Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Lives in Us

Overview:

Key Focus: When I accept Jesus' salvation, the Holy Spirit comes into my life.

Bible Story: The Holy Spirit Inside Us

Scriptures: Romans 8:9–11, 16; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:14

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5 (NKJV) Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Treasure chest and box of chocolates (with fillings) or pictures of the items *Note:* Look online for tips to turn a box into a treasure chest.

Classroom Prep:

- Write sections of the Memory Verse on seven separate papers and place them in the treasure chest. *Sections:* Now hope; does not disappoint; because the love of God; has been poured out; in our hearts; by the Holy Spirit; who was given to us.

Engage:

Sometimes things are hidden inside items. Display the box of chocolates. **Inside the chocolates are different flavored fillings. Which flavor of filling is your favorite?** Let the children vote on their favorite filling. **Sometimes the box of chocolate has a picture of the different chocolates and tells the flavor inside each chocolate. When you look at the outside of the chocolate, you can't tell which flavor will be inside.** Have the children guess the flavor of a chocolate and then break it open to show them what is inside.

Display the treasure chest. **Looking at the outside of this treasure chest, you can't tell what might be on the inside. What might be inside a treasure chest?** (Possible answers: gold, treasure, toys, coins, jewels, treats) **We often associate treasure chests with pirates becaus**

pirates took gold and expensive jewels and put them inside the chest. Treasure chests are used to hold important, expensive, and precious items. What would you put in a treasure chest? Allow volunteers to share. **In today's lesson, we will see what treasure God put in a very special place.**

Memory Verse Activity:
Display and explain the verse. Select volunteers to take a paper out of the treasure chest, or hand the papers out. Give a signal and have them stand in the correct order and say the verse together. Continue this pattern several times so all the children participate at least once.

Memory Verse: Romans 5:5 (NKJV) Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Bible Story:

In our last lesson, we learned that the Holy Spirit has a job to convict the world of something, what? (The Holy Spirit convicts the world of the one sin of not believing in Jesus as their Savior, who paid for all sin.) **The Holy Spirit doesn't point out every time you sin. The Law or the Ten Commandments show how no one keep all of God's rules. Something had to be done to fix the sin problem. Jesus came down from heaven, lived a perfect life, died for all sin, rose again, and returned to heaven. God doesn't see sin as a problem anymore because Jesus sacrificed His life to pay the price of sin. The Holy Spirit points out the one sin of not believing in Jesus Christ and receiving salvation. Once a person says "yes" and believes in Jesus as their Savior, something wonderful happens and we're ready to find out what that is.**

God has a very special treasure that He wants to give to everyone. This treasure is something extremely valuable and will help you throughout your life. This treasure can't be lost or stolen. Does this sound like a treasure you want? Allow time for responses. **This treasure isn't just given away to everyone. This treasure is given only to people who ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be their Savior. The moment a person says "yes" to salvation, the Holy Spirit comes into the person's spirit. All of a sudden, the person who believes in Jesus has part of God living in them! Remember that we said God has three parts: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. If you have asked Jesus to be your Savior, then YOU are the treasure chest that is the home of the treasure—the Holy Spirit!** Lead a cheer for the Holy Spirit living inside believers.

Now we want to learn more about why we have the Holy Spirit inside us. Paraphrase Romans 8:1–8. **The chapter of Romans 8 talks 19 times about the Holy Spirit. Paul wrote this chapter to help Christians understand that the Holy Spirit was a valuable treasure living inside believers in Jesus. Paul tried to help people learn a spiritual equation that is better than any math fact.** On the board write, *Jesus* + *Nothing* = *Everything*. **When we say "yes" to Jesus, we**

receive everything that Jesus has and every promise in the Bible. We can't add anything to what Jesus did on the cross—He did everything to give us everything!

The Bible uses the word "flesh" to refer to our human nature that sins. We all begin life as humans who sin, but when we accept Jesus paying for our sins, we get the Holy Spirit and become Christians. Write this on the board: *Flesh – Holy Spirit = Unbeliever, not a Christian yet*. **So, the unbeliever doesn't have the treasure of the Holy Spirit inside them. At any moment, they can ask Jesus to be their Savior and switch to become a Christian who has the Holy Spirit inside.** Read Romans 8:9–11. **Verse 9 tells us that when we have the Holy Spirit in us, we don't live like we used to live. Instead of thinking and acting in our old flesh way like we did before the Holy Spirit came into our spirit, we should live the way the Holy Spirit shows us to live. Some people go to church, memorize verses, and pray, but they never accepted and believed that Jesus paid for their sins. Do those people have the treasure of the Holy Spirit inside them?** (No.) **God only gives the treasure of the Holy Spirit to people who ask to saved by Jesus.**

