



A 4-WEEK SERIES ON

WISDOM

FROM OUR ANNUAL *TEACHING STRATEGY*

BY DAVID JOHN PEREZ AND VICTORIA SUN ESPARZA



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- ▶ [Middle School
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WEEK 3

- ▶ [Game](#)
- ▶ [Sermon Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Middle School
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WEEK 4

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ABOUT THIS SERIES

Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest – things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us** who **shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love**.

THIS SERIES AT A GLANCE

WEEK 1

This week, we'll see what Jesus promised his followers and how Paul describes the Holy Spirit.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** God gives us the Holy Spirit.
- **THE BIBLE:** John 14:1–6, 15–31; Romans 8:9–17, 15:13
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Activity, Story, Discussion, Poll, Video, Music, Response

WEEK 2

This week, we'll explore the story of Pentecost and see why Jesus called the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth."

- **THE BIG IDEA:** The Holy Spirit shows us truth.
- **THE BIBLE:** John 15:26-27, 16:12-15; Acts 2:1-41
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Activity, Discussion, Video, Story, Music, Response

WEEK 3

This week, we'll see how God's Spirit helps us do what's wise and pleasing to God more effectively than "the law" could.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.
- **THE BIBLE:** Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 3:23-25; Colossians 1:9-10; Proverbs 1:1-7
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Activity, Question, Object Lesson, Video, Story, Music, Discussion

WEEK 4

This week, we'll see how, when our lives demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit, we shine like a city on a hill.

- **THE BIG IDEA:** The Holy Spirit helps us love.
- **THE BIBLE:** Galatians 5:22–26; Matthew 5:14–16; Romans 5:5
- **THE BUILDING BLOCKS:** Activity, Story, Video, Object Lesson, Music, Reflection, Discussion

HOW TO PROGRAM FOR THIS SERIES

Outside of your teaching time, we have a few programming ideas to help this series really come to life – everything from how to **design your room**, to which **games to play**, to what **music to play and sing**.

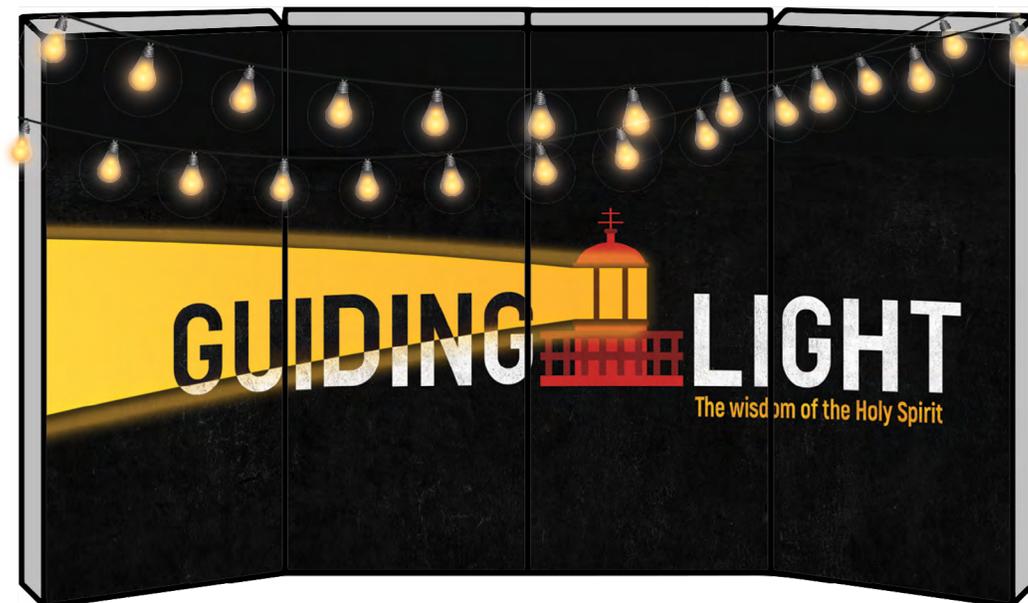
ROOM DESIGN

For this series, you'll be printing (or painting) the series graphics on a large backdrop and using LED lights to illuminate the light shining out of the lighthouse in the graphics.

First, you'll need a backdrop. There are tons of ways to create a backdrop that you can re-use multiple times each year. Check out [this post](#) for a list of ideas. For this series, **we recommend using foam insulation boards or refrigerator boxes because they're easy to cut.** While you can print the series graphic on large format paper and paste it to your backdrop, the graphics for this series are simple enough to paint yourself with a stencil or projection of the design. If you're doing it yourself, you'll need black, white, and red paint. You won't need yellow paint – you'll be using yellow cellophane and lights for that part.

Now here's where the optional cutting comes in. See that yellow light shining out of the lighthouse in this graphic? Create some depth by cutting that section out of your backdrop. To make it easy, don't try to cut around the black letters in the word "guiding" or the red vertical lines in the lighthouse. You'll add those later. Simply cut out that entire yellow section – a long acute triangle that turns into a small rectangle at its point. Once that is removed, flip the backdrop facedown and attach [yellow cellophane](#) to the back using black electrical tape. Pull the cellophane tight so it's free of wrinkles. Flip the backdrop face-up again. Use black and red paint to add the red vertical lines to the lighthouse and the black letters in "guiding" on top of the cellophane.

Finally, light your backdrop from behind with whatever lighting you have available. In Week 1, you'll be doing an object lesson with string lights, so plan to keep those lights hung and illuminated throughout the series as well.



GRAPHIC DESIGN

We give you editable graphics so you can make everything your own! If you're going to **edit our graphics** or **create something brand new . . .**

Use this font!

GERONIMOBASE

Download this font [here!](#)

And use these colors!

	HEX #CB2D2C CMYK: 14/96/95/4
	HEX #842627 CMYK: 30/93/84/33
	HEX #842627 CMYK: 30/93/84/33
	HEX #050505 CMYK: 75/68/67/88

MUSIC

In addition to any music you might see woven throughout your teaching time, you'll probably want to have a time of worship with your students.

Here are a few worship songs that tie into this month's theme by focusing on the Holy Spirit . . .

- **"Your Spirit"** (Tasha Cobbs Leonard)
- **"You are My Vision"** (Rend Collective)
- **"Baptized By Fire"** (Ecclesia)
- **"Fall Afresh"** (Kari Jobe)
- **"Oceans"** (Hillsong United)
- **"Holy Spirit"** (Jesus Culture)
- **"Spirit of the Living God"** (Phil Wickham)
- **"King of My Heart"** (Steffany Gretzinger & Bethel Music)
- **"Names"** (Elevation Worship & Maverick City Music)
- **"Peace"** (Koryn Hawthorne & Jonathan McReynolds)

We've added these songs to our [Grow Students \(Volume 5\) Spotify playlist](#) for your personal use only, according to Spotify's [terms and conditions](#). For more information on how to use copyrighted music in your services legally, [read this!](#)

And if you want to sing or sample a non-worship song or two (maybe as an opener, a closer, a bonus song during your program), try some of these . . .

- **"Lights"** (BTS)
- **"Guiding Light"** (Mumford & Sons)
- **"Arrow"** (David Dunn)
- **"Light"** (Sleeping at Last)
- **"So Alive"** (The Young Escape)
- **"Better With You"** (Elevation Rhythm)
- **"Guiding Light"** (Foy Vance)

For more fun (and clean) song suggestions, check out all of [our Spotify playlists](#) for your personal use only, according to Spotify's [terms and conditions](#). For more information on how to use copyrighted music in your services legally, [read this!](#)



GAMES by Jeremiah Herring & Tyler Grant

If you have a designated time for games before your worship and teaching time, we have a few suggestions for games you can play . . .

- [The Light Guides](#)
- [Guiding Light](#)
- [Egg Guide](#)
- [Wise Words](#)

The games recommended for this series all have to do with being lights or being guided in the right direction. To get the instructions and graphics for each game, click the links or visit the Games section of your Grow Students dashboard.

HOW TO PREP FOR THIS SERIES

WHAT TO GET

If you want to try all of our suggestions for this series, here's what you'll need to buy, borrow, Google, or dig for in your storage closet . . .

WEEK 1:

- [Blindfolds](#)
- [A short clip](#) (0:15-1:03) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*
- [A short clip](#) (0:00-1:06) from "Holy Spirit," by BibleProject
- [Jumbo sticky notes](#)
- [Permanent markers](#)
- A song like "Holy Spirit" (Brian & Katie Torwalt) or "Spirit" (Beyonce)
- The handouts provided in your Week 1 folder
- Pens
- [String lights](#) with frosted globe bulbs
- A large bowl

WEEK 2:

- Paper
- Markers
- [A short clip](#) (0:50-1:50) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*
- A song like "Fall Afresh" (Kari Jobe) or "Just As Sure" (Tori Kelly)
- The handouts provided in your Week 2 folder
- Pens

WEEK 3:

- 2 [easels](#)
- 2 large pads of [paper](#)
- [Brushes](#)
- [Paint](#)
- [A short clip](#) (2:10-2:47) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*
- A song like "Be Thou My Vision" (Audrey Assad) or "Your Spirit" (Tasha Cobbs Leonard)
- The handouts provided in your Week 3 folder
- Pens

WEEK 4:

- [Index cards](#)
- [A short clip](#) (1:16-2:14) from *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*
- Clear flexible [vinyl tubing](#)
- [Marbles](#)
- Salt
- A clear container
- A large pitcher of warm water
- A [funnel](#) that fits into the tubing
- Large bowls
- [Washable markers](#)

WHAT TO MAKE

WEEK 1:

- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen.
- Remove the bulbs from the string lights and place them in a bowl alongside the markers.

WEEK 2:

- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 2 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen.

WEEK 3:

- Choose an image for the Copycat activity – something your students would find funny.
- Practice painting a gradient for the In the Middle object lesson.
- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 3 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing.

WEEK 4:

- Practice the Stopped-Up Hearts object lesson.
- Print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 4 folder.
- Set up a few stations around the room with large bowls filled with water.

WHAT TO CUSTOMIZE

You know your students better than we do, so there are probably some things you'd like to change about this series before you start teaching. Here's what you'll need to update if you make changes . . .

- **TEACHING:** Add your own stories, jokes, and any pop culture references that make sense for your group. You can edit each message using the Word documents provided or the [Grow Message Builder](#).
- **SMALL GROUP:** If you make any changes to your teaching, make sure your small group questions reflect those changes. You can edit these using the Word documents provided.
- **APP:** If you make changes to your teaching or small group questions, don't forget to update your content in the [Grow App](#) for your team!
- **GRAPHICS:** We've provided graphics in your [Graphics & Video folder](#) already, but we've also provided a blank slide in case you need to make your own.
- **EMAILS:** Customize and send the [volunteer and family emails](#) we've provided for this series.

WHAT TO COMMUNICATE

To make sure your students, volunteers, and families are in the loop . . .

- **STUDENTS:** Throughout the month, post the [Graphics & Video](#) we've provided on social media, like the Big Idea images and Bumper Video. Post the [One-Minute Sermon Videos](#) we've provided or use the One-Minute Sermon Scripts to film a recap video each week and post it on social media.
- **FAMILIES:** Before you begin teaching this series, send families the [Parent Email](#) we've provided (after you've customized it for your ministry, of course). After each week of the series, post the Big Idea images wherever you talk to families online. You can also copy and paste the social media examples we've included in your [Social Media Posts](#).
- **VOLUNTEERS:** Before you teach each week of this series, send volunteers the weekly [Volunteer Emails](#) we've provided (after you've customized it for your ministry, of course). Before each week of the series, post the Big Idea images wherever you talk to volunteers online. You can also copy and paste the social media posts we've included in your [Social Media Posts](#).

For a more in-depth digital communication strategy, **customize the [Social Media Plan spreadsheet](#)** we've provided. And hey! When you post on social media, **don't forget to use the [#growcurriculum](#) hashtag** to share your ideas and stories with our team and with other churches who are using Grow!

