Lesson 12: Inspiration Gifts

Overview:

Key Focus: The three inspiration gifts of the Holy Spirit are spiritual "mouth" gifts focusing on inspiration and speaking God's message of encouragement and hope: the gift of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

Bible Story: Inspiration Gifts Are Speaking Gifts: Speaking in Tongues and Prophecy

Scriptures: 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 14:3; Acts 2:17, 21:8–9; Acts 19:1–10; Mark 16:17; 1 Corinthians 14:4–5

Memory Verse: Acts 19:6 (NKJV): And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- 2 unfilled balloons
- Wrapped box or gift bag containing chapstick
- 3 index cards

Classroom Prep:

- Write one of the inspiration gifts on each index card
  - *prophecy*
  - *tongues*
  - *interpretation of tongues*

Engage:

Today's lesson will show us the power of words, especially the words given by the Holy Spirit to a believer in Jesus Christ. Display the two balloons. Select two volunteers or use your helpers. **We are going to test our words and their power. Each time something inspiring, encouraging, comforting, or positive to a person is said, our volunteer will blow one breath to fill the balloon. If something negative or discouraging, the balloon has to lose some air. We will count to see how many things are said until the balloon is fully blown up.** Count as the

children call out positive things, such as "You can do it; You are great; You are a winner;" and every couple of times insert a negative word, such as "You didn't listen; That wasn't very good; I didn't like that." Write the total on the board. **This second balloon will only have encouraging and positive things said.** Repeat the process and total the number of positive words to fill the balloon. Write the number on the board and show that it is lower. **Why did the encouraging words blow up the balloon faster?** (There weren't any discouraging words to take away air from the balloon.) **Words are powerful and encouraging and positive words filled the balloon faster. These words also make us feel better. How do you feel when someone tells you something encouraging or positive?** Allow responses. **Let's see what inspiration gifts of the Spirit we will learn about in today's lesson.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and discuss the verse. Name an accent and have the children say the verse trying to speak with that accent, such as British, Mexican, Russian, French, Greek, Irish, and Southern.

Memory Verse: Acts 19:6 (NKJV): And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Bible Story:

Hold up the gift and choose a volunteer to unwrap the gift. Have the child hold up the chapstick anytime "words" or "speak or says" are mentioned and then hand the chapstick to the child beside them. Continue this pattern so the chapstick gets passed around the group during the Bible lesson. Select volunteers and give each an index card to hold up when that gift is explained.

Have the child holding the "gift of prophecy" card stand. Read 2 Peter 1:20–21. **The gift of prophecy comes when the Holy Spirit speaks. When a person just says something that they think in their own head, it isn't the gift of prophecy. Let's see what three things prove something is the gift of prophecy.** Read 1 Corinthians 14:3. ***Edification*** **happens when you encourage or build up how someone feels. If I said, "You look really happy today. I'm so glad that you are part of our group," you would feel encouraged and better.** ***Exhortation*** **happens when someone is encouraged to take action. If your teacher said, "You have all the knowledge you need to pass this test. You have studied and practiced, so now you are ready to take this test and do well on it." Those words encourage you that you are ready to do the test.** ***Comforting*** **words take a person who might be discouraged, sad, or hurting and help them feel loved. If I said, "I'm so sorry that your team lost. I saw how hard you practiced and you can be proud of the skills that you are developing." Those words lifted your spirits and showed that someone cared about you. These are the three things that the gift of prophecy speaks to Christians so that the whole church can be encouraged.**

Let's see who the Bible says will prophesy. Read Acts 2:17 and Acts 21:8–9. **Who will prophesy?** (In the last days, your sons and daughters will prophesy, and Philip's four daughters prophesied.) **You are all a son or a daughter, so you qualify for the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of prophesy!**

Have the child holding the "tongues" card stand. **We all have a tongue in our mouth, but this gift is a special heavenly language that the Bible calls "tongues." We talked about tongues as sounding like gibberish or babbling to our ears, but our heavenly language is understood by God—not us!** Read Acts 19:1–10. **What was John's baptism?** (John baptized people in water.) **What happened as soon as Apollos and the other believers received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?** (They spoke with tongues and prophesied.) **What happened two years after the men began prophesying and speaking in tongues?** (Everyone in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus.) **That's amazing! The gifts were used together and resulted in everyone hearing about Jesus. If these gifts are so amazing, why do you think they aren't used very often?** (Possible answers: People don't understand the gifts; they might be scared to use them because they don't want to be wrong or have someone laugh at them; people haven't seen them used.)