Sometimes Christians wonder if the Holy Spirit really lives in them because they can't see Him. Read Romans 8:16. **This verse shows us that the Holy Spirit is constantly inside us telling us we are forgiven and loved by God.**

God has always been with people, but the Holy Spirit only came to live inside people after Jesus returned to heaven. In the Old Testament, people built a special tent and later a building for God called a Tabernacle or Temple. The people worshipped and brought their sacrifices, much like we go to a church building. Only the priest could go into the special area where God's presence was.

Let's find out how that changed in the New Testament. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16. **Instead of God going to a building, God put the Holy Spirit inside people. The temple is the Christian's body. When you receive salvation, the Holy Spirit comes inside you and everywhere you go—you take the Holy Spirit. Everything you do; the Holy Spirit is inside you and does them with you. What are some things that the Holy Spirit loves when you do them?** (Possible answers: sing worship songs, help others, read the Bible, pray, be kind to someone) **What are some things the Holy Spirit doesn't want to do?** (Possible answers: watch bad movies, say bad words, take something that isn't yours, be mean)

Now that you realize you have part of God living inside you and doing everything you do with you, you want to live the right way. The Holy Spirit is inside you and ready to help you make good choices. The Holy Spirit has many ways to help you. Read 2 Timothy 1:14. **This is one example of how the Holy Spirit inside us helps us understand the things of God. Our human mind does good at school subjects like math and science, but it is difficult to understand God or spiritual things. When we have the Holy Spirit helping us, He helps us understand God's love, forgiveness, and peace. The Holy Spirit is an amazing treasure inside us helping us live as Christ's followers. In future lessons, we will be learning more ways He**

helps us. Thank You God for putting your special treasure, the Holy Spirit, inside each of us who believe in Jesus! Lead a cheer for the Holy Spirit living inside believers.

Bible Story Questions:

- **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.)
- **What are some places you want to take the Holy Spirit with you this week?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- To help the children visualize that the Holy Spirit goes with them everywhere they go, have the children find a partner. Assign one partner to be the "treasure chest/temple" and the other child is the "treasure" who stands closely behind, but not touching, and mirrors everything the partner does and goes. Give basic rules and boundaries and allow the partner to move around and do actions that are mirrored. After two minutes, switch roles. Then, have the children talk about how it felt to know they had someone watching and going with them. Ask the children how they felt doing things that were uncomfortable or unusual. Remind them to take the Holy Spirit and do things that please God this week.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Play a modified version of "Duck, Duck, Goose." Have the children sit in a large circle on the floor. Select a volunteer to go around the circle and tap a child on the head as the group says each word of the phrase, "I have the Holy Spirit in me." The child tapped when the word "me" is said gets up and chases the tapper around the circle. If the tapper reaches the child's open spot in the circle, the child chasing becomes the new tapper.

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Lead the children in a Bible study to find the character traits seen in a man's life who was filled with the Holy Spirit. Have them look up Acts 6:5 to discover who the man is.

(Stephen) Guide them through Acts 6:8–7:60 to discover how the Holy Spirit was at work in Stephen's life.

Worksheet:
Help the children find the pathway for the Holy Spirit to come into their life. Have them write the letters in the order they found them along the pathway. Remind them that the only way to get the Holy Spirit inside them is to accept Jesus' free gift of salvation. On the back of their papers, have them draw a treasure chest and write why the Holy Spirit is a treasure.

Affirmation/Declaration:
When I say "yes" to Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in me.
I am the home of the Holy Spirit.
I'm the treasure chest, and He is my treasure!

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
People understand the concept of wanting a treasure. There are still treasure seekers who look for buried treasures and legendary ship treasures at sea. God has sent a treasure map in the Bible explaining the special treasure given to anyone who believes that Jesus Christ died, rose again, and returned to heaven with the receipt that paid for all sins. As the children learn about the treasure they have in the Holy Spirit, they can show the world the power, presence, and peace that dwells in them and helps them through life to be more Christlike. When the world sees the Holy Spirit working through the children, they will want what they see in the children's lives.

Missions Connection:
Missionaries often spend their time explaining salvation in culturally relevant ways. The concept of the Holy Spirit is very difficult to explain in any culture, but the evidence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer should be easily seen by others. Pray that missionaries will embrace the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and then share the excitement of the Holy Spirit living within all believers.