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES

Every ministry is different. Whether you're teaching middle schoolers, high schoolers, teenagers with special needs, or all three, here's how to hack this series to fit your unique and diverse audience.

HACKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS by Mike Sheley, Porfirio Caldera

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . . .

- In all four weeks, **be extra clear the Holy Spirit is not the same as the Force.** This series includes clips from *Star Wars* and mentions the Force. Although we've made it clear the Force should not be confused with the Holy Spirit, middle schoolers can be pretty literal thinkers, and they're not always the best at paying attention to what you say . . . so you may want to really emphasize this. Just to be safe.
- In Week 2, **focus more on the lies students believe about themselves than the lies they believe about God.** At this age, your middle schoolers are only beginning the process of thinking critically about what they believe, so they may not have any examples of lies they believed about God just yet. A middle schoolers is much more likely to currently believe lies like "no one loves me," "I'm ugly," or "I'm alone," so for this age group, focus most of your energy on this idea.
- In Week 3, **give plenty of examples of when we need wisdom.** Wisdom is a fairly abstract concept, so for middle schoolers who are concrete thinkers, they may struggle to imagine scenarios that don't have clear "black and white" answers for doing what's right. To help them with this, give plenty of examples and scenarios. And check in with them as you teach to make sure it's making sense.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

- In Week 1, **ask students to help brainstorm ways to connect with the Holy Spirit instead of synonyms for "Advocate."** Most middle schoolers won't be familiar with the word advocate, so they'll need you to define that word for them instead of asking for their help defining it. Instead, move the sticky note brainstorm to the "Inviting the Holy Spirit" section and have them come up with their own ways to connect with the Holy Spirit.
- If you want to lighten the tone of Week 4 for middle schoolers, **replace any discussions about loving people who have hurt you with discussions about loving people who annoy you.** The structure of this week works in either scenario, so choose the level of seriousness that works best for your group.

REMEMBER

Remember, the concept of the Holy Spirit is hard for adults to grasp, let alone middle schoolers! Allow plenty of time and space for middle school to process their thoughts, ask questions, and wonder out loud. Don't be frustrated if a student's question about the Holy Spirit changes the direction of your conversation — go with it!

HACKS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS by Travis Bannon, Jada Price

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . .

- At least once throughout this series, **make space to talk about how the Holy Spirit is viewed in different expressions of Christianity.** This might come up in discussion without your prompting. If it does, be prepared to address it in a way that invites students to ask questions, discuss, and wonder out loud without judgment. You may learn something important about what they're curious about!
- In Week 1, **share a quick story about a time you saw someone advocate for someone else.** To help high schoolers understand the word "advocate" more fully, give them a real-life example of what it looks like to advocate for someone who needs help. A concrete example will help anchor this abstract concept.
- In Week 2, **focus equal amounts of time on how God's truth should both convict and comfort us.** Like your middle schoolers, your high schoolers do probably believe lies like "no one loves me," "I'm ugly," or "I'm alone," and need to hear truths about who they are that comfort them. But your high schoolers also have a greater capacity to examine their own hearts and minds and need to be challenged to let God's truth convict and challenge them. Focus on both aspects of what God's truth does — not just one.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

- In all four weeks, **replace the opening activities with extra discussion.** If your high schoolers love playing games, keep them! But if you think they're ready and interested in deeper discussion, cut them so you have some extra time to explore the ideas in this series through conversation. A high schooler probably won't need a fun activity to make the ideas stick — they'll process them better through conversation.

REMEMBER

Remember high schoolers are at an age where they have to start also learning to discern what is the right thing is *at the right time*. Encourage students to think about timing of their decisions as well, since they (especially older high school students) are beginning to think about life choices that require wisdom on timing.

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

by Alyssa Roberts, Sunny Brown

REVISE

To make this series more accessible for kids with special needs, here's what to adjust . .

- In all four weeks, **adjust the times of reflection to accommodate students with certain disabilities or limitations.** If you have students who struggle to express their thoughts in writing, make a plan to give them the support they need during these times of reflection. You might give them a buddy who can write for them or a leader who can guide them through the reflection time one-on-one.
- In Week 1, **use a visual aid to define the word "advocate."** Students with language delays or processing difficulties will find this word challenging to understand. To help make sense of it, provide pictures, videos, or even a simple skit to help them understand what it means to advocate for someone. You may want to start creating a binder of simple pictures or diagrams that could help define complex words or concepts.
- In Week 2, **focus more on the lies students believe about themselves than the lies they believe about God.** Students with certain types of special needs may not think critically about what they believe, so they may not have any examples of lies they believed about God. Many students with special needs are much more likely to currently believe lies like "no one loves me," "I'm ugly," or "I'm alone," so for these students, focus most of your energy on this idea.

REPLACE

And here are the Building Blocks you may want to swap for something else . . .

- In Week 1, **replace the Dynamic Duo activity with something that accommodates students with physical limitations.** If you have students who are limited by physical disabilities or restrictions, you could either turn this into an upfront game where two players must start on opposite sides of the room and find each other while the rest of you try to distract them, or you could play an all-play memory game where famous duos are written on cards and students have to take turns flipping two cards at a time in order to find a match.
- In Week 2, **replace the personal reflection time with a discussion.** Some students with special needs struggle with extended times of reflection. If you have students in your ministry who find this challenging, ask students to brainstorm truths about God and each other out loud together.

REMEMBER

Remember to always add closed captioning when playing videos! If you have students who have hearing impairments, they will need those those captions to follow along. And if you don't think you have students with hearing impairments, do it anyway! If you get in the habit now of planning for students with special needs, your learning curve won't be quite as steep when a student with special needs does eventually show up.



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Victoria Sun Esparza is the founder and CEO for In the Water Designs, a consulting firm that specializes in design-thinking strategy for religious organizations and non-profits. Victoria's non-traditional background in theological education and design-thinking gives her a unique perspective on the world and its problems. If you'd like to chat with Victoria about all things family ministry, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

CONNECT WITH VICTORIA!

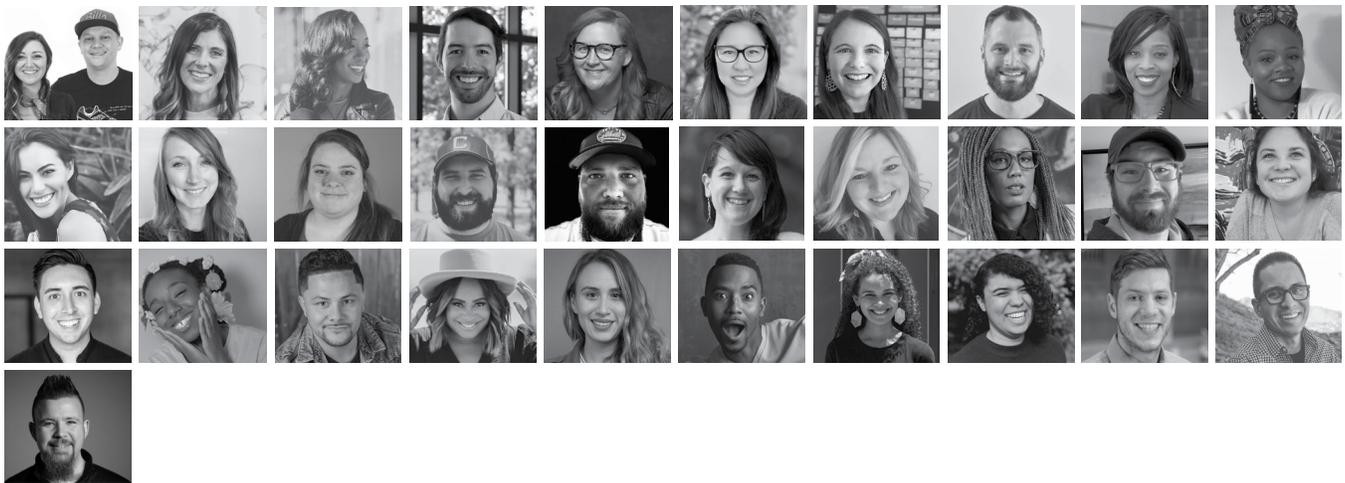


David Perez is a Training Coordinator for a Behavioral Health company in Southern California. He's a Navy Veteran with 15 years of youth ministry experience and previously served with the United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ. He loves the Dodgers, Lakers, and DJing. He's also a bit of a coffee snob and a huge foodie! If you'd like to chat with David, reach out! He would love to connect with you!

CONNECT WITH DAVID!



ALONG WITH . . .



SERIES DEVELOPMENT: David John Perez, Victoria Sun Esparza, Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, David Magallanes, Amber Stephens, Stephen Switzer, Candace Williams, Cory Burchard, Shuree Rivera, Duane Reimer, Bianca Quezada, Steph Whitacre

HACKS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS: Mike Sheley, Porfirio Caldera

HACKS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS: Travis Bannon, Jada Price

HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Alyssa Roberts, Sunny Brown

GAMES: Jeremiah Herring, Tyler Grant, Jordan Floro

ONE-MINUTE SERMONS: David Magallanes, Elle Campbell, Jose Rodriguez, Erica Rodriguez, Vanessa Serrano Cruz, Damean Easter, and the Rescue a Generation team

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Jules Gray, Josh Gosney

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ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Linda Moon, Ali Anne, Kellee Gentry, Emily Acton, Jada Smith, Jay Logan, Eddie Irvin, Daniel Wallis

DEVOTIONAL FOR VOLUNTEERS



STUDY

Truth and wisdom are kind of debatable subjects aren't they? Just when you think Google is your friend, it leads you down a thread promising a dog you can adopt for cheap (but you have to pay with gift cards from the grocery store). It isn't until a very wise friend intervenes with a scam alert that you wake from your stupor and realize it isn't wise to give gift cards to strangers on the internet. So who do you get wisdom from as an adult? Your favorite YouTuber? *The Simpsons*? The Bible? Since you're leading in youth ministry, you're probably familiar with looking for help in the stories of the Bible, but don't forget you have more help than that because **God gives us the Holy Spirit, who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.** To get ready for this series on wisdom, **spend a few minutes reading the stories you'll be teaching students this month.** As you do, think about what God has taught you (and is still teaching you) through these passages, and how these Big Ideas have been true in your life.

WEEK 1: God gives us the Holy Spirit. (John 14:1-6, 15-31; Romans 8:9-17, 15:13)

WEEK 2: The Holy Spirit shows us truth. (John 15:26-27, 16:12-15; Acts 2:1-41)

WEEK 3: The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom. (Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 3:23-25; Colossians 1:9-10; Proverbs 1:1-7)

WEEK 4: The Holy Spirit helps us love. (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 5:14-16; Romans 5:5)

PRAY

No matter where you are or what you are going through the Holy Spirit is here to help you. When you pray, you're not alone. When you have questions, you have access to truth. When you're not sure what to do, wisdom isn't far. When people are difficult, you'll have the ability to love too. Connect with the Holy Spirit in prayer by asking any question you need to ask, talk through any of your doubts, or express the hesitations you have loving someone in your life. **Which passage of Scripture or Big Idea from this month is most relevant to you right now?** Spend a few minutes asking God to show you how you've already grown in this area, plus the next step you need to take in order to keep growing.

GROW

If God gives us the Holy Spirit, then expect to be shown the truth and discover the wisdom you need. Expect to love in ways that seem out of reach for you. Tell someone about your search for truth and wisdom and ask them to pray for you and with you! So what's your next step? **Whatever your next step is right now, take it. Then help students do the same.**

WEEK 1 SERMON GUIDE

GUIDING LIGHT

THE BIG IDEA

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

John 14:1–6, 15–31; Romans 8:9–17, 15:13

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Dynamic Duo

- Welcome to our new series, *Guiding Light*, where we're going to be talking about how to find guidance when we're feeling a little lost.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, you'll need a large space free of any hazards or obstacles, and [blindfolds](#) for each player. Have students find a partner and have them come up with a "dynamic duo" name (like peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, rock and roll, or Batman and Robin), then separate the duos to form two separate groups with partners at least 20 yards apart and blindfolded. When you say go, students will try to find each other by calling out their duo name in call-and-response fashion ("Macaroni!" "Cheese!"). The first duo to be reunited wins.*

STORY | Talk about a time you couldn't see your way in the dark.