Let's see what Jesus said about speaking in tongues. Read Mark 16:17. **Does Jesus want His followers to speak in tongues?** (Yes.) **When you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues is included in the "add-on, internal, power-pack booster" you receive.**

Have the child holding the "interpretation of tongues" card stand. **The gift of tongues and interpreting those tongues are the only two gifts of the Holy Spirit that are only given in the New Testament because it is only in the New Testament that the Holy Spirit came to live inside believers in Jesus Christ.** Read 1 Corinthians 14:4–5. **Sometimes you might speak in tongues by yourself to encourage yourself in the Lord. You can ask the Holy Spirit to interpret or help you understand what you said to God. If someone speaks in tongues during a church service, someone with the gift of the interpretation of tongues will receive the meaning from the Holy Spirit. When the meaning is spoken, the message given to everyone will always build them up, encourage them to take action, and comfort them. The interpretation from the Holy Spirit will never be angry, upsetting, or discouraging. When someone interprets tongues, they aren't guessing or saying what they want to say. Interpreting comes only from the Holy Spirit. Maybe you have heard someone speak a foreign language and no one could understand them. If an interpreter was there, the interpreter listens to what the person said and repeats it in the language you understand. That's exactly what the Holy Spirit does. Has someone used any of these inspiration gifts at church or have you heard about them being used?** Allow responses and share any personal experiences with these gifts.

Let's review the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, gift of faith, working of miracles, gifts of healings, gift of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues. 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. Which of the

gifts of the Spirit do you look forward to receiving? Allow responses. Cheer for the Holy Spirit giving gifts to Christ's followers who are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Bible Story Questions:

- **What are the three gifts of inspiration**? (The three power gifts are prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.)
- **Why does the Holy Spirit give inspiration gifts?** (The Holy Spirit gives inspiration gifts to speak God's message to encourage believers, to encourage them to take action, and to comfort.)
- **What three things will the gift of prophecy do?** (The gift of prophecy is to encourage believers, encourage them to take action, and comfort people.)
- **Was speaking in tongues used in the Old Testament? Why or why not?** (No, speaking in tongues is only in the New Testament that the Holy Spirit came to live inside believers in Jesus Christ.)
- **Who gives the interpretation of tongues?** (The Holy Spirit gives the interpretation.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Review the lessons on the Holy Spirit by playing a version of baseball. Divide the class into two teams. Tape four papers on the floor as home plate and the three bases. You will "pitch" a question to a team. If the person answers correctly, the child may go to first base. If the child misses the answer, it is a strike. Keep score on the board and when a team gets out (three wrong answers), the other team gets questions.

Review Questions from Lessons 1–12:

Lesson 1

- **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 only sin the Holy Spirit points out?** (The Holy Spirit shows people the one sin of not believing Jesus as their Savior of their sins.)

Lesson 2

- **What is salvation?** (Salvation is believing that Jesus Christ died and paid the price for all sin and offers forgiveness to anyone who trusts in Him as their Savior.)

- **What treasure do you get when you say "yes" to Jesus being your Savior?** (God puts the treasure of the Holy Spirit inside of you.)
- **Why is the Holy Spirit inside you like having a treasure?** (Possible answers: The Holy Spirit helps you follow Jesus' ways; the Holy Spirit won't leave you; the Holy Spirit helps you understand God's love, forgiveness, and peace.)
- **What does the New Testament call the Christian's body?** (The Christian's body is the temple where God put the Holy Spirit to live.)

