy water and make the Sign of the Cross, we are also reminded of our Baptism.
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a dove (*hold up symbol card*) because, when Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit was present in the form of a dove.
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is cloud and light. (*Hold up symbol card.*) When Moses led the Chosen People out of Egypt, God led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. When Mary said yes to God and became the Mother of God, she was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, like a cloud may cast a shadow over something below.
 - Another symbol of the Holy Spirit is a finger. (*Hold up symbol card.*) The Holy Spirit is often called "the finger of God." We say that the finger of God, the Holy Spirit, writes God's law of love in our hearts.

Note: Further explanations of each of these symbols can be found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, (694–701). Note that the symbolic actions of laying on of hands and anointing will be taught in chapter 3, as they are important elements in the *Order of Confirmation*.

- Explain that, in the Sacrament of Confirmation, we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - The Sacrament of Confirmation is when the Holy Spirit will come to each one of you personally. So we will celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day that you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.
 - We rejoice in this and celebrate the fact that the Holy Spirit will strengthen you in Confirmation and will be with you always.
 - At Baptism, you received your name. At Confirmation, you will be called again by your name to receive the Holy Spirit. [*Optional: You may also be called by a new name, the name of a special saint that you will choose as a friend in heaven to help you live as a strong follower of Jesus.*]

Note: The Church gives candidates for Confirmation the option of using their baptismal names at Confirmation, to emphasize the connection of Confirmation to Baptism, or of choosing the name of a saint or holy person. For further information, please see page 17 of this teaching guide.

- For the Sacrament of Confirmation, the bishop comes to our parish. The bishop is "the ordinary minister" of Confirmation. This means that, ordinarily or usually, the bishop is the one who **confers**, or gives us, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- The Sacrament of Confirmation starts with the presentation of all of those who have been preparing for Confirmation. Each of you will be called by name and asked to come forward. [*Or, describe the customary procedure in your parish.*]
- Then the bishop gives a little talk, or homily, about the sacrament. In his talk, the bishop will remind us of what the Holy Spirit did on Pentecost and what the Holy Spirit will do in our lives today.
- Invite the children to turn to page 3 of their activity booklets and complete the activity.
Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c, 5. a

Lesson Wrap-Up

- Invite the children to think back over all the different things they did in this chapter, and invite volunteers to share some of the key things they learned.
- Take some time to get input from the class, and write their answers on the board.
- Ensure that the following points are made, write them on the board, and circle them:
 - The Holy Spirit came upon the Church at Pentecost.
 - The presence of the Holy Spirit is expressed through different symbols.
 - The Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way in Confirmation.
- Ask the children to place the chapter 1 sticker in the correct circle on their Confirmation treasure maps. Then remind them that the symbols of fire, wind, and the dove are symbols of the Holy Spirit, and have them place these stickers in the correct circles.



Closing Prayer

- Begin the prayer by leading the children in the Sign of the Cross and saying, "Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God," followed by a few seconds of silence.
- Play a piece of music, if you have time, that speaks about the Holy Spirit.
- Pray this prayer aloud: "Holy Spirit, come to us. Come upon us, not in wind and fire, but in the love and joy you place in our hearts. Bring us closer to Jesus and to all of God's children." Encourage the children to respond, "Amen."
- Close with a final Sign of the Cross.



Additional Activities

Holy Spirit Headbands (15 minutes)

- Distribute the paper strips. Fit them around the head of each child, and staple or tape them together. After fitting the headbands, ask the children to take them off and put them on their desks.
- Distribute a red flame to each child. Ask the children to staple the flame to the front of their headbands.
- Explain that, just as they were called by name in the Sacrament of Baptism, so they will be called by name in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Instruct the children that, when you call their names, they will come up and hand you the Holy Spirit headband.
- Place the headband on each child's head, using these or similar words, "[Name], I place this flame upon your head as a sign that the Holy Spirit will come to you in the Sacrament of Confirmation. May you follow the Holy Spirit, now and always." Prompt the child to respond, "Amen."
- Play a song about the Holy Spirit to conclude the activity.

The Wind Blows Wherever It Wishes (15 minutes)

Note: Balloons are used in this activity. If any of the children have an allergy to latex, you should choose a different activity.

- Ask the children to open *The Catholic Children's Bible* to John 3:8. Help the children as needed. Read the passage aloud.
- Explain that the Holy Spirit leads us all through life, but we don't always know exactly where the Holy Spirit is leading. Tell them that sometimes God works in mysterious ways, and we just have to follow in trust.
- Explain that we will illustrate this verse now, using our own breath.
- Invite five children to form a line across the front of the room and facing the back of the room. Give each child an uninflated balloon of a different color.
- Explain that the object of this game is to get the balloon to the other side of the room by blowing it up and then letting it go. Tell the children that when their balloon falls to the floor, they should pick it up at the spot where it landed, blow it up again, and then release it again. Instruct them to repeat these actions until their balloon touches the wall in the back of the room.
- Mark the beginning of the race, and invite the rest of the class to cheer for those who are racing. Continue until the last child's balloon has touched the wall. Choose five more children, if time allows, and have the race again.
- Make the connection to the Holy Spirit with the following comments:

Materials Needed

- yellow construction paper, cut into strips lengthwise, one or two for each child
- flames cut from red construction paper
- a stapler, a scissors, and tape

Materials Needed

- balloons in a variety of colors, one for each child

Materials Needed

- a computer with Internet access
- a computer projector
- drawing paper and crayons or markers

- It was difficult to predict or control where the balloons would land, wasn't it?
- In a similar way, we cannot predict or control the Holy Spirit!
- If we are open to the Holy Spirit, we might be led in all different kinds of directions. But with faith and trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will reach the finish line, which is heaven, and life forever with God.

The Holy Spirit in Animation (15 minutes)

- Show the video "33 The Holy Spirit Comes," available on YouTube (2:58).
- Invite volunteers to share some of the scenes they remember from the video. You may want to ask the children to draw a memorable scene.
- Tell the children that the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the courage to teach about Jesus and the power to heal, as Jesus had done. The healing of the beggar in the video can be found in the Acts of the Apostles 3:1–10.
- Assure the children that the gifts from the Holy Spirit that they will receive may not be as obvious as the gift of healing, but they will be just as real.