- There's a reason a lot of people are afraid of the dark! When you're used to using your eyes to guide you, being suddenly unable to find your way without being able to see can be a challenge.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you needed to see where you were going in the dark, but couldn't. Maybe you were lost, walking to the bathroom at night, playing hide and seek, or looking for something when the power was out. Share how light could have been helpful or how light helped you ultimately be found or find what you were looking for.*

DISCUSSION | Who helps guide you?

- It's one thing to feel a little lost while we're trying to find our way to the bathroom in the middle of the night, but it's way bigger issue when we're feeling a little lost in life.
 - Maybe you've felt lost because you weren't sure how to handle a fight with a friend, or you had to make a big decision, or life just got a little too hectic or difficult.
 - When we feel a little lost in life, having someone to help guide us can really make all the difference.
- **When did you need some guidance? Who helped you find your way?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite students to turn to someone sitting next to them and share their stories for one or two minutes. Since they are telling stories, signal halfway through for them to switch so both students get to share. After the time is up, ask for a couple of volunteers to share their stories.*

POLL | Reveal How You Feel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For each of the following scenarios, encourage students to raise their hand if they agree.*
- We all respond to being lost or unsure a little differently When you're feeling lost and don't know what to do, **do you usually . . .**
 - **Feel stuck and not do anything?**
 - **Distract yourself with other things to not think about it?**
 - **Try to plan all your options?**
 - **Do whatever comes to mind first?**
 - **Ask someone for advice or help?**
- When we don't have clarity or are feeling a little lost, we often need some guidance from someone wiser than we are. But sometimes, even getting advice from others isn't enough.
 - Even the wisest people are sometimes wrong or don't have answers.
 - Sometimes we don't have anyone trustworthy to go to.
 - Sometimes we need immediate help.
 - And sometimes we need more than just right answers. We also need to know we're not alone.
- For the next few weeks, we're going to explore some of the reasons we might sometimes need a "guiding light" — and how God has already got us covered.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Last Jedi

- Any *Star Wars* fans here? If you haven't seen the movies, they're essentially about the battle between good and evil, while a mysterious "force" runs through the whole universe.
 - The most recent movies in the franchise pick up after a long time of there being no Jedis around — those are the good guys.

- With evil reigning for so long, people are feeling down, lost, and hopeless. But then a new Jedi emerges, named Rey, who has to learn to find and harness this mysterious “force.”
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (0:15-1:03) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, where Luke and Rey describe the force. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Rey doesn’t really believe in all that “force” stuff when she starts out. She thinks it’s just a story, but in this clip she actually connects with it for the first time. When she does, she describes the force as being around her and inside of her at the same time.

VIDEO | A Clip from “Holy Spirit” (BibleProject)

- You and I don’t have powers from a mysterious force, but it seems like maybe those *Star Wars* writers may have gotten some of their inspiration from the way the Bible talks about God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (0:00-1:06) from “Holy Spirit,” by BibleProject. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)

STORY | Talk about a time you felt God’s presence in a hard time.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Talk about a time you felt God’s presence in a hard time, like when you lost someone you loved or made a big mistake. Share how you felt God’s presence and how that experience transformed your situation.
- Maybe because we can’t see or hear God with our usual senses, we sometimes think God is hanging out in the clouds far away, if we believe God exists at all. But Scripture shows us God’s presence is all around us and can even be within us.

SCRIPTURE | John 14:1-6, 15-31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read John 14:1-6, 15–31.
- Scripture shows us a lot of stories about the disciples not fully understanding Jesus all the time.
 - Over and over, we see Jesus’ followers trying to see things with their own limited perspective and understanding, then having their worlds turned upside down by the truths Jesus showed them.
 - Can you relate? Have you ever found it hard to fully understand the Bible or the things Jesus said?
- In this passage, Thomas, one of Jesus’s disciples, asked where Jesus was going and how Jesus’ followers would know the way to get there. They were worried Jesus was going to leave them behind — wherever he was going.
 - What the disciples didn’t understand is that Jesus would soon be leaving earth. First, he would die (but then be resurrected). After that, he would leave earth permanently and return to God in heaven.
 - The disciples wanted to be wherever Jesus was because Jesus was their guide! He was how they understood God, the world, their big questions, and their purpose in life.

- For the disciples it felt like the ending to a good thing would soon be coming, but Jesus had a different message: the end was just the beginning. The end of Jesus' life on earth would be the beginning of God's life within us through the Holy Spirit.

ACTIVITY | What Is an Advocate?

- But why does Jesus call the Holy Spirit "the Advocate"? Historically, this was a legal word. In court, an advocate was someone who would plead someone's case before a judge. When someone was stuck, in trouble, or needing help, an advocate would step in. According to Jesus, this is one of the things the Holy Spirit does for us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using *jumbo sticky notes* and *permanent markers*, ask students to make a list of synonyms or ideas that come to mind when they hear the word "advocate." Write one word or idea on each sticky note and stick it to a wall or board.
- Jesus was an advocate for people while he walked on earth, but he knew he wouldn't be on earth forever. That's why he promised us the Holy Spirit would be sent by God to continue Jesus' work. The Holy Spirit, Jesus said . . .
 - Would advocate for us.
 - Would help us.
 - Would be a gift to us.
 - Would be God's peace.
- Jesus reassured us that his death, resurrection, and return to heaven were not the end of his relationship with his followers, but really just the beginning. God was not going to leave us alone or without guidance or direction.

SCRIPTURE | Romans 8:9–17

- As followers of Jesus, we're promised the same Holy Spirit Jesus promised to the disciples so long ago.
 - Years after this conversation between Jesus and his disciples, the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Rome.
 - During this time, a lot of Christians were being attacked by the Roman empire because of the messages they preached about Jesus and his authority.
 - To remind these Jesus-followers that God was with them no matter what happened, here's what Paul wrote.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read *Romans 8:9–17*.
- Paul reminds us that the Holy Spirit . . .
 - Lives within everyone who belongs to Jesus.
 - Is powerful enough to raise Jesus from the dead.
 - Gives us new life through Jesus.
 - Leads us.
 - Helps us become children of God.
 - Is with us and within us.

- The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to us. For the next few weeks, we’re going to discover more about who the Holy Spirit is and exactly how the Holy Spirit guides us. But before we get there, we have to start here: when you feel lost, alone, or wondering where God is, remember, **God gives us the Holy Spirit.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- As we’ll see throughout this series, sometimes God’s Spirit leads us in ways that are mysterious and unexpected. Many people often sense the Holy Spirit speaking to them through music. Sometimes that music is about God and sometimes it’s not. The more you get to know the Holy Spirit, the more you’ll start to realize God can speak to you in all sorts of ways.
- As we listen to this song together, see what you can find about who the Holy Spirit is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God’s Spirit, like “Holy Spirit” (Brian & Katie Torwalt), “Spirit” (Beyonce), or whatever song you’d like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) You’ll also want to print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. If you’d like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you’ve chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen. During the song, encourage students to respond to the following questions. After the song, ask a few students to share what they observed.*
 - *How does this song describe the Holy Spirit?*
 - *How is this song helpful in understanding who the Holy Spirit is?*
 - *How is it not helpful?*
 - *What lyrics stand out to you and why?*

RESPONSE | Inviting the Holy Spirit

- While there is a lot that is mysterious about God’s Spirit, the Holy Spirit isn’t far away or unknowable. When we’re facing situations that make us feel lost, confused, or in need of guidance, God doesn’t leave us alone.
- So how do you get to know God’s Holy Spirit? How can you find the help, guidance, peace, and comfort you need?
 - **READ SCRIPTURE.** The Bible is full of stories and truths about what God is like, who God cares about, and what God expects of us. When we spend time in God’s Word, we become more aware of how God’s Spirit is leading us.
 - **PRAY OFTEN.** Every time we talk to God (even when we’re not sure what to say), the Holy Spirit is at work, advocating for and helping us. Prayer helps us get to know God through the Holy Spirit’s work.
 - **PRACTICE LISTENING.** In order to hear God’s Spirit speak we have to slow down, pause, and listen. Maybe it’s just a few minutes at the end of your day, but take some time to unwind and listen for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and direction.

- In the beginning of our conversation today, we mentioned some of the reasons why we sometimes need help and guidance when we're feeling lost or confused. In what ways do you need the Holy Spirit to guide you right now?
 - Do you need help understanding something difficult about God or your faith?
 - Do you need help getting to know Jesus for the first time?
 - Do you need guidance in a difficult situation with a friend or family member?
 - Are you stuck doing something you know you shouldn't be doing, but you're not sure how to stop?
 - Do you need help making a big decision?
 - Are you looking for comfort or peace in a difficult time?
- If you could ask God to help you in one area of your life right now, what area would that be? How do you need the Holy Spirit to be a guiding light for you during a dark time?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this response, you'll need [string lights](#) with frosted globe bulbs and permanent markers. Before your teaching time, remove the bulbs from the string lights and place them in a bowl alongside the markers. Give student an opportunity to write a challenge they are facing on a lightbulb and return it to you. While students write, invite them to break into pairs and pray for each other. As they return the lightbulbs to you, add the bulbs to the string of lights. When all the bulbs are back, turn them on.*
- No matter where we are, how we feel, what we've been through, or how dark or confusing life feels right now, Jesus promised that there would always be a light to guide our path — our Advocate, the Holy Spirit.
- So next time you're wondering what to do, where God is, or if you're all alone, remember, Jesus has left us with a guiding light to help us find the kind of truth, wisdom, and help that only comes from God. **God gives us the Holy Spirit.**

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest — things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

John 14:1–6, 15–31; Romans 8:9–17, 15:13

- **What's one place you'd hate to get lost?**
- **Who are some of the people who help guide you in life? What makes them good guides?**
- **What are some examples of situations where we might need guidance from someone we trust?**
- **Getting guidance from other people is often helpful, but when is it not?**
- **What are some practical ways we can get guidance from God?**
- **Have you ever tried to get guidance from God but didn't feel you were successful? What happened?**
- **What do you think it means for the Holy Spirit to be our Advocate?**
- **Read Romans 15:13. Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit in this way during a difficult moment? If you have, tell us about it! If you haven't, why do you think that is?**
- **What questions do you have about who the Holy Spirit is? What questions do you have about what the Holy Spirit does?**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to get to know the Holy Spirit better?**

WEEK 1

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest — things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

John 14:1–6, 15–31; Romans 8:9–17, 15:13

- **What's one place you'd hate to get lost?**
- **Who are some of the people who help guide you in life? What makes them good guides?**
- **What are some examples of situations where we might need guidance from someone we trust?**
- **What are some practical ways we can get guidance from God?**
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- **This week, what's one way you're going to get to know the Holy Spirit better?**

WEEK 1 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

God gives us the Holy Spirit.

THE BIBLE

John 14:1–6, 15–31; Romans 8:9–17, 15:13

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Dynamic Duo

- Welcome to our new series, *Guiding Light*, where we're going to be talking about how to find guidance when we're feeling a little lost.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, you'll need a large space free of any hazards or obstacles, and [blindfolds](#) for each player. Have students find a partner and have them come up with a "dynamic duo" name (like peanut butter and jelly, macaroni and cheese, rock and roll, or Batman and Robin), then separate the duos to form two separate groups with partners at least 20 yards apart and blindfolded. When you say go, students will try to find each other by calling out their duo name in call-and-response fashion ("Macaroni!" "Cheese!"). The first duo to be reunited wins.*

STORY | Talk about a time you couldn't see your way in the dark.