Lesson 3

- **What do you have to do to get the Holy Spirit inside of you?** (The Holy Spirit comes inside of you when you trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior.)
- **What do you have to do to get the extra power of the Holy Spirit?** (Just ask God and He will give you the power of the Holy Spirit.)
- **What did the disciples do when they received the power of the Holy Spirit**? (The disciples spoke in other tongues.)
- **What was the special day that Jewish people were in Jerusalem to celebrate?** (Pentecost)
- **If the disciples waited in Jerusalem for 10 days until Pentecost, how many days was Jesus alive after He died?** (40 days)

Lesson 4

- **Does the Holy Spirit say your prayers for you so you don't have to pray? Why or why not?** (No, the Holy Spirit partners with your prayer.)
- **Why does the Holy Spirit help you pray?** (Possible answers: The Holy Spirit helps you pray because He knows God's will; He wants you to get your prayers answered; He wants God's will in your life.)
- **What unusual way does the Holy Spirit intercede or help our prayers?** (The Holy Spirit intercedes or prays through groans not words.)
- **When did Jesus and the Holy Spirit partner in prayer?** (Jesus and the Holy Spirit partnered in prayer when Lazarus died.)
- **What type of prayers get a "yes" from God?** (Prayers that match God's will and God's Word get "yes" answers.)

Lesson 5

- **Who is the Helper Jesus promised would come?** (The Helper is the Holy Spirit.)
- **Why did Jesus say it was better for Him to return to heaven?** (Jesus said it was better for Him to go so the Helper could come.)
- **Who does the Helper help?** (The Helper helps believers in Jesus Christ.)
- **How did the Helper help Peter on Pentecost**? (The Helper helped Peter boldly preach and 3,000 people believed on Jesus.)
- **What other ways did the Helper help Peter after Pentecost?** (Peter did miracles and led the new believers.)

Lesson 6

- **What does the Holy Spirit want to teach you?** (The Holy Spirit teaches us spiritual wisdom and truths about God and His Word.)
- **How is the Holy Spirit like a translator?** (The Holy Spirit takes God's wisdom and helps us understand spiritual things.)
- **Are adults the only people who can understand spiritual things?** (No, children who are filled with the Holy Spirit can understand spiritual things also.)
- **What does the Holy Spirit want to remind you about?** (The Holy Spirit reminds us what Jesus said and what God's Word says.)

Lesson 7

- **How is the Holy Spirit like a GPS?** (The Holy Spirit guides us and tells us things to come.)
- **What happened when Paul, Silas, and Timothy were on a missionary journey to Asia?** (The Holy Spirit stopped them from going to Asia.)
- **What happened when Paul, Silas, and Timothy were on a missionary journey to Bithynia?** (The Holy Spirit stopped them from going to Bithynia.)
- **Did the missionaries give up and go home?** (No.)
- **What unusual way were they guided to the next place?** (Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia asking them to come and help the people of Macedonia.)
- **What are some ways the Holy Spirit GPS might guide a Christian?** (The Holy Spirit GPS might show you something in the Bible, He might speak to you through someone else like your parents, you might hear a Bible teacher or speaker on the radio or TV, the words of a song might affect you, or you might have a feeling of peace.)

Lesson 8

- **What are the nine fruit of the Spirit?** (The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.)
- **What soil does the fruit of the Spirit grow in?** (The fruit of the Spirit grows in the soil of God's love.)
- **How do you show that you have fruit of the Spirit?** (My words and my actions show that I am growing fruit of the Spirit.)

Lesson 9

- **What are two baptisms mentioned in the Bible?** (The Bible mentions water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.)
- **Who had an angel appear and tell him about Peter?** (Cornelius)
- **What happened to Peter while the men traveled to him?** (The Holy Spirit told Peter the men were sent from him and to go with them.)
- **Why do you think it was important that the Holy Spirit told Peter about the men?** (The men were Gentiles, and up until then, Jesus had only been preached to the Jewish people.)
- **How did the Gentiles see the Holy Spirit change Peter?** (Peter preached to them and stayed with them to help them learn more about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.)

Lesson 10

- **What are the three gifts of revelation**? (The three gifts of revelation are the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the gifts of healings.)
- **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.)