Family Connection:
Go on a family treasure hunt in your home. Look for items that are treasures to each member of the family. Talk about why each item is special and treasured. At the end of the time, discuss how the Holy Spirit is a treasure that we get the moment we accept salvation through believing that Jesus Christ died to pay for our sins. This quarter your child will be learning all the benefits

of having the Holy Spirit living inside them. As a family, embark on a daily treasure hunt to see how the Holy Spirit is helping and guiding each family member to be more like Jesus.

Prayer Points:
Remind the children that the Holy Spirit comes into them when they believe in Jesus as their Savior. Talk and pray with any children who are ready to say "yes" to Jesus for the first time. Model praying the Memory Verse as a scripture prayer.

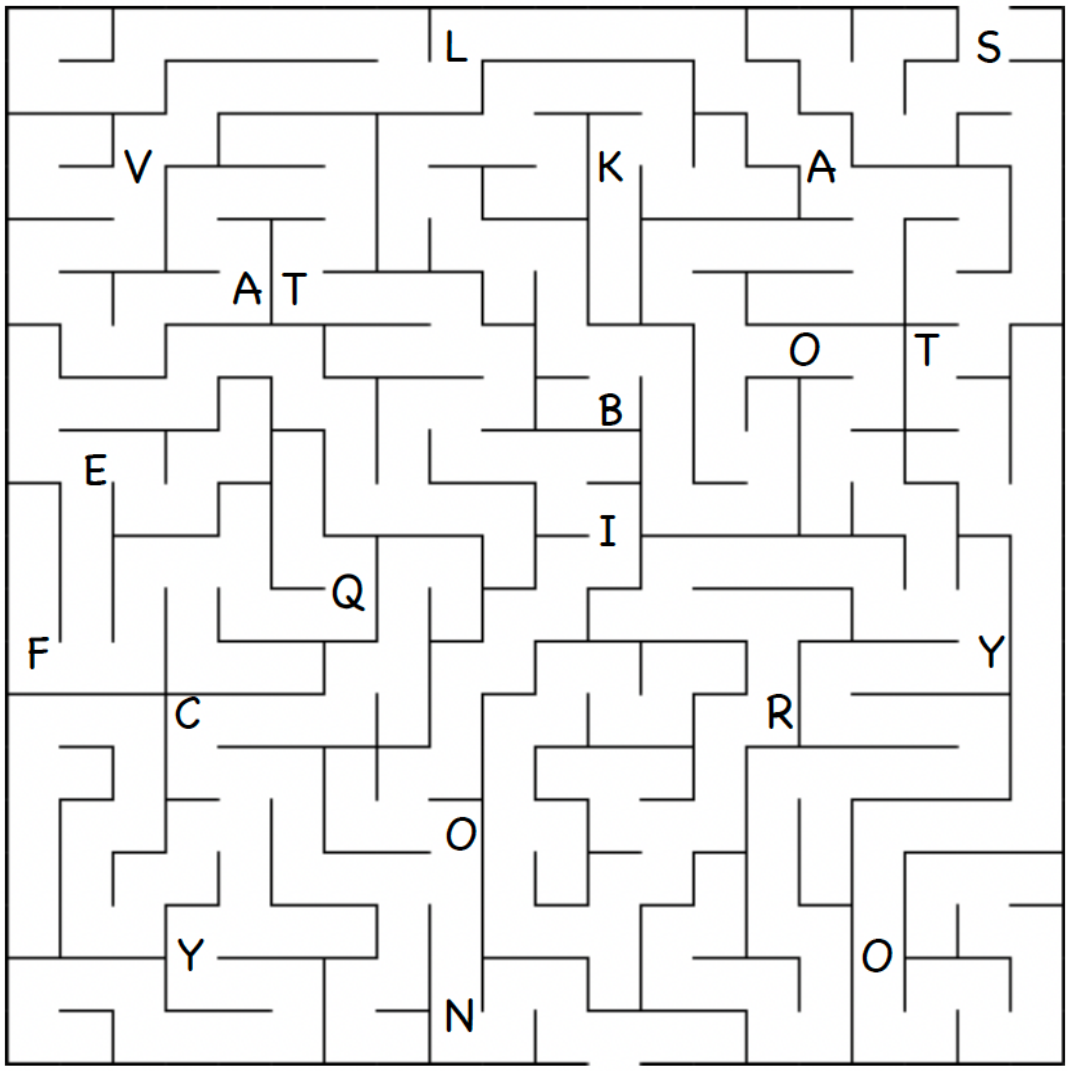
Dear God,
Thank You for giving us hope. Thank You for loving us and giving us the Holy Spirit. We love learning about the Holy Spirit inside us.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Lives in Us

Follow the path to get the Holy Spirit inside you. On the blanks, write the letters you found along the path.

START



Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit comes and lives in you at _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

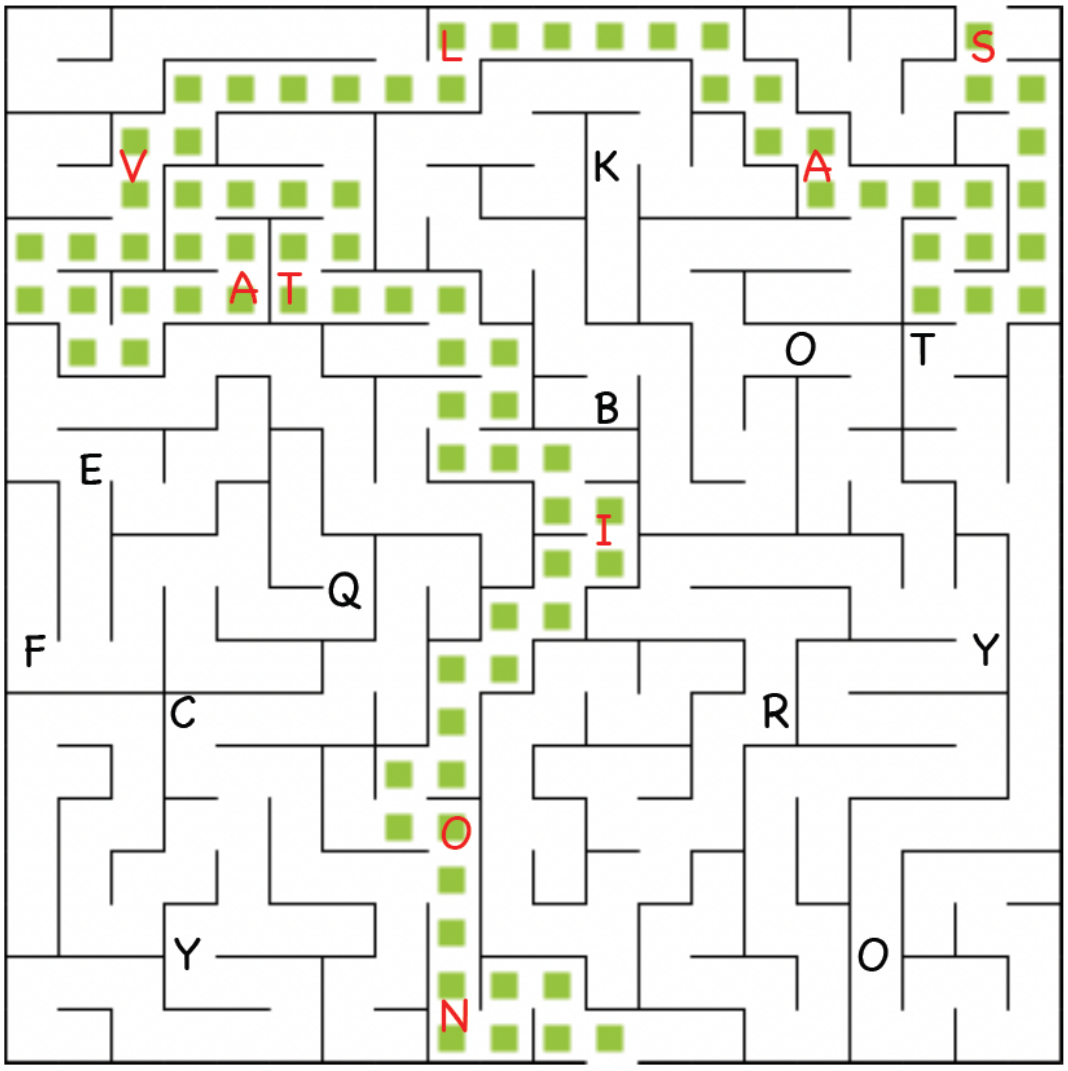
BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a treasure chest and write around the page why the Holy Spirit is a treasure.*

ANSWERS

Lesson 2: The Holy Spirit Lives in Us

Help the Holy Spirit find the path to you. On the blanks, write the letters you found along the path.

START



FINISH

The Holy Spirit comes and lives in you at SALVATION.

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw a treasure chest and write around the page why the Holy Spirit is a treasure.*

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