- There's a reason a lot of people are afraid of the dark! When you're used to using your eyes to guide you, being suddenly unable to find your way without being able to see can be a challenge.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you needed to see where you were going in the dark, but couldn't. Maybe you were lost, walking to the bathroom at night, playing hide and seek, or looking for something when the power was out. Share how light could have been helpful or how light helped you ultimately be found or find what you were looking for.*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **What's one place you'd hate to get lost?**
 - **Who are some of the people who help guide you in life? What makes them good guides?**

DISCUSSION | Who helps guide you?

- It's one thing to feel a little lost while we're trying to find our way to the bathroom in the middle of the night, but it's way bigger issue when we're feeling a little lost in life.
 - Maybe you've felt lost because you weren't sure how to handle a fight with a friend, or you had to make a big decision, or life just got a little too hectic or difficult.
 - When we feel a little lost in life, having someone to help guide us can really make all the difference.
- **When did you need some guidance? Who helped you find your way?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Invite students to turn to someone sitting next to them and share their stories for one or two minutes. Since they are telling stories, signal halfway through for them to switch so both students get to share. After the time is up, ask for a couple of volunteers to share their stories.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **What are some examples of situations where we might need guidance from someone we trust?**
 - ★ **Getting guidance from other people is often helpful, but when is it not?**

POLL | Reveal How You Feel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For each of the following scenarios, encourage students to raise their hand if they agree.
- We all respond to being lost or unsure a little differently. When you're feeling lost and don't know what to do, **do you usually . . .**
 - **Feel stuck and not do anything?**
 - **Distract yourself with other things to not think about it?**
 - **Try to plan all your options?**
 - **Do whatever comes to mind first?**
 - **Ask someone for advice or help?**
- When we don't have clarity or are feeling a little lost, we often need some guidance from someone wiser than we are. But sometimes, even getting advice from others isn't enough.

- Even the wisest people are sometimes wrong or don't have answers.
- Sometimes we don't have anyone trustworthy to go to.
- Sometimes we need immediate help.
- And sometimes we need more than just right answers. We also need to know we're not alone.
- For the next few weeks, we're going to explore some of the reasons we might sometimes need a "guiding light" — and how God has already got us covered.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | A Clip from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*

- Any *Star Wars* fans here? If you haven't seen the movies, they're essentially about the battle between good and evil, while a mysterious "force" runs through the whole universe.
 - The most recent movies in the franchise pick up after a long time of there being no Jedis around — those are the good guys.
 - With evil reigning for so long, people are feeling down, lost, and hopeless. But then a new Jedi emerges, named Rey, who has to learn to find and harness this mysterious "force."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (0:15-1:03) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, where Luke and Rey describe the force. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Rey doesn't really believe in all that "force" stuff when she starts out. She thinks it's just a story, but in this clip she actually connects with it for the first time. When she does, she describes the force as being around her and inside of her at the same time.

VIDEO | A Clip from "Holy Spirit" (BibleProject)

- You and I don't have powers from a mysterious force, but it seems like maybe those *Star Wars* writers may have gotten some of their inspiration from the way the Bible talks about God.
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STORY | Talk about a time you felt God's presence in a hard time.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Talk about a time you felt God's presence in a hard time, like when you lost someone you loved or made a big mistake. Share how you felt God's presence and how that experience transformed your situation.
- Maybe because we can't see or hear God with our usual senses, we sometimes think God is hanging out in the clouds far away, if we believe God exists at all. But Scripture shows us God's presence is all around us and can even be within us.

SCRIPTURE | John 14:1-6, 15-31

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 14:1-6, 15–31.*
- Scripture shows us a lot of stories about the disciples not fully understanding Jesus all the time.
 - Over and over, we see Jesus’ followers trying to see things with their own limited perspective and understanding, then having their worlds turned upside down by the truths Jesus showed them.
 - Can you relate? Have you ever found it hard to fully understand the Bible or the things Jesus said?
- In this passage, Thomas, one of Jesus’s disciples, asked where Jesus was going and how Jesus’ followers would know the way to get there. They were worried Jesus was going to leave them behind – wherever he was going.
 - What the disciples didn’t understand is that Jesus would soon be leaving earth. First, he would die (but then be resurrected). After that, he would leave earth permanently and return to God in heaven.
 - The disciples wanted to be wherever Jesus was because Jesus was their guide! He was how they understood God, the world, their big questions, and their purpose in life.
- For the disciples it felt like the ending to a good thing would soon be coming, but Jesus had a different message: the end was just the beginning. The end of Jesus’ life on earth would be the beginning of God’s life within us through the Holy Spirit.

ACTIVITY | What Is an Advocate?

- But why does Jesus call the Holy Spirit “the Advocate”? Historically, this was a legal word. In court, an advocate was someone who would plead someone’s case before a judge. When someone was stuck, in trouble, or needing help, an advocate would step in. According to Jesus, this is one of the things the Holy Spirit does for us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using [jumbo sticky notes](#) and [permanent markers](#), ask students to make a list of synonyms or ideas that come to mind when they hear the word “advocate.” Write one word or idea on each sticky note and stick it to a wall or board.*
- Jesus was an advocate for people while he walked on earth, but he knew he wouldn’t be on earth forever. That’s why he promised us the Holy Spirit would be sent by God to continue Jesus’ work. The Holy Spirit, Jesus said . . .
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- Jesus reassured us that his death, resurrection, and return to heaven were not the end of his relationship with his followers, but really just the beginning. God was not going to leave us alone or without guidance or direction.

SCRIPTURE | Romans 8:9–17

- As followers of Jesus, we're promised the same Holy Spirit Jesus promised to the disciples so long ago.
 - Years after this conversation between Jesus and his disciples, the apostle Paul wrote a letter to the Christians in Rome.
 - During this time, a lot of Christians were being attacked by the Roman empire because of the messages they preached about Jesus and his authority.
 - To remind these Jesus-followers that God was with them no matter what happened, here's what Paul wrote.
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NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **What are some practical ways we can get guidance from God?**
 - ☆ **Have you ever tried to get guidance from God but didn't feel you were successful? What happened?**
 - ☆ **What do you think it means for the Holy Spirit to be our Advocate?**
 - **Read Romans 15:13. Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit in this way during a difficult moment? If you have, tell us about it! If you haven't, why do you think that is?**

MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- As we'll see throughout this series, sometimes God's Spirit leads us in ways that are mysterious and unexpected. Many people often sense the Holy Spirit speaking to them through music. Sometimes that music is about God and sometimes it's not. The more you get to know the Holy Spirit, the more you'll start to realize God can speak to you in all sorts of ways.

- As we listen to this song together, see what you can find about who the Holy Spirit is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God's Spirit, like "Holy Spirit" (Brian & Katie Torwalt), "Spirit" (Beyonce), or whatever song you'd like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) You'll also want to print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 1 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen. During the song, encourage students to respond to the following questions. After the song, ask a few students to share what they observed.*
 - *How does this song describe the Holy Spirit?*
 - *How is this song helpful in understanding who the Holy Spirit is?*
 - *How is it not helpful?*
 - *What lyrics stand out to you and why?*

RESPONSE | Inviting the Holy Spirit

- While there is a lot that is mysterious about God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit isn't far away or unknowable. When we're facing situations that make us feel lost, confused, or in need of guidance, God doesn't leave us alone.
- So how do you get to know God's Holy Spirit? How can you find the help, guidance, peace, and comfort you need?
 - **READ SCRIPTURE.** The Bible is full of stories and truths about what God is like, who God cares about, and what God expects of us. When we spend time in God's Word, we become more aware of how God's Spirit is leading us.
 - **PRAY OFTEN.** Every time we talk to God (even when we're not sure what to say), the Holy Spirit is at work, advocating for and helping us. Prayer helps us get to know God through the Holy Spirit's work.
 - **PRACTICE LISTENING.** In order to hear God's Spirit speak we have to slow down, pause, and listen. Maybe it's just a few minutes at the end of your day, but take some time to unwind and listen for the Holy Spirit's guidance and direction.
- In the beginning of our conversation today, we mentioned some of the reasons why we sometimes need help and guidance when we're feeling lost or confused. In what ways do you need the Holy Spirit to guide you right now?
 - Do you need help understanding something difficult about God or your faith?
 - Do you need help getting to know Jesus for the first time?
 - Do you need guidance in a difficult situation with a friend or family member?
 - Are you stuck doing something you know you shouldn't be doing, but you're not sure how to stop?
 - Do you need help making a big decision?
 - Are you looking for comfort or peace in a difficult time?
- If you could ask God to help you in one area of your life right now, what area would that be? How do you need the Holy Spirit to be a guiding light for you during a dark time?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this response, you'll need [string lights](#) with frosted globe bulbs and permanent markers. Before your teaching time, remove the bulbs from the string lights and place them in a bowl alongside the markers. Give student an opportunity to write a challenge they are facing on a lightbulb and return it to you. While students write, invite them to break into pairs and pray for each other. As they return the lightbulbs to you, add the bulbs to the string of lights. When all the bulbs are back, turn them on.
- No matter where we are, how we feel, what we've been through, or how dark or confusing life feels right now, Jesus promised that there would always be a light to guide our path — our Advocate, the Holy Spirit.
- So next time you're wondering what to do, where God is, or if you're all alone, remember, Jesus has left us with a guiding light to help us find the kind of truth, wisdom, and help that only comes from God. **God gives us the Holy Spirit.**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - ☆ * **What questions do you have about who the Holy Spirit is? What questions do you have about what the Holy Spirit does?**
 - **This week, what's one way you're going to get to know the Holy Spirit better?**



GUIDING LIGHT

GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT.



GUIDING LIGHT

GOD GIVES US THE HOLY SPIRIT.

WEEK 2 SERMON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit shows us truth.

THE BIBLE

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15;
Acts 2:1-41

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Do You Know Your Leaders?

- Welcome back to our series, *Guiding Light*, where we're talking about where we can find guidance when we feel a little lost . . . like maybe from a trustworthy adult?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have every adult leader, worship band member, or volunteer that's participating write two true facts on two different pieces of paper, and then have the leaders line up in front of the group. Share all the statements and have students try to decide which truths align with which leaders. You might want to have students share why they believe each fact would be true for each leader. Give some guidance if students' guesses are way off. Wait until all truths have been assigned to reveal which ones are correct.*
- Sometimes it's easy to know what's true and false.
 - If you know some of these leaders well, it was probably a little easier for you to know what was true about them.
 - But for everyone else, it was probably difficult to know what was true without a little guidance.
- It can be hard to figure out what is true and what's false, especially when what's false sounds so believable. That's not just true in this game — it's true in life too.

DISCUSSION | Lying in Plain Sight

- Turn to your neighbor and answer this question: **What's the most obvious or ridiculous lie you've ever believed?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give students a few moments to discuss with someone sitting nearby. After 60 seconds, ask a few students to share their answers.
- Lies can be easy to spot when they sound ridiculous. But what if the lies are really subtle and small? What if it's not an outright lie, but a misunderstanding, or a mistake, or bad information that keeps getting passed around?
 - With so many places to get information, how do we know what's even true?
 - Is it true if we see it on the news, Instagram, or TikTok? What if we hear it from a friend, or even our parents? What if a pastor or adult we trust says it?
 - What if it's something we believe even if we can't remember anyone ever explicitly teaching it to us?
- Daily we're bombarded with messages that tell us who we are, what's important, what to believe, or even what God is like. But sometimes it's hard to separate misunderstandings or lies from what's true.
 - Sometimes people will try to convince us that what we know to be true is actually false.
 - Sometimes we'll be the ones who've believed a lie and need to be guided toward the truth.
 - And most of the time, it's a little bit of both.

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Last Jedi

- We've been watching a few clips from *Star Wars* about what happened when Rey, a young Jedi, first discovered the force — a mysterious power that fills their universe and can be used for either good or evil.
 - While Rey tries to learn how to use the force for good, Kylo Ren has chosen the dark side and wants Rey to join him.
 - He tries to recruit Rey by lying to her about her family and her very identity.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (0:50-1:50) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, where Kylo Ren tries to recruit Rey. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Of course, there's no mysterious "force" in this universe, but here's what our universe and Rey's have in common: when we believe lies and base our lives on things that aren't true, it can lead us down destructive paths.

STORY | Talk about a time you believed something untrue about God or yourself.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you believed something untrue about God or yourself. Maybe you didn't believe God was loving, or you thought Jesus was angry or judgmental, or you didn't believe God existed at all. Or maybe you believed something untrue about yourself — maybe that you weren't good enough or were unfixable, or that you had all the answers or were better than other people. Share what led you to believe that and how the Holy Spirit helped you see otherwise.

- Sometimes we all believe lies and untruths and need help seeing the light. We can feel lost trying to figure out what's true, but God promises to never leave us alone when we feel lost.

SCRIPTURE | John 15:26-27

- Like we discovered last week, God gives us a “guiding light” to help us find our way when we’re lost, and that light is a Person called the Holy Spirit.
 - When Jesus was here on earth, he talked often about how he would one day give his disciples the gift of God’s Spirit.
 - Last week, we saw Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit as our “Advocate,” but today I want to show you another title Jesus gives God’s Spirit.
 - We can find Jesus talking about the Spirit often in the Gospel of John.
- The Gospels are the four books in the Bible that tell us what Jesus did and said while he was on earth. In them, we see that Jesus was constantly explaining things to his disciples (and sometimes re-explaining them a few times).
- In John chapter 15, Jesus is in the middle of talking to his disciples about why so many people hate him. Jesus tells them people hate him because they don’t understand the truth about who he is – and they don’t like it when Jesus tells the truth about them either. Then he says this . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 15:26-27.*
- Remember, the Holy Spirit hadn’t come yet! That was only going to happen after Jesus left earth and the Holy Spirit would come to take Jesus’ place.
- But do you see what’s interesting here? Jesus called the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of truth.”
 - Jesus said the Holy Spirit would testify (or tell the truth) about who Jesus is.
 - Then Jesus told his followers to do the same. They too should tell others the truth about who Jesus is.

SCRIPTURE | John 16:12-15

- In the next chapter, Jesus continues.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 16:12-15.*
- Here, Jesus says that when the time was right, the Holy Spirit would . . .
 - Guide us toward truth.
 - Speak on God’s behalf.
 - Pass on truth from Jesus to us.
- So one of the most important jobs of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, is to show us what is true about God – and about ourselves too.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:1-41

- Later, after Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven, Jesus’ followers were still waiting for their promised Holy Spirit to come to them. They weren’t sure exactly what to expect when the Holy Spirit arrived, but I’m certain they weren’t expecting it to go down the way it did.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize Acts 2:1-41. If you’d like to only read a few selections, we suggest reading verses 1-12, summarizing verses 13-36, and reading verses 37-41.*
- When the Holy Spirit arrived on the day of Pentecost, miraculous things happened.

- First, God’s people were given a miraculous gift. They were suddenly, unexplainably, able to share the truth of Jesus in a way that allowed everyone present to hear that message in their own language.
- Next, Peter stood up and began to preach an incredible sermon. As far as we know, he had never done that before! The message Peter communicated was so compelling that people couldn’t ignore it. When they heard the truth about Jesus, they saw the truth about themselves too — that they were sinners in need of a Savior.
- 3,000 people chose to follow Jesus that day. It’s not because Peter preached the best sermon of his life. It’s because the Spirit of truth had finally arrived and had begun changing everything.
- This wasn’t the end of the Holy Spirit’s miraculous work. It was only the beginning.
 - Throughout the New Testament of the Bible, you can read more stories of people receiving gifts through God’s Spirit — gifts that helped them communicate the truth of God more effectively.
 - Even today, we can see the Holy Spirit continuing to work in miraculous ways.
 - Even if you’ve never seen fire fall out of the sky like the disciples did on Pentecost, if you’ve ever seen someone’s eyes open to the truth of who God is, you’ve seen the miraculous work of the Spirit of truth.
- See, this isn’t just a story about something amazing that happened a long time ago. It’s the beginning of a story we’re still living in right now.
 - The Spirit of truth who showed up that day at Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit at work in the world and at work in us.
 - Because when we’re faced with questions, confusion, or conflicting messages about who God is (and who we are), Jesus doesn’t leave us to figure it out all alone. **The Holy Spirit shows us truth.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- Like we said last week, sometimes God’s Spirit leads us in ways that are mysterious and unexpected, but many people often sense the Holy Spirit speaking to them through music. As we listen to this song together, ask the Spirit of truth to reveal something true about who God is, or about who you are.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God’s Spirit, like “Fall Afresh” (Kari Jobe), “Just As Sure” (Tori Kelly), or whatever song you’d like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) You’ll also want to print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 2 folder. If you’d like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you’ve chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen. During the song, encourage students to write down some truths on their handout about who God is and who they are.*
- The Holy Spirit helps us know the truth of who we are, and who God is, when we feel lost.

- No matter what kinds of messages the world gives us, God’s Spirit tells us the truth, guides us toward truth, and reminds us what’s true when we’ve forgotten.
- Remember, the Holy Spirit will only ever tell us things that line up with what God has already said. If Scripture tells us God is love, the Holy Spirit will never tell us something that contradicts that.
- What true things did the Holy Spirit tell you about what God is like just now? And how does Scripture back that up? Maybe you were reminded God is forgiving, gracious, patient, merciful, just, or powerful.
- And what true things did the Holy Spirit tell you about yourself?
 - Maybe you needed to hear some hard truth today. Maybe, like the 3,000 people who followed Jesus on the day of Pentecost, you realized you have some things in your life you need to make right with God.
 - Or maybe you needed to hear the kind of truth that comforts and heals. Maybe the Spirit of truth reminded you that you’re worthy, strong, brave, forgiven, and loved by God.

SEEKING AND SPEAKING TRUTH

- But how can we learn to hear the Holy Spirit well enough to be confident we’re being led toward what’s true?
 - **ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU WHAT’S TRUE.** God wants you to know what’s true and isn’t hiding it from you! That’s why Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit — so we could know what’s true. So ask for help. Ask for the guidance you need to know the truth about who God is, and who you are.
 - **SEEK OUT TRUTH-SEEKERS.** Surround yourself with people who are committed to knowing God’s truth. No one ever gets everything right about God all the time, but when we seek out people who listen for the Holy Spirit, we become better at listening for the Holy Spirit too.
 - **SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF.** It’s easy to either see ourselves as much worse than we are (thanks, insecurities!) or much better than we are (thanks, arrogance!), but the truth is usually somewhere in between. Speaking the truth about ourselves starts when no one is around. It’s being honest with ourselves when we mess up, but not letting our mistakes or shortcomings define us.
 - **SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD.** Remember that boldness and clarity Peter had when he preached his first sermon? The Holy Spirit can give us that same boldness and clarity if we’re willing to first learn what’s true, and then share it. Jesus told us to “testify” (or “tell the truth”) about who he is. We can do that anytime we tell the truth about who Jesus is to us and what it means to follow him. (I can’t *guarantee* 3,000 people will start to follow Jesus as a result, but hey! I’m not ruling it out either.)
- You’re probably hearing a lot of conflicting messages in your lifetime.
 - You’ll hear voices that say you need to be smarter or stronger or prettier or skinnier or cooler. You’ll hear voices that say believing in God is stupid or Jesus can’t be trusted.

- But like Jesus promised, God sent us someone to help us know what's true – the Holy Spirit. When we face conflicting messages about who we are, who God is, or how to understand the world, we don't have to feel hopeless, lost, or confused for long.
- When we're uncertain (or when we're a little too certain about the wrong things), we can turn to **the Holy Spirit, who shows us truth.**

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest – things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit shows us truth.

THE BIBLE

John 16:12-15,
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

- **Two truths and a lie! Tell us two truths and one lie about yourself and we'll try to guess which is which.**
- **Have you ever found out something you'd believed for a long time was untrue? What did it take to change your mind?**
- **Why do you think it's so hard for people to change their minds about what they believe to be true?**
- **What are some untrue things people sometimes believe about God?**
- **Have you ever believed something untrue about God or your faith? Why do you think you believed it?**
- **What's something true about God the Holy Spirit has shown you?**
- **Read John 16:13. Has the Holy Spirit ever told you something true about yourself that you were glad to hear? What was it?**
- **Has the Holy Spirit ever told you something true about yourself that challenged you? What did you do about it?**
- **How do you think things would change if you believed what God says is true more than what the world says is true?**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to pursue truth instead of lies?**

ACTIVITY

Invite each student to sit in "the hot seat" for five seconds. In that time, ask them to share something true about who God is or something God says is true about them.

WEEK 2

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest – things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit shows us truth.

THE BIBLE

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15;
Acts 2:1-41

- **Two truths and a lie! Tell us two truths and one lie about yourself and we'll try to guess which is which.**
- **What are some untrue things people sometimes believe about God?**
- **What's something true about God the Holy Spirit has shown you?**
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- **How do you think things would change if you believed what God says is true more than what the world says is true?**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to pursue truth instead of lies?**

ACTIVITY

Invite each student to sit in "the hot seat" for five seconds. In that time, ask them to share something true about who God is or something God says is true about them.

WEEK 2 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit shows us truth.

THE BIBLE

John 15:26-27, 16:12-15;
Acts 2:1-41

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Do You Know Your Leaders?

- Welcome back to our series, *Guiding Light*, where we're talking about where we can find guidance when we feel a little lost . . . like maybe from a trustworthy adult?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have every adult leader, worship band member, or volunteer that's participating write two true facts on two different pieces of paper, and then have the leaders line up in front of the group. Share all the statements and have students try to decide which truths align with which leaders. You might want to have students share why they believe each fact would be true for each leader. Give some guidance if students' guesses are way off. Wait until all truths have been assigned to reveal which ones are correct.*
- Sometimes it's easy to know what's true and false.
 - If you know some of these leaders well, it was probably a little easier for you to know what was true about them.
 - But for everyone else, it was probably difficult to know what was true without a little guidance.
- It can be hard to figure out what is true and what's false, especially when what's false sounds so believable. That's not just true in this game — it's true in life too.

DISCUSSION | Lying in Plain Sight

- Turn to your neighbor and answer this question: **What's the most obvious or ridiculous lie you've ever believed?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give students a few moments to discuss with someone sitting nearby. After 60 seconds, ask a few students to share their answers.
- Lies can be easy to spot when they sound ridiculous. But what if the lies are really subtle and small? What if it's not an outright lie, but a misunderstanding, or a mistake, or bad information that keeps getting passed around?
 - With so many places to get information, how do we know what's even true?
 - Is it true if we see it on the news, Instagram, or TikTok? What if we hear it from a friend, or even our parents? What if a pastor or adult we trust says it?
 - What if it's something we believe even if we can't remember anyone ever explicitly teaching it to us?
- Daily we're bombarded with messages that tell us who we are, what's important, what to believe, or even what God is like. But sometimes it's hard to separate misunderstandings or lies from what's true.
 - Sometimes people will try to convince us that what we know to be true is actually false.
 - Sometimes we'll be the ones who've believed a lie and need to be guided toward the truth.
 - And most of the time, it's a little bit of both.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - ★ **Have you ever found out something you'd believed for a long time was untrue? What did it take to change your mind?**
 - ★ **Why do you think it's so hard for people to change their minds about what they believe to be true?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Last Jedi

- We've been watching a few clips from *Star Wars* about what happened when Rey, a young Jedi, first discovered the force — a mysterious power that fills their universe and can be used for either good or evil.
 - While Rey tries to learn how to use the force for good, Kylo Ren has chosen the dark side and wants Rey to join him.
 - He tries to recruit Rey by lying to her about her family and her very identity.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (0:50-1:50) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, where Kylo Ren tries to recruit Rey. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)

- Of course, there’s no mysterious “force” in this universe, but here’s what our universe and Rey’s have in common: when we believe lies and base our lives on things that aren’t true, it can lead us down destructive paths.

STORY | Talk about a time you believed something untrue about God or yourself.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you believed something untrue about God or yourself. Maybe you didn’t believe God was loving, or you thought Jesus was angry or judgmental, or you didn’t believe God existed at all. Or maybe you believed something untrue about yourself – maybe that you weren’t good enough or were unfixable, or that you had all the answers or were better than other people. Share what led you to believe that and how the Holy Spirit helped you see otherwise.*
- Sometimes we all believe lies and untruths and need help seeing the light. We can feel lost trying to figure out what’s true, but God promises to never leave us alone when we feel lost.

DISCUSSION

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 - **What are some untrue things people sometimes believe about God?**
 - ★ **Have you ever believed something untrue about God or your faith? Why do you think you believed it?**

SCRIPTURE | John 15:26-27

- Like we discovered last week, God gives us a “guiding light” to help us find our way when we’re lost, and that light is a Person called the Holy Spirit.
 - When Jesus was here on earth, he talked often about how he would one day give his disciples the gift of God’s Spirit.
 - Last week, we saw Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit as our “Advocate,” but today I want to show you another title Jesus gives God’s Spirit.
 - We can find Jesus talking about the Spirit often in the Gospel of John.
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- In John chapter 15, Jesus is in the middle of talking to his disciples about why so many people hate him. Jesus tells them people hate him because they don’t understand the truth about who he is – and they don’t like it when Jesus tells the truth about them either. Then he says this . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 15:26-27.*
- Remember, the Holy Spirit hadn’t come yet! That was only going to happen after Jesus left earth and the Holy Spirit would come to take Jesus’ place.
- But do you see what’s interesting here? Jesus called the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of truth.”

- Jesus said the Holy Spirit would testify (or tell the truth) about who Jesus is.
- Then Jesus told his followers to do the same. They too should tell others the truth about who Jesus is.

SCRIPTURE | John 16:12-15

- In the next chapter, Jesus continues.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read John 16:12-15.*
- Here, Jesus says that when the time was right, the Holy Spirit would . . .
 - Guide us toward truth.
 - Speak on God’s behalf.
 - Pass on truth from Jesus to us.
- So one of the most important jobs of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, is to show us what is true about God – and about ourselves too.

SCRIPTURE | Acts 2:1-41

- Later, after Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven, Jesus’ followers were still waiting for their promised Holy Spirit to come to them. They weren’t sure exactly what to expect when the Holy Spirit arrived, but I’m certain they weren’t expecting it to go down the way it did.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read or summarize Acts 2:1-41. If you’d like to only read a few selections, we suggest reading verses 1-12, summarizing verses 13-36, and reading verses 37-41.*
- When the Holy Spirit arrived on the day of Pentecost, miraculous things happened.
 - First, God’s people were given a miraculous gift. They were suddenly, unexplainably, able to share the truth of Jesus in a way that allowed everyone present to hear that message in their own language.
 - Next, Peter stood up and began to preach an incredible sermon. As far as we know, he had never done that before! The message Peter communicated was so compelling that people couldn’t ignore it. When they heard the truth about Jesus, they saw the truth about themselves too – that they were sinners in need of a Savior.
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- This wasn’t the end of the Holy Spirit’s miraculous work. It was only the beginning.
 - Throughout the New Testament of the Bible, you can read more stories of people receiving gifts through God’s Spirit – gifts that helped them communicate the truth of God more effectively.
 - Even today, we can see the Holy Spirit continuing to work in miraculous ways.
 - Even if you’ve never seen fire fall out of the sky like the disciples did on Pentecost, if you’ve ever seen someone’s eyes open to the truth of who God is, you’ve seen the miraculous work of the Spirit of truth.
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- The Spirit of truth who showed up that day at Pentecost is the same Holy Spirit at work in the world and at work in us.
- Because when we're faced with questions, confusion, or conflicting messages about who God is (and who we are), Jesus doesn't leave us to figure it out all alone. **The Holy Spirit shows us truth.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **What's something true about God the Holy Spirit has shown you?**
 - **Read John 16:13. Has the Holy Spirit ever told you something true about yourself that you were glad to hear? What was it?**
 - ★ **Has the Holy Spirit ever told you something true about yourself that challenged you? What did you do about it?**

MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- Like we said last week, sometimes God's Spirit leads us in ways that are mysterious and unexpected, but many people often sense the Holy Spirit speaking to them through music. As we listen to this song together, ask the Spirit of truth to reveal something true about who God is, or about who you are.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God's Spirit, like "Fall Afresh" (Kari Jobe), "Just As Sure" (Tori Kelly), or whatever song you'd like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) You'll also want to print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 2 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen. During the song, encourage students to write down some truths on their handout about who God is and who they are.
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- What true things did the Holy Spirit tell you about what God is like just now? And how does Scripture back that up? Maybe you were reminded God is forgiving, gracious, patient, merciful, just, or powerful.
- And what true things did the Holy Spirit tell you about yourself?

- Maybe you needed to hear some hard truth today. Maybe, like the 3,000 people who followed Jesus on the day of Pentecost, you realized you have some things in your life you need to make right with God.
- Or maybe you needed to hear the kind of truth that comforts and heals. Maybe the Spirit of truth reminded you that you're worthy, strong, brave, forgiven, and loved by God.

SEEKING AND SPEAKING TRUTH

- But how can we learn to hear the Holy Spirit well enough to be confident we're being led toward what's true?
 - **ASK GOD TO SHOW YOU WHAT'S TRUE.** God wants you to know what's true and isn't hiding it from you! That's why Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit — so we could know what's true. So ask for help. Ask for the guidance you need to know the truth about who God is, and who you are.
 - **SEEK OUT TRUTH-SEEKERS.** Surround yourself with people who are committed to knowing God's truth. No one ever gets everything right about God all the time, but when we seek out people who listen for the Holy Spirit, we become better at listening for the Holy Spirit too.
 - **SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT YOURSELF.** It's easy to either see ourselves as much worse than we are (thanks, insecurities!) or much better than we are (thanks, arrogance!), but the truth is usually somewhere in between. Speaking the truth about ourselves starts when no one is around. It's being honest with ourselves when we mess up, but not letting our mistakes or shortcomings define us.
 - **SPEAK THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD.** Remember that boldness and clarity Peter had when he preached his first sermon? The Holy Spirit can give us that same boldness and clarity if we're willing to first learn what's true, and then share it. Jesus told us to "testify" (or "tell the truth") about who he is. We can do that anytime we tell the truth about who Jesus is to us and what it means to follow him. (I can't *guarantee* 3,000 people will start to follow Jesus as a result, but hey! I'm not ruling it out either.)
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- When we're uncertain (or when we're a little too certain about the wrong things), we can turn to **the Holy Spirit, who shows us truth.**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - **How do you think things would change if you believed what God says is true more than what the world says is true?**
 - **This week, what's one way you're going to pursue truth instead of lies?**



THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOWS US TRUTH.



THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOWS US TRUTH.

WEEK 3 SERMON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.

THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 3:23-25;
Colossians 1:9-10; Proverbs 1:1-7

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Copycat

- Welcome back to *Guiding Light*! We've been talking about how we can find guidance when we're feeling a little lost, so let's start with a game that will test your ability to follow the instructions of a helpful guide.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, you'll need two large [easels](#), [paper](#), [brushes](#), and [paint](#). Set up the easels so your students can't see what's on them. To play, invite two pairs of students to the front. Each pair needs an artist and a guide. Have your artists stand at their easels, facing the rest of your students with their backs to the front of the room. Behind them, display an image of your choice – something your students would find funny. Make sure your guides can see the images, but your artists can't. Give your teams two minutes to try and draw the image, with your guides instructing your artists on what to draw. At the end of the two minutes, reveal your artists' pictures and have your students choose a winner.*
- That was definitely one of those things that sounds simple in theory, but becomes a lot more difficult in real life.
- I don't know about you, but there have been a lot of times in my life where I've set out to do something that I *thought* was going to be easy, only to discover I had no idea what I was doing!

QUESTION | "Have you ever not known what you were doing?"

- **Have you ever been really confident you knew what you were doing . . . until you realized you didn't?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond.
- Whether you got a little too confident on a hoverboard, were sure you'd studied enough for that exam, or thought you could find your way to your friend's house by memory, sometimes our failures remind us we don't pay attention to instructions as much as we should.
- On a hoverboard, that might mean walking away with a few extra bruises. But in life, not having clear instructions to follow can sometimes lead to making choices we regret.

OBJECT LESSON | In the Middle (Part 1)

- Some rules and restrictions can be pretty frustrating, but certain rules can make it a lot easier for us to make decisions. When we have specific "black and white" rules to follow, it's easy to know when our actions are "right" or "wrong."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On the same pad of [paper](#) and [easel](#) you used for your earlier activity, [paint](#) a black square on the top of the canvas and a white square at the bottom. As you teach, use your brush and the paint to fill the space between the squares with a gradient of different shades of gray.
- Sometimes I wish things could be more simple. Clear cut. Yes-or-no answers. There are so many issues, questions, and ideas that I wish were simple, but they're not. So many times I'm looking for "black and white" answers, but every possible answer is a shade of gray. That's especially true when we're trying to decide between what's right and what's wrong.
- If there's not a clear answer about what God would have us do in a certain situation, then what do we do? Who do we turn to? How do we know what's right, or at least best?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Last Jedi

- We've been watching a few clips from *Star Wars* about what happened when Rey, a young Jedi, first discovered the force — a mysterious power that fills their universe and can be wielded for good or evil.
- As soon as Rey discovers the force for the first time, she finds herself facing a difficult decision.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (2:10-2:47) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, where Rey sees the dark side of the force. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Rey realized the force was all around her and even within her. But then she noticed something darker — a temptation that seemed dangerous. She discovered an incredible power that could do so much good . . . but then realized the dark side of having so much power.
- While there's no mysterious "force" that gives us magical powers in this universe, we all eventually find ourselves at a crossroad like Rey. We feel the pull to do things that are good and right, but we also feel drawn to the wrong things. And sometimes it's hard to tell which is which.

STORY | Talk about a time you were tempted to do something unwise.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you were tempted to do something unwise. Don't share which choice you ended up making (regardless of whether it was good or bad). Focus instead on the confusion and uncertainty you felt when you weren't sure which decision to make.
- People talk about "doing the right thing" as if that's always easy or obvious, but the truth is it isn't always clear which decision we should make.

SCRIPTURE | Ezekiel 36:27

- All throughout Scripture, we see stories of people who were seeking guidance and struggling to understand . . .
 - How to follow God.
 - How to treat each other.
 - What to do about their enemies.
 - How to make the world better.
- Because humans have never been great at figuring that out, God stepped in and gave us some guidance.
 - In the Old Testament of the Bible (that's the part that was written before Jesus lived), these guidelines are often referred to as "the law" — God's laws.
 - Over time, the list of laws grew. They included everything from "don't murder anyone" to specific instructions on what to eat and how to cut your hair. But these laws weren't designed to control or restrict people. They were guidelines meant to keep people safe and close to God.
 - But no matter how many laws God gave us, no matter how clear and specific they were, humans couldn't seem to make the right choices. Over and over again, God's people chose the wrong path.
- After centuries of God's people continuing to harm each other and walk away from God, here's what God said through the prophet Ezekiel.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Ezekiel 36:27.
- God knew a bunch of "black and white" rules weren't the best solution for helping humans figure out how to do what's right.
- Even if God did give us a handbook of exactly what to do in every situation, we'd still have a problem! That's because we don't just need right answers — we need God's Spirit transforming us from the inside out. And God knew it!

SCRIPTURE | Galatians 3:23-25

- As humans, our problem is our tendency to choose what is harmful, destructive, and sinful instead of what is good, right, and godly. For a long time, God gave us the law to help us make good choices, but that was never the permanent plan.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Galatians 3:23-25.

- When Jesus showed up, lived, died, and rose again, he gave us a new way of relating to God and dealing with our sin.
 - Because of Jesus, we're not required to follow all the laws God gave before Jesus was on earth.
 - Not even following every law or making all the right choices can't save us or make us closer to God. Only faith in Jesus can do that.

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 1:9-10

- But there's something else Jesus came to do. He came to send us the Holy Spirit to live not just in the world but also within us.
- The passage we just read was written by the apostle Paul, one of the key leaders of the early church.
 - Paul spent a lot of time helping other Jesus-followers figure out how to follow Jesus when there weren't a lot of "black and white" answers for how to be Christians.
 - Church leaders, individual followers of Jesus, and even whole communities looked to Paul as a wise and trusted voice. They went to him for advice, help, and encouragement.
 - In another letter to another group of Christians, Paul told them how he had been praying for them and why.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Colossians 1:9-10.*
- The one thing Paul said he constantly prayed was that they would be filled with wisdom and understanding. But not just any wisdom — he was asking for the wisdom given by the Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit can . . .
 - Show us what God wants us to do.
 - Convict us when we're getting it wrong.
 - Give us wisdom and understanding.
 - Help us live a life that pleases God.
- We can't please God by following every rule, as if we were still following "the law." No way! We can please God, Paul says, when we're filled with, and follow, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

OBJECT LESSON | In the Middle (Part 2)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On the painting from earlier, write the word "wisdom" in the gray section of the gradient you created.*
- So what is "wisdom," exactly? Well, it's not just good advice, clever sayings, or helpful life hacks.
 - The wisdom the Spirit gives us is the wisdom to know what God would have us do — even when it's not so "black and white."
 - Just like a road sign guides us with which exit to take or turn to make, the Holy Spirit directs us and gives us wisdom on what to do in the "gray" areas.
- This is true for every follower of Jesus, but throughout the New Testament of the Bible, you can read stories of people miraculously receiving specific gifts through God's Spirit that gave them wisdom for themselves and others, like . . .

- People who were given the gift of discernment.
- Apostles who helped the early church make wise decisions as it grew and spread throughout the world.
- Prophets who helped people see when they'd taken the wrong path and guided them back toward God.
- Teachers who helped others understand what Scripture said and what Jesus taught while he was on earth.
- Maybe these things don't sound particularly miraculous at first glance, but if the Holy Spirit has ever convicted you when you were making unwise choices, inspired you to make a choice that honored God, or helped you discern the wise choice in a very "gray" situation, you've seen the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit.
- When we're not sure which choice to make, which path to choose, or how to honor God, Jesus doesn't leave us to figure it out all alone. **The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- Many people often sense the Holy Spirit guiding them through music. As we listen to this song together, ask God's Spirit to show you something about what it means to be filled with, and led by, God's wisdom.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God's Spirit, like "Be Thou My Vision" (Audrey Assad), "Your Spirit" (Tasha Cobbs Leonard), or whatever song you'd like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) You'll also want to print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 3 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen. During the song, encourage students to reflect on what the song reveals about God's wisdom.*

HOW TO WALK IN WISDOM

- Since the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom it only makes sense that we work on learning how to develop it. Before digital cameras and smartphones existed, people had to go through a whole process to get their photos. They would have film inside cameras, and once the roll of film was completed, they'd send the photos out to be developed in a special place called a dark room. This was not a simple process — it took time.
- Like a photo in a dark room, we can learn to walk in wisdom, with time, the help of the Holy Spirit, and a lot of practice. Here's how . . .
 - **ASK THE SPIRIT FOR WISDOM.** Last week we said God isn't trying to hide the truth from you. In the same way, God isn't trying to hide wisdom from you. Over and over again, Scripture says the Spirit will give us wisdom if we'll ask for and seek it!

- **PAUSE.** When you have a decision to make, wait ten extra minutes than you normally would for before you take action. Ask for the ability to know the difference between an impulse, an emotional reaction, and wisdom — and then wait for God’s Spirit to respond.
- **GET WISE MENTORS.** Who around you seems wise? Who has a connection with God and could become a guiding light for you? Who are some people with different backgrounds who can share wisdom from different perspectives? Ask them a lot of questions, and listen every chance you get!
- **PRACTICE.** You won’t get it right every time, but when you’re in a situation you’ve never been in before, remember it’s an opportunity to practice wisdom. The more opportunities you have to practice, the more familiar you’ll get with hearing the Spirit’s voice.
- **DON’T GIVE UP.** When learning new things we’re going to make mistakes. When you do, don’t give up on being wise! Ask the Holy Spirit for help and learn from your experiences. At some point, you’ll make the wrong decision, but you can learn from that mistake. The Holy Spirit can teach us even when we’ve messed up, so keep going!
- We’re all faced with difficult decisions throughout our lives, some big and some small, and even the smallest of decisions can leave us wondering what the wise thing to do is. The truth is, figuring out how to honor God is sometimes complicated, but when things are confusing and not-so-simple, we’ve got help, because **the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.**

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest – things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.

THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 3:23-25; Colossians 1:9-10; Proverbs 1:1-7

- **What's something that really confuses you?**
- **Have you ever been in a situation where you felt unsure about what was right and wrong? What happened?**
- **What are some common situations where a person might feel confused about what to do or which decision to make?**
- **When you're not sure what to do or which decision to make, what do you usually do next?**
- **Talk about a time you were tempted to do something wrong or unwise. Why was it so tempting?**
- **The Bible could have been written like a rule book – why do you think it wasn't?**
- **Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What does it look like to live wisely? Give some examples.**
- **Right now, do you need the Holy Spirit's help *making* wise decisions, *wanting* to make wise decisions, or both? Give an example.**
- **What's the most important area of your life where you need more wisdom right now? How can we help?**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to pursue the Holy Spirit's wisdom?**

ACTIVITY

Spend time praying for each other, for each other's families, and for the needs and challenges that were mentioned during your conversation.

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

for middle schoolers



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest – things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

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THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.

THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 3:23-25;
Colossians 1:9-10; Proverbs 1:1-7

- **What's something that really confuses you?**
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- **When you're not sure what to do or which decision to make, what do you usually do next?**
- **Talk about a time you were tempted to do something wrong or unwise. Why was it so tempting?**
- **Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What does it look like to live wisely? Give some examples.**
- **This week, what's one way you're going to pursue the Holy Spirit's wisdom?**

ACTIVITY

Spend time praying for each other, for each other's families, and for the needs and challenges that were mentioned during your conversation.

WEEK 3 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE

GUIDING LIGHT

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.

THE BIBLE

Ezekiel 36:27; Galatians 3:23-25;
Colossians 1:9-10; Proverbs 1:1-7

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Copycat

- Welcome back to *Guiding Light*! We've been talking about how we can find guidance when we're feeling a little lost, so let's start with a game that will test your ability to follow the instructions of a helpful guide.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this game, you'll need two large [easels](#), [paper](#), [brushes](#), and [paint](#). Set up the easels so your students can't see what's on them. To play, invite two pairs of students to the front. Each pair needs an artist and a guide. Have your artists stand at their easels, facing the rest of your students with their backs to the front of the room. Behind them, display an image of your choice – something your students would find funny. Make sure your guides can see the images, but your artists can't. Give your teams two minutes to try and draw the image, with your guides instructing your artists on what to draw. At the end of the two minutes, reveal your artists' pictures and have your students choose a winner.*
- That was definitely one of those things that sounds simple in theory, but becomes a lot more difficult in real life.
- I don't know about you, but there have been a lot of times in my life where I've set out to do something that I *thought* was going to be easy, only to discover I had no idea what I was doing!

QUESTION | "Have you ever not known what you were doing?"

- **Have you ever been really confident you knew what you were doing . . . until you realized you didn't?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give a few students a chance to respond.
- Whether you got a little too confident on a hoverboard, were sure you'd studied enough for that exam, or thought you could find your way to your friend's house by memory, sometimes our failures remind us we don't pay attention to instructions as much as we should.
- On a hoverboard, that might mean walking away with a few extra bruises. But in life, not having clear instructions to follow can sometimes lead to making choices we regret.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - **What's something that really confuses you?**
 - **Have you ever been in a situation where you felt unsure about what was right and wrong? What happened?**

OBJECT LESSON | In the Middle (Part 1)

- Some rules and restrictions can be pretty frustrating, but certain rules can make it a lot easier for us to make decisions. When we have specific "black and white" rules to follow, it's easy to know when our actions are "right" or "wrong."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** On the same pad of [paper](#) and [easel](#) you used for your earlier activity, [paint](#) a black square on the top of the canvas and a white square at the bottom. As you teach, use your brush and the paint to fill the space between the squares with a gradient of different shades of gray.
- Sometimes I wish things could be more simple. Clear cut. Yes-or-no answers. There are so many issues, questions, and ideas that I wish were simple, but they're not. So many times I'm looking for "black and white" answers, but every possible answer is a shade of gray. That's especially true when we're trying to decide between what's right and what's wrong.
- If there's not a clear answer about what God would have us do in a certain situation, then what do we do? Who do we turn to? How do we know what's right, or at least best?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Last Jedi

- We've been watching a few clips from *Star Wars* about what happened when Rey, a young Jedi, first discovered the force — a mysterious power that fills their universe and can be wielded for good or evil.
- As soon as Rey discovers the force for the first time, she finds herself facing a difficult decision.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play [a short clip](#) (2:10-2:47) from *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, where Rey sees the dark side of the force. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)

- Rey realized the force was all around her and even within her. But then she noticed something darker — a temptation that seemed dangerous. She discovered an incredible power that could do so much good . . . but then realized the dark side of having so much power.
- While there’s no mysterious “force” that gives us magical powers in this universe, we all eventually find ourselves at a crossroad like Rey. We feel the pull to do things that are good and right, but we also feel drawn to the wrong things. And sometimes it’s hard to tell which is which.

STORY | Talk about a time you were tempted to do something unwise.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you were tempted to do something unwise. Don’t share which choice you ended up making (regardless of whether it was good or bad). Focus instead on the confusion and uncertainty you felt when you weren’t sure which decision to make.*
- People talk about “doing the right thing” as if that’s always easy or obvious, but the truth it isn’t always clear which decision we should make.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you’re working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ☛ **What are some common situations where a person might feel confused about what to do or which decision to make?**
 - **When you’re not sure what to do or which decision to make, what do you usually do next?**
 - **Talk about a time you were tempted to do something wrong or unwise. Why was it so tempting?**

SCRIPTURE | Ezekiel 36:27

- All throughout Scripture, we see stories of people who were seeking guidance and struggling to understand . . .
 - How to follow God.
 - How to treat each other.
 - What to do about their enemies.
 - How to make the world better.
- Because humans have never been great at figuring that out, God stepped in and gave us some guidance.
 - In the Old Testament of the Bible (that’s the part that was written before Jesus lived), these guidelines are often referred to as “the law” — God’s laws.
 - Over time, the list of laws grew. They included everything from “don’t murder anyone” to specific instructions on what to eat and how to cut your hair. But these laws weren’t designed to control or restrict people. They were guidelines meant to keep people safe and close to God.

- But no matter how many laws God gave us, no matter how clear and specific they were, humans couldn't seem to make the right choices. Over and over again, God's people chose the wrong path.
- After centuries of God's people continuing to harm each other and walk away from God, here's what God said through the prophet Ezekiel.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Ezekiel 36:27.*
- God knew a bunch of "black and white" rules weren't the best solution for helping humans figure out how to do what's right.
- Even if God did give us a handbook of exactly what to do in every situation, we'd still have a problem! That's because we don't just need right answers — we need God's Spirit transforming us from the inside out. And God knew it!

SCRIPTURE | Galatians 3:23-25

- As humans, our problem is our tendency to choose what is harmful, destructive, and sinful instead of what is good, right, and godly. For a long time, God gave us the law to help us make good choices, but that was never the permanent plan.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Galatians 3:23-25.*
- When Jesus showed up, lived, died, and rose again, he gave us a new way of relating to God and dealing with our sin.
 - Because of Jesus, we're not required to follow all the laws God gave before Jesus was on earth.
 - Not even following every law or making all the right choices can't save us or make us closer to God. Only faith in Jesus can do that.

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 1:9-10

- But there's something else Jesus came to do. He came to send us the Holy Spirit to live not just in the world but also within us.
- The passage we just read was written by the apostle Paul, one of the key leaders of the early church.
 - Paul spent a lot of time helping other Jesus-followers figure out how to follow Jesus when there weren't a lot of "black and white" answers for how to be Christians.
 - Church leaders, individual followers of Jesus, and even whole communities looked to Paul as a wise and trusted voice. They went to him for advice, help, and encouragement.
 - In another letter to another group of Christians, Paul told them how he had been praying for them and why.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Colossians 1:9-10.*
- The one thing Paul said he constantly prayed was that they would be filled with wisdom and understanding. But not just any wisdom — he was asking for the wisdom given by the Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit can . . .

- Show us what God wants us to do.
- Convict us when we're getting it wrong.
- Give us wisdom and understanding.
- Help us live a life that pleases God.
- We can't please God by following every rule, as if we were still following "the law." No way! We can please God, Paul says, when we're filled with, and follow, the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

OBJECT LESSON | In the Middle (Part 2)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On the painting from earlier, write the word "wisdom" in the gray section of the gradient you created.*
- So what is "wisdom," exactly? Well, it's not just good advice, clever sayings, or helpful life hacks.
 - The wisdom the Spirit gives us is the wisdom to know what God would have us do – even when it's not so "black and white."
 - Just like a road sign guides us with which exit to take or turn to make, the Holy Spirit directs us and gives us wisdom on what to do in the "gray" areas.
- This is true for every follower of Jesus, but throughout the New Testament of the Bible, you can read stories of people miraculously receiving specific gifts through God's Spirit that gave them wisdom for themselves and others, like . . .
 - People who were given the gift of discernment.
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- When we're not sure which choice to make, which path to choose, or how to honor God, Jesus doesn't leave us to figure it out all alone. **The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ★ **The Bible could have been written like a rule book – why do you think it wasn't?**
 - **Read Proverbs 1:1-7. What does it look like to live wisely? Give some examples.**

MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- Many people often sense the Holy Spirit guiding them through music. As we listen to this song together, ask God's Spirit to show you something about what it means to be filled with, and led by, God's wisdom.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God's Spirit, like "Be Thou My Vision" (Audrey Assad), "Your Spirit" (Tasha Cobbs Leonard), or whatever song you'd like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) You'll also want to print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 3 folder. If you'd like, you may want to add the lyrics to the song you've chosen to the handout before printing. Place one handout under each seat, along with a pen. During the song, encourage students to reflect on what the song reveals about God's wisdom.

HOW TO WALK IN WISDOM

- Since the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom it only makes sense that we work on learning how to develop it. Before digital cameras and smartphones existed, people had to go through a whole process to get their photos. They would have film inside cameras, and once the roll of film was completed, they'd send the photos out to be developed in a special place called a dark room. This was not a simple process — it took time.
- Like a photo in a dark room, we can learn to walk in wisdom, with time, the help of the Holy Spirit, and a lot of practice. Here's how . . .
 - **ASK THE SPIRIT FOR WISDOM.** Last week we said God isn't trying to hide the truth from you. In the same way, God isn't trying to hide wisdom from you. Over and over again, Scripture says the Spirit will give us wisdom if we'll ask for and seek it!
 - **PAUSE.** When you have a decision to make, wait ten extra minutes than you normally would for before you take action. Ask for the ability to know the difference between an impulse, an emotional reaction, and wisdom — and then wait for God's Spirit to respond.
 - **GET WISE MENTORS.** Who around you seems wise? Who has a connection with God and could become a guiding light for you? Who are some people with different backgrounds who can share wisdom from different perspectives? Ask them a lot of questions, and listen every chance you get!
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 - **DON'T GIVE UP.** When learning new things we're going to make mistakes. When you do, don't give up on being wise! Ask the Holy Spirit for help and learn from your experiences. At some point, you'll make the wrong decision, but you can learn from that mistake. The Holy Spirit can teach us even when we've messed up, so keep going!

- We're all faced with difficult decisions throughout our lives, some big and some small, and even the smallest of decisions can leave us wondering what the wise thing to do is. The truth is, figuring out how to honor God is sometimes complicated, but when things are confusing and not-so-simple, we've got help, because **the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.**

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.*
 - ✦ **Right now, do you need the Holy Spirit's help *making* wise decisions, *wanting* to make wise decisions, or both? Give an example.**
 - ✦ **What's the most important area of your life where you need more wisdom right now? How can we help?**
 - **This week, what's one way you're going to pursue the Holy Spirit's wisdom?**



THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US WISDOM.



THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US WISDOM.

WEEK 4 SERMON GUIDE

GUIDING LIGHT

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us love.

THE BIBLE

Galatians 5:22–26; Matthew 5:14–16;
Romans 5:5

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Group Story Time

- It's our final week of *Guiding Light*, where we've been talking about how to find guidance when life is hard to navigate.
- I don't know about you, but I think some of the most challenging things to navigate sometimes are our relationships with other people. So let's see how you do with some team-building challenges.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, make one set of [index cards](#) for every five students. Each set should have at least six cards. On each card, write one word. Each set should include at least two nouns, two verbs, and two adjectives. The words you choose don't matter, but all the sets should include the same words! Divide your group into teams of five and give each group a set of cards. Give them five minutes to construct a story about a conflict, fight, or battle, using all the words in the deck. When time is up, have students read their stories dramatically and vote for their favorite story.*

ACTIVITY | Group Vote

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using the same groups as before, read these "Would You Rather" scenarios. Each group must come to an unanimous decision before sharing their answer.*
- **Would you rather . . .**
 - **Never eat pizza again or share one room with your whole family forever?**
 - **Share a toothbrush with someone or listen to someone tell a boring story for two straight hours?**

- **Never wear jeans again or dress exactly like your mom or dad for the rest of your life?**
- **Never talk again or be constantly interrupted every time you talk?**
- **Have a permanent mustache or a permanent unibrow?**
- **Be an amazing athlete on the worst team or be the worst athlete on an amazing team?**
- In life, we often have to have to find ways to be agreeable with others even when we don't agree with (or even like) them. Sometimes that even means choosing to give up something we want for the benefit of others.

STORY | Talk about a time you struggled to love someone who hurt you.

- It's easy getting along with people we agree with, but not so much with those we disagree with – or those who have hurt us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you struggled to love someone who hurt you. Emphasize why you felt hurt, how you held onto your pain, and how holding onto that grudge or bitterness affected you. Don't share how the story ends. NOTE: Don't tell a story about trying to love an abusive person, unless you have time to discuss this in a trauma-informed way. Without that sensitivity, students who are experiencing abuse may choose not to seek help as an act of "love" toward their abuser.*
- We all have stories about people who are hard to love, maybe because . . .
 - It can be difficult to show we care.
 - We've been hurt by them.
 - We don't agree with them.
 - Or just because they annoy us.
- Whatever the reason, it's easy to get stuck holding onto feelings like irritation, anger, sadness, or bitterness. The problem is: God tells us to love people. But what do we do when it's really hard to love *certain* people?

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

- Throughout this series, we've been watching clips from *Star Wars* about how Rey, a young Jedi, learns to use the force – a mysterious power that fills their universe and can be wielded for good or evil.
 - While Rey is committed to using the force for good, another Jedi named Kylo Ren has chosen the dark side.
 - Even though they're enemies, and Kylo Ren has hurt Rey in unforgivable ways, she never stops believing he can choose a different path.
 - Eventually, they confront each other in battle. Rey wins, fatally wounding him. But then . . .

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- After everything he did to try to destroy her, Rey used the force — the life inside her — to love her enemy. And while that imaginary “force” doesn’t exist outside of *Star Wars*, there is something (or Someone) even more powerful who does.

SCRIPTURE | Galatians 5:22–26

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- The book of Galatians is a letter Paul wrote to the Galatian church filled with advice for how to process things like anger, hurt, and confusion.
 - See, the Galatians were having a tough time agreeing on how to follow Jesus. They pointed fingers at who they thought was right and who was wrong. In Galatia, there was plenty of bitterness and hurt to go around.
 - But Paul wasn’t going to stand for it. In his letter, he reminded them of the “force” that lived inside them — the Spirit of God.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read *Galatians 5:22–26*.
- Paul reminded the Galatians God had already given them everything they needed to love each other.
 - They may not have been able to love people very well in their own strength, but through God’s Spirit, they had the ability to live with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.
 - Just like a healthy tree grows fruit, Paul said their love for each other would be evidence that the Holy Spirit was at work in their lives.
 - Paul doesn’t say we simply need to try harder to love each other. He says we need to stick close to the Holy Spirit, because we can’t do any of these things in our own power.

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- Jesus said himself that the world would know his followers by their love for others. Just like God loves us, Jesus said we should love each other. It’s this reflection of God’s love I think Jesus was talking about when he said this . . .
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read *Matthew 5:14–16*.
- When Jesus said “you are the light of the world,” he meant the light within us is meant to be a light for others. When we make God’s love and truth evident through our lives, others can better see who Jesus is.

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- In another one of his letters, Paul told the church in Rome that God’s love lives in us through the Holy Spirit.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Romans 5:5.*
- Because the Holy Spirit fills us with God’s love, Paul says we can have hope, even when people hurt us. This doesn’t always mean we get our way or never get hurt. It just means . . .
 - We can place our hope in God, who always loves and never hurts or disappoints us.
 - We have a well of love to draw from that is bigger than us — it’s God’s love flowing within us and through us, to others.
- This is good news, isn’t it? I don’t know about you, but I often feel like I’m running a little dry on love for other people. In my own strength, I’m not great at producing the “fruit” of the Holy Spirit. Most of the time . . .
 - I love myself more than others.
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- And that’s why I need the Holy Spirit. The same is true for you. On our own, we don’t have the ability to love like Jesus. But with God’s Spirit, we can.
- This is true for every follower of Jesus, but throughout the Bible, you can read stories of people miraculously receiving specific gifts through God’s Spirit. With these gifts, they were able to shine the light of God’s love, like people who were . . .
 - Able to perform miracles, heal diseases, or even raise others from the dead.
 - Empowered by the Spirit to care for those who were poor, sick, dying, or in need.
 - Given the gift of hospitality to welcome others with the love of Jesus.
- Maybe some of these things don’t sound particularly miraculous at first glance, but if the Holy Spirit has ever helped you love someone who was difficult to love, or moved someone to love and care for you in a radical way, you’ve seen the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus doesn’t just *tell* us to love people — he knows we can’t. That’s why he sent us a Helper.

The Holy Spirit helps us love.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

OBJECT LESSON | Stopped-Up Hearts

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need clear flexible [vinyl tubing](#), [marbles](#), salt, a clear container, a large pitcher of warm water, and a [funnel](#) that fits into the tubing. Place one end of the tubing into the container and hold the other end. Create a kink in the tubing by holding a portion of it at angle and place the funnel in the end to make pouring easier. As you teach . . .*
 - *Pour at least six inches of salt into the tubing to symbolize difficult emotions and experiences.*
 - *Add a few marbles to symbolