Lesson 1: The Holy Spirit Convicts

Overview:

Key Focus: The Holy Spirit convicts people of the sin of not believing in Jesus as their Savior.

Bible Story: The Sin Problem

Scriptures: John 16:7–11

Memory Verse: John 16:8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Ball or soft item to toss
- Item with a sales receipt, such as a can of food or any item on the sales receipt.

Engage:

Ask several children to name something their teacher does that they appreciate. **Your teacher does many different things that are all part of being a teacher. When you are learning math, your teacher has the role or job of explaining and helping you understand the math concepts. When you take a math test, what is the role of the teacher then?** (The teacher corrects the paper and marks what you did wrong.) **The role of the teacher changes from teaching to pointing out what is wrong on your test. The teacher isn't mean to point out what is wrong on your paper, but the teacher is showing what isn't perfect so you can fix and correct it. Sometimes you might feel the teacher is just looking for how you messed up, but the teacher is really trying to help you learn and get things right. Imagine if your teacher never marked anything on your papers wrong. You would think you were perfect and you would have a really easy year at school. What would happen the next year when you had a teacher who marked everything that was really wrong?** (Possible answers: I would be upset thinking I wasn't smart; I would have a hard year trying to learn what I didn't learn the year before.) **Your teacher wants you to succeed and that's why your teacher points out what is wrong. Today's lesson will help us understand what the Holy Spirit points out to help us.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse. **Today's verse shows who the Holy Spirit convicts or convinces of truth. The first group is sinners and He convicts sinners of sin. The second group is believers and He convicts them that Jesus is righteous and we are made righteous when we believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit says that Satan has been judged so we will know the truth that Jesus is victorious over Satan.**

Gather the group in a large circle and toss the ball to someone who says the first word of the verse and passes the ball to the person on his or her right to say the next word. At the end of the verse, the last child throws the ball to someone and starts the verse again.

Memory Verse: John 16:8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Bible Story:

Let's begin with reviewing what we learned about God and Jesus. I'm going to ask a question and if you know the answer stand up but don't say anything. When I point to you, give the answer. What do we call the three parts of God? (Trinity) **Who are the three parts of God?** (God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit) **What broke the relationship between God and people?** (Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden by eating the fruit God told them not to eat.) **What is sin?** (Sin is disobeying God.) **Sin has been a problem since Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden. Sin didn't only happen once in the Garden of Eden, but as more and more people were born and lived—more and more sin happened. Some people thought they were much better than others, so God gave Moses rules to show people that they weren't as good as they thought they were. We call those rules the Ten Commandments.** Have the children name some of the commandments: no other gods, not to make an image, not to take the name of the Lord in vain, keep the Sabbath day holy, honor your parents, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, and don't covet or want other's things. **The people heard the rules and other laws and realized they were sinners and couldn't keep God's laws. If they broke one tiny law, they were guilty and should receive punishment. The job of the Ten Commandments was to show the people that they could never achieve God's perfect standard by themselves. The Ten Commandments are like a teacher marking your mistakes on a test. The commandments showed their mistakes. Each time they broke one of God's rules, they knew a price had to be paid and a sacrifice made. The people brought a lamb or a goat and the priest would offer it to God to pay the price for the sin. The problem of sin and a broken relationship with God was a huge problem that sounds hopeless. Nod your head if you think the sin problem sounds hopeless.** Allow volunteers to explain their answers.

We know that with God, nothing is hopeless. God had a plan. What plan did God have to restore the relationship broken by sin? (Jesus came to the earth, lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and rose again.) Have the children turn their chairs to face the back of the room or have them move to another area of the room to signify things changed when Jesus diedon the cross for our sins.