Lesson 11

- **What are the three gifts of revelation**? (The three power gifts are the gift of faith, the working of miracles, and gifts of healings.)
- **Why does the Holy Spirit give power gifts?** (The Holy Spirit gives power gifts to show God's power and to help others through healing and deliverance.)
- **How was the gift of faith used to help others?** (Daniel's faith and God's miracle of closing the lion's mouths caused King Darius to tell everyone about Daniel's living God.)
- **How was the working of miracles used in the Old Testament?** (Samson's enemies were killed and God worked unusual miracles through Paul's hands.)
- **How did the disciples use the gifts of healings?** (The disciples prayed and healed in different ways: they healed all brought to them, Peter's shadow fell on people and healed them, Paul saw a man's faith and spoke his healing, and Paul's handkerchief was given to people who were healed.)

Lesson 12

- **What are the three gifts of inspiration**? (The three power gifts are prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.)
- **Why does the Holy Spirit give inspiration gifts?** (The Holy Spirit gives inspiration gifts to speak God's message to encourage believers, to encourage them to take action, and to comfort.)
- **What three things will the gift of prophecy do?** (The gift of prophecy is to encourage believers, encourage them to take action, and comfort people.)
- **Was speaking in tongues used in the Old Testament? Why or why not?** (No, speaking in tongues is only in the New Testament that the Holy Spirit came to live inside believers in Jesus Christ.)
- **Who gives the interpretation of tongues?** (The Holy Spirit gives the interpretation.)

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Play music and have the children sing along as they dance or walk around in a large circle. When the music stops, everyone freezes and says, "Thank You Holy Spirit for your gifts."

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children work with a partner to create a crossword puzzle that reviews the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. Allow about 10 minutes, and then have them trade puzzles and solve them.

Worksheet:
Read the scripture and have the children choose the correct words that match the number of blanks in the missing words. Check the answers by looking up 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 and reading it together. On the back of their papers, have them draw an ad for the inspiration gifts.

Affirmation/Declaration:
The inspiration gifts encourage believers to take action and comfort them.
I want the gifts of the Spirit so I can help others.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
People need to see God's love and power are real. When the gifts of the Holy Spirit are used, people will be touched with an encounter of God's love and power. Even children can minister to others with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Encourage the children to desire the gifts and ask the Holy Spirit's help to use the gifts to reach the lost with God's message.

Missions Connection:
Imagine Acts 19:10 happening today field so that prophecies and tongues resulted in everyone in the area and everyone in Asia hearing about Jesus Christ! Pray for missionaries to use the inspiration gifts to reach all the people in Asia with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The children have a mission field also—everywhere their feet take them is their mission field!

Family Connection:
Have a “Gifts of the Holy Spirit” party. Review the gifts and discuss how each one helps people know about God’s love and power. Use “eyes” to reveal recipes or games to play, “hands” to do the preparation work, and “mouth” to eat the snacks.

Prayer Points:

Ask the children if they used any power gifts: the gift of faith, the working of miracles, and the gifts of healings. Encourage them to continue to be aware of the gifts and look for the Holy Spirit to use those gifts in their lives.

We want to use these inspiration gifts to help people know God’s love for them. The Bible tells us we should desire the gifts of prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. 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 _____

Lesson 12: Inspiration Gifts

Use the Word Bank to fill in the missing words. Look up 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 to check your answers.

Word Bank: Spirit, word, miracles, gifts, tongues, given, faith, interpretation, wisdom, prophecy

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is _____ to each one for the profit *of all:* 8 for to one is given the word of _____ through the Spirit, to another the ____ of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another _____ by the same Spirit, to another _____ of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of _____, to another _____, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of _____, to another the _____, of tongues. 11 But one and the same _____, works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw an ad for the inspiration gifts.*

ANSWERS

Lesson 12: Inspiration Gifts

Use the Word Bank to fill in the missing words. Look up 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 to check your answers.

Word Bank: Spirit, word, miracles, gifts, tongues, given, faith, interpretation, wisdom, prophecy

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given
To each one for the profit *of all:* 8 for to one is
given the word of wisdom through the Spirit,
to another the word of knowledge through the
same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same
Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the
same Spirit, 10 to another the working of
miracles, to another prophecy, to
another discerning of spirits, to another *different*
kinds of tongues, to another the
interpretation of tongues. 11 But one
and the same Spirit works all these things,
distributing to each one individually as He wills.
1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (NKJV)

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw an ad for the inspiration gifts.*

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