Lesson 10: Revelation Gifts

Overview:

Key Focus: The three revelation gifts of the Holy Spirit are spiritual "eye" gifts focusing on seeing: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits.

Bible Story: Revelation Gifts Are Seeing Gifts: Agabus, Nathanael, and Elisha

Scriptures: Acts 11:27–30, 2 Kings 6:8–12, John 1:45–50, 2 Kings 6:13–17, 1 Corinthians 2:14

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV) But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Binoculars
- Small beanbag
- Wrapped box or gift bag containing a pair of glasses or sunglasses
- 3 index cards

Classroom Prep:

• Write on a paper in very small print, *The Holy Spirit reveals things*. Bring a pair of binoculars.
• Write one of the revelation gifts on each index card:
the word of wisdom
the word of knowledge
discerning of spirits.

Engage:

Show the children the binoculars. **When have you used binoculars or seen them used?** Let the children give their responses. Have a volunteer take the paper with the message and stand far away. **How does it feel to know something important is written on the paper but not everyone can read it?** Let several children respond. **Fortunately, there is a way this message can be read.** Select another volunteer to use the binoculars to read the message to the group.

When someone has a special tool to see the message and then share it with everyone, then we all get to know the message. The person with the binoculars could have read and kept the message to themself. But when you have been given a special tool to get an important message, you want to share the message with everyone. Today's lesson will reveal a gift given by the Holy Spirit to believers in Jesus Christ who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This gift reveals things just like the binocular allowed our volunteer to get a message that needs to be shared. The special gifts of the Holy Spirit aren't for us to keep to ourselves—we want to share them so people learn about how amazing God is!

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. Divide the group into two teams. Have the two teams face each other with about five feet between the groups. Take a beanbag and hand it to a volunteer to say the first word and then toss the beanbag to anyone on the other team. The child catching the beanbag says the next word and tosses it to someone on the other side. If the child doesn't catch it, they still should pick it up and say the next word. Continue this pattern and say the verse several times.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV) But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

Bible Story:

We learned that the moment someone says "yes" to accepting Jesus forgiving their sins and becoming a Christian, they get filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us, teaches us how to live like Jesus, and guides us to know spiritual truths. Jesus wanted His followers to be baptized with the Holy Spirit so they would have extra powerful gifts to use to help others. These gifts aren't for you to use to get rich or for people to think you're smart. The Holy Spirit gives these gifts so you can help others. Christians of all ages can be water baptized and can also ask God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster."

Hold up the gift and choose a volunteer to unwrap the gift. Have the child hold up the glasses anytime "see" is mentioned and then hand the glasses to the child beside them. Continue this pattern so the glasses go around the group during the Bible lesson. Select volunteers and give each an index card to hold up when that gift is explained.

Now we will learn about some of the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" gifts the Holy Spirit guides us to use. The gifts we will learn about in this lesson are <u>see</u>ing gifts. Just like the binoculars revealed the hidden message on the paper, the Holy Spirit has gifts of revelation, which means He reveals things to us. The things the Holy Spirit reveals are things

that we can't know with our brains or see with our eyes—they only come when the Holy Spirit shows them to us.

Have the child holding "the word of wisdom" card stand. **The word of wisdom is knowing something about the future.** Read Acts 11:27–30. **Who showed Agabus what would happen in the future?** (The Holy Spirit showed Agabus about the famine.) **During a famine, food doesn't grow because there is no rain. Back in Bible times, it would take days or weeks to hear about the problem, gather some food, and then get the food to the area in the drought. The Holy Spirit sped up the process by giving Agabus a word of wisdom so the church could gather food and make arrangements to send it. The Christians believed Agabus' word of wisdom, and their actions helped save the Christians in the drought area.**

Have the child holding "the word of knowledge" card stand. **The word of knowledge is knowing something that already happened and there is no way to know it on your own. It shows God's miraculous power. In the Old Testament, Elisha was given a word of knowledge about the king.** Read 2 Kings 6: 8–12. **Each time the king of Syria made a plan with his military leaders somehow Elisha knew it and told the King of Israel so they could avoid danger. We see how frustrated the king of Syria was. He assumed there was a traitor in his military who told the king of Israel. God told Elisha the military secrets so that Israel was saved.**

In the New Testament, Jesus gave a word of knowledge to someone, and it changed his life. Read John 1:45–46. **Philip invited his doubting friend to meet Jesus, the long-prophesied Messiah who had finally come. Nathanael couldn't believe the Messiah was Jesus from Nazareth. But Nathanael must have been curious enough to go with Philip.** Read John 1:47–50. **Before Nathanael said anything, Jesus mentioned that Nathanael was under the fig tree when he talked to Philip. Immediately, Nathanael realized that only the Son of God could see where he was sitting during his conversation with Philip. Nathanael became one of Jesus' disciples because of the power of God shown through the revelation gift of the word of knowledge.**

Have the child holding "the discerning of spirits" card stand. **The discerning of spirits is an ability to see spiritual things such as a person's spirit or whether spirits are angelic or not from God. Elisha and Jesus both used the word of knowledge but also used the gift of discerning of spirits. Keep in mind that in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit and gift came upon the person. After Jesus returned to heaven, things changed and the Holy Spirit and the gifts can now live inside Christ's followers.**

Let's read what the king of Syria did when he learned Elisha had a word of knowledge and knew his secrets. Read 2 Kings 6:13–15. **What did the king of Syria do?** (The king of Syria sent a great army to get Elisha.) **Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was scared because he saw the large army gathered to capture them. You can imagine how scared he is for Elisha and himself.** Read 2 Kings 6:16. **Was Elisha scared like Gehazi?** (No.) **Elisha said something that probably sounded very crazy to Gehazi. Elisha said more were on their side than the large army against them. If you were Gehazi, what would you think?** Allow several responses. **With his physical**

eyes, Elisha saw the large Syrian army. Elisha wasn't using his physical eyes when he said he saw more on their side—he saw them with his spiritual eyes. Using spiritual eyes is like using special Holy Spirit spiritual binoculars to see what God wants you to see. Have the children say or read the Memory Verse and then read 1 Corinthians 2:14. **You can understand why Gehazi probably thought Elisha was speaking foolishness. Elisha didn't get mad that Gehazi wasn't discerning spiritual things. Elisha did what we should all remember to do—pray.** Read 2 Kings 6:17. **Gehazi wasn't blind, but he had only used his physical eyes. When God opened his spiritual eyes, he saw what Elisha saw—an angel army larger than the Syrian army. What do you think Gehazi thought then?** Allow responses.

Reread John 1:47. **Jesus knew the character and spirit within Nathanael—even though they had never met before. Jesus didn't guess, but He discerned Nathanael's spirit. When Jesus spoke about who Nathanael was, Nathanael wanted to know how Jesus knew about him. That's when Jesus added a word of knowledge so Nathanael had two power-packed miraculous statements that proved Jesus was the Son of God.**

In these Bible examples of the gifts of revelation, God showed His love and care for His people. No one used these gifts to be rich or famous or to show off to someone. The Holy Spirit shares these gifts to be used to help others. Has someone used any of these revelation gifts at church or have you heard about them being used? Allow responses and share any personal experiences with these gifts. **Remember, there is no age restriction on the gifts the Holy Spirit gives, so children can also have these gifts and that's why it is important that you learn about the Holy Spirit and the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" gifts. Has there been a time when the Holy Spirit revealed something to you?** Allow responses. Cheer for the Holy Spirit giving gifts of revelation.

Bible Story Questions:

- **What are the three gifts of revelation**? (The three gifts of revelation are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits.)
- **Why does the Holy Spirit give revelation gifts?** (The Holy Spirit gives gifts of revelation to show God's love and to help other people.)
- **How was the word of wisdom used to help others?** (Agabus used the word of wisdom to warn about a famine so they could send food to the famine area.)
- **How was the word of knowledge used to help others?** (Elisha used the word of knowledge to tell the king of Israel where the enemy was headed. Jesus used the word of knowledge to help Nathanael know that He was the Son of God.)
- **How was discerning of spirits used to help others?** (Discerning of spirits helped Gehazi see the angel army. Nathanael wanted to be one of Jesus' disciples because Jesus discerned things about him.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- In a large open area, set up chairs or people to form a maze or obstacle course. Select three teams of three people and name each team after one of the revelation gifts. Have each threesome link arms, but only the middle child faces forward to see the obstacle course. The child in the middle represents the Holy Spirit guiding the gift and the other two team members must listen to the directions to navigate the maze. Send one team at a time through the maze and time each team. See which revelatory gift trio has the best time through the maze. Continue this pattern by choosing new teams to compete.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Play "I Spy" with the children. Pick something easily seen in the room and say, "I spy with my eye something the color of __." Have the children take turns naming something in the room that color. The child who correctly guesses gets to spy the next item.

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children work together in three groups and assign each group a revelation gift. Have the groups create a nightly news feature that acts out the biblical example/s from the lesson and then one or two from the group act as reporters interviewing the characters.

Worksheet:
Read the directions and scenarios and have the children match to show which revelation gift was used. Then, have the children write about which gift they would like to have this week and why. On the back of their papers, have them draw an ad for the revelation gifts.

Affirmation/Declaration:
The revelation gifts show God's love and power.
I want the gifts of the Spirit so I can help others.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
The world looks to psychics, horoscopes, tarot cards, palm readers, and other things to learn the future or have a word about something. The children need the gift of discerning spirits and knowing whether God is speaking or evil spirits. Encourage the children to remember that the Holy Spirit's gifts are given to help others and to show God's love and power. As the children

understand the gifts of the spirit, they won't be fooled by the enemy's counterfeits of the revelation gifts.

Missions Connection:
Missionaries who aren't operating in the gifts of the Spirit are missing out on showing God's love and power to help others. Pray specifically for your church missionaries to desire the gifts of revelation and use the word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits as ways to tell people about God.

Family Connection:
Since the gifts of the spirit are rarely presented to children, review and reread the scriptures from today's lesson (Acts 11:27–30; 2 Kings 6:8–17; John 1:45–50; and 1 Corinthians 2:10, 14). Your child was encouraged to desire the gifts to help others see God's love and power. Help your child watch for situations where the Holy Spirit gives those gifts.

Prayer Points:
We want to use these revelation gifts to help people know God's love for them. The Bible tells us we should desire the gifts of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits. Begin training the children to develop a habit of thinking about the Holy Spirit's gifts and desiring them. Lead a prayer telling God that you desire this week to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to show God's love. Encourage the children to pray this daily and share next week how God answered the prayer.

Name _____

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Draw a line to show which revelation gift was used.

Word of Wisdom •	• My Sunday school teacher knew I had a bad day last week at school.
Word of Knowledge •	• The pastor said a revival will come to our church.
Discerning of Spirits •	• I didn't feel it was right for my friend's sister to pay a lady to tell her what she should do.

Which revelation gift would you like this week, and why? Draw and write about it.

_____

_____

_____

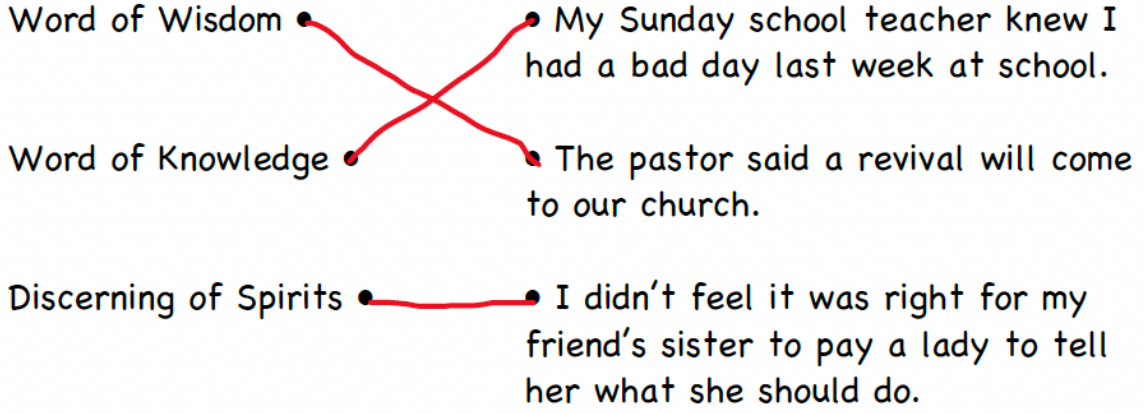
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BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw an ad for the gifts of revelation (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits).*

ANSWERS

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Draw a line to show which revelation gift was used.



Which revelation gift would you like this week, and why? Draw and write about it.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw an ad for the gifts of revelation (word of wisdom, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits).*

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