When Jesus died, His blood paid the price for ALL sin. That totally changed our relationship with God because the price of sin was paid. Hold up the item with a sales receipt. **When I bought this item, the receipt shows that I paid for the item. I could leave the store with the item because I didn't owe anything more for that item. Jesus paid for all sins—past, present, and future. God is satisfied that the price was paid for all sin. Jesus is the receipt that showed the price of sin was paid once and for all people.**

Even though the price for all sin was paid, people still sin. Every day we have many opportunities to sin. The Ten Commandments still show us what we are doing wrong and how we aren't perfect. What are some sins that children might have during the day? (Possible answers: lying to parents, being mean to siblings, taking something that belongs to someone else, saying a bad word) **Wait a minute, I'm confused. Sin isn't a problem with God anymore, but the Bible says that there is only one sin that keeps people from heaven. Doesn't that seem confusing that Jesus paid for sin, but there is still one sin that is a problem?** Allow the children to nod their answers.

Now we get to see where the Holy Spirit comes to help us not be confused about sin. The Holy Spirit has a very important job to do. The Ten Commandments show your sins and are like a teacher marking each problem wrong. So now we know we have a sin problem, but we need to learn the answer to that problem. The Holy Spirit is like a tutor will help you learn the right answers to all the problems that you missed on a test. The tutor tells you the truth that you need to know so you will pass the test. You would be wise to listen to the tutor.

Read John 16:7–11. **The Holy Spirit has the job of showing you the one and only truth that will get you into heaven—believing in Jesus Christ as your Savior and accepting His payment for your sins. The Holy Spirit doesn't point out every single sin you do. You already know that you do wrong things. The Holy Spirit points out the sin of not believing in Jesus as your Savior. Jesus paid for all sin. Jesus is the receipt, but you can only use that receipt as payment if you believe Jesus is the ONLY way to be saved. When we accept Jesus' salvation and payment for our sins, then we have our account with God marked "Paid in Full," and someday heaven will be our home.**

The problem comes when some people try to be perfect and obey all of the Ten Commandments and think the good things they do is the receipt that pays for their sins. They do things to please God and hope what they did pays the price so their sins will be forgiven. Nothing you can do will fix your sin problem. It is only when you accept Jesus forgiving you for your sins and accept Him as your Savior—that's when you get the receipt that pays for your sins and nothing stops you from heaven. God wants a relationship with you and for you

to go to heaven someday. That's why God gave the Holy Spirit the important job of convicting people of the sin of not believing in Jesus as their Savior.

Convicting reminds us of a court where someone brings charges and shows how the criminal broke the law. People are all guilty of sin, but the sin that the Holy Spirit points out is the sin of NOT asking Jesus to forgive their sins. Once you ask Jesus to be your Savior and forgive your sins—the Holy Spirit stops convicting you! The Holy Spirit's job of convicting you is over, and now you will begin to learn the wonderful other jobs that the Holy Spirit does for the believers in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit reminds believers that Jesus is righteous and holy. The Holy Spirit shows us that we are made righteous when we believe on Jesus and how to live the right way. Our Bible verse uses the word "righteousness." The lessons this quarter we will learn how the Holy Spirit helps us to live the right way, just like Jesus! Lead a cheer for the Holy Spirit.

Bible Story Questions:

- **Is sin a problem in the world today?** (Yes, all people sin.)
- **What problem did sin cause in the Garden of Eden?** (Sin caused Adam and Eve to leave the Garden of Eden.)
- **What was the job of the Ten Commandments? (**The Ten Commandments showed people they weren't perfect and sinned.)
- **Why isn't sin a problem with God anymore?** (Sin isn't a problem with God because Jesus paid the price for all sin.)
- **Does the Holy Spirit point out every single sin you do?** (No.)
- **What is the one and only sin the Holy Spirit points out?** (The Holy Spirit shows people the one sin of not believing Jesus as their Savior who paid for their sins.)
- **How does it feel to know that God isn't mad about sin? (**Answers will vary.)
- **How does it feel to know that the Holy Spirit tells you the truth and wants you to believe in Jesus?** Answers will vary.

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Emphasize that the Holy Spirit points out that we need to believe in Jesus as our Savior who paid for our sins. Choose one child as the "Holy Spirit" who tries to tag other children. The Holy Spirit tells the tagged child, "You need to believe in Jesus." The tagged child freezes and can't be tagged (convicted) again. Continue until all children have been tagged and then choose a new "Holy Spirit."

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Emphasize that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, so He is part of God. Have the children repeat the phrases and do the motions to this finger play:

Three parts of God (hold up three fingers)
All love me (give yourself a hug)
God the Father (clap one time)
God the Son (clap two times)
God the Holy Spirit (clap three times)
I love them all! (give yourself a big hug)

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children work in pairs to look up Psalm 103:12 (sins removed as far as the east is from the west) and Micah 7:19 (sins in the depths of the sea). These verses remind us that God isn't still upset about our individual sins. Let each pair choose one of the verses to illustrate through a drawing, poem, song, or skit. Allow time to work and share their creations.

Worksheet:
Have the children follow the arrows that start with the letter "i" to fill in the missing words of the verse. Encourage them to check their answers by looking up the verse in their Bibles. Then have them create a "No Fishing" sign. On the back of their papers, have them write "convicts of one sin" across the top of the page and see how many words they can make using those letters.

Affirmation/Declaration:
The Holy Spirit points out the sin of not accepting Jesus' salvation.
The Holy Spirit shows believers the right way to live.
I love the Holy Spirit

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
People often view God as angry and eager to point out every sin. Believers understand that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of one sin—rejecting Jesus. God isn't mad about sin because Jesus paid the price for sin. As the children learn about the Holy Spirit, they will grow up with a clear and accurate view of the Holy Spirit. As they live out their biblical worldview with power from the Holy Spirit, they can help others understand the truth about the Holy Spirit.

Missions Connections:
Many cultures around the world are shame-based and thrive on submission to avoid guilt or shame. The Holy Spirit helps people see their need for a Savior. Pray for missionaries to recognize the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of people and to be ready to explain Jesus' free gift of salvation to those people. If possible, have pictures and names of your church's missionaries and ask volunteers to pray specifically for your church missionaries.

Family Connection:
As parents, it is important to point out when your child does something wrong and teach your child the right way to live. We often view the Holy Spirit's role as pointing out each wrong, but your child learned that the Holy Spirit convicts of one sin—not believing in Jesus Christ as the Savior who paid for all sin on the cross. The rest of the lessons about the Holy Spirit will show the ways the Holy Spirit helps show us the right way live with power and authority that is ours through Jesus Christ. Take time to talk with your child about believing in Jesus. Work together as a family to show your gratitude to God for not holding our sins against us, to Jesus for paying for all sins, and to the Holy Spirit for pointing out the one sin of not believing. You might want to do a special family celebration with food or visit friends or watch a Christian movie together. Each week this quarter, find a way to celebrate the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Points:
Model prayer and have the children repeat each line.

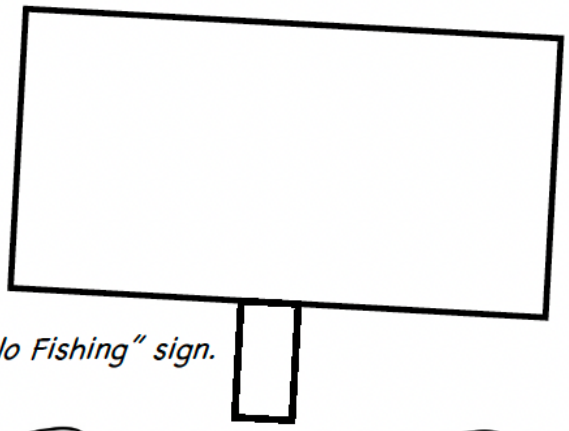
Dear God,
Thank You for loving us.
Thank You, Jesus,
for paying for our sins.
Thank You, Holy Spirit,
for pointing out only one sin
and helping me live more like Jesus.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Allow time to talk with children about believing in Jesus as their Savior. Depending on the situation, pray with any child who desires salvation.

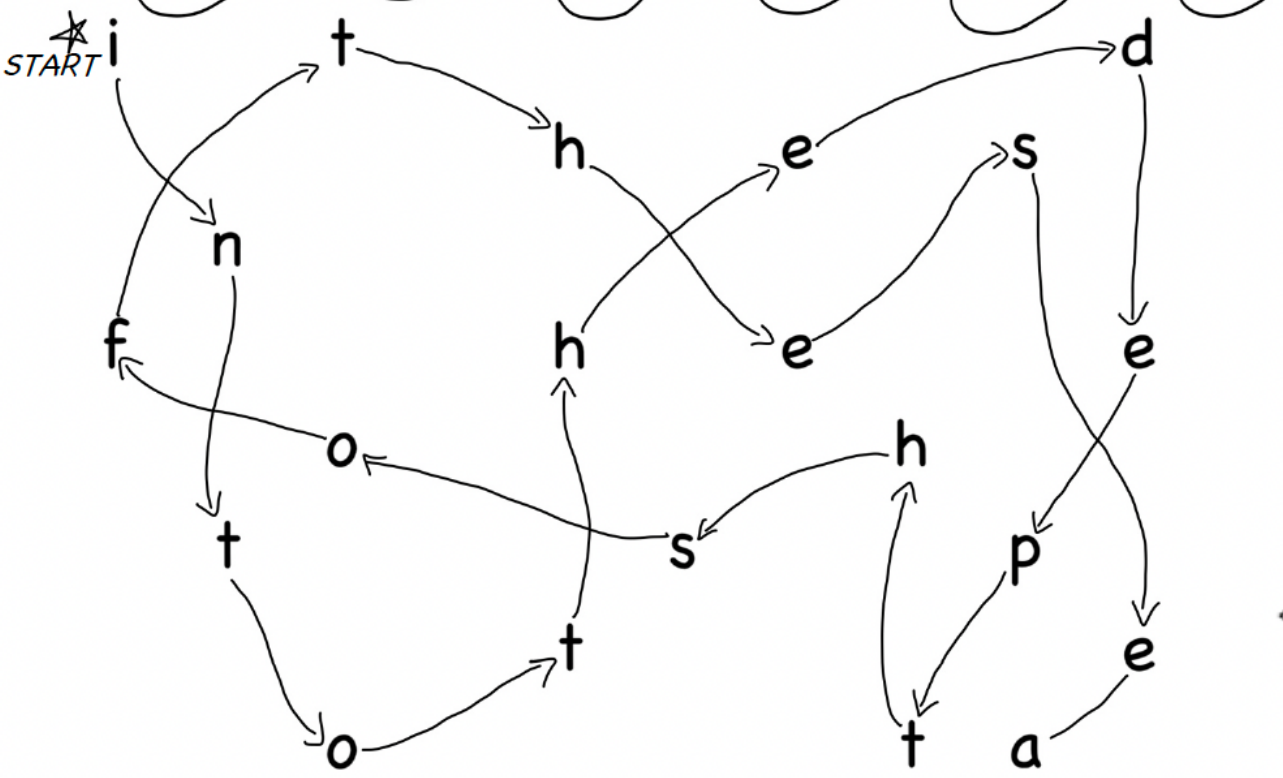
Name _____

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Follow the arrows and write the letters on the blanks below to finish the verse.



Create a "No Fishing" sign.



...You will cast our sins

____ ___ _____ __ ___ ___

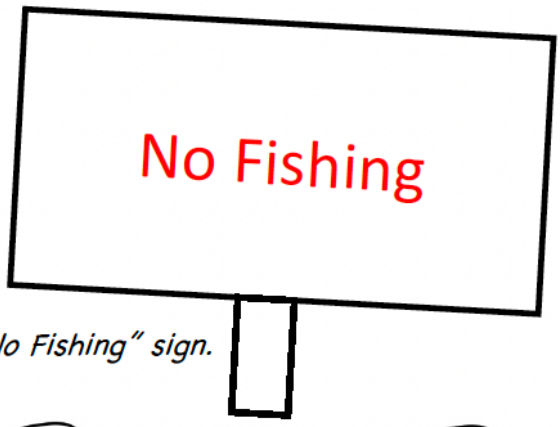
Micah 7:19 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write across the top of the page "convicts of one sin" and see how many words you can make using those letters.*

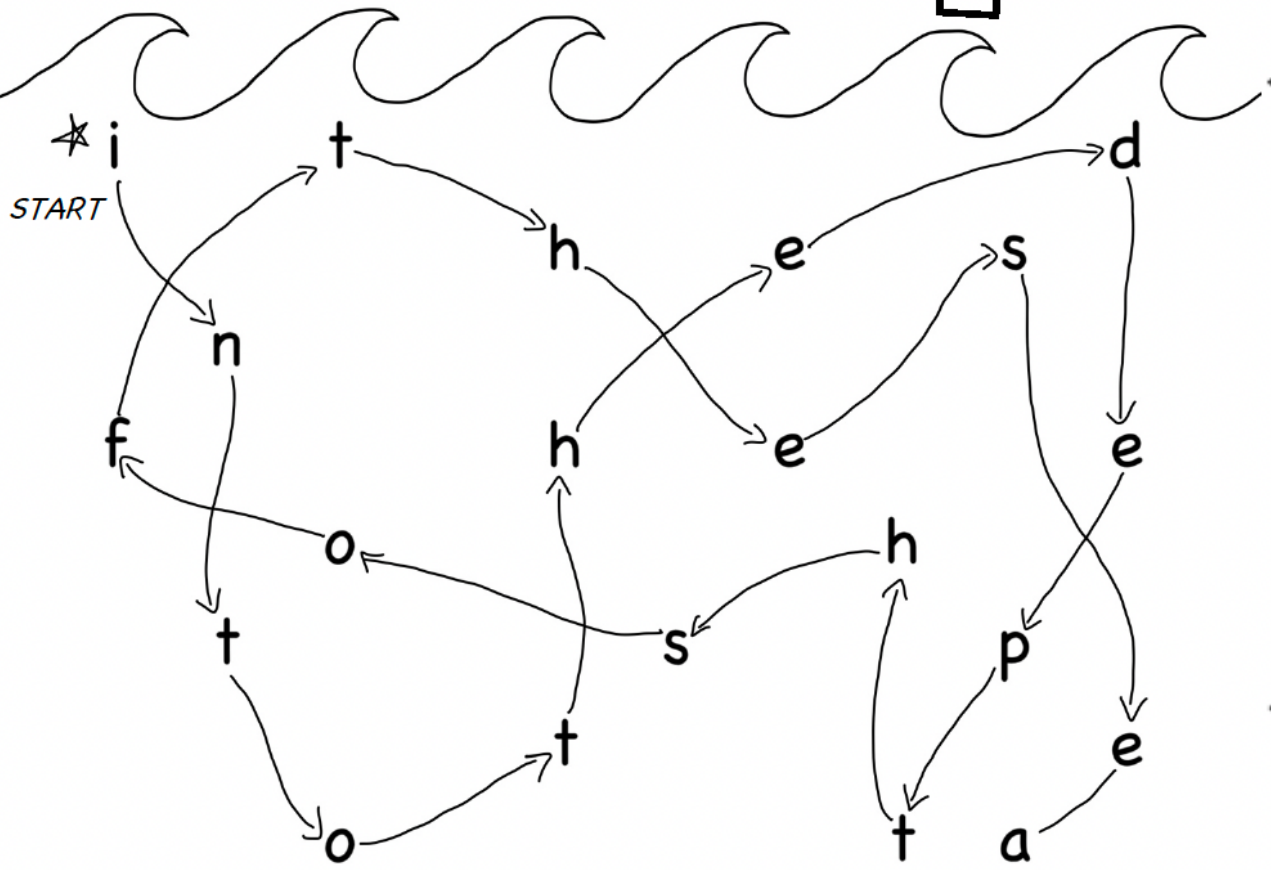
ANSWERS

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Follow the arrows and write the letters on the blanks below to finish the verse.



Create a "No Fishing" sign.



...You will cast our sins

into the depths of the sea

Micah 7:19 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, write across the top of the page "convicts of one sin" and see how many words you can make using those letters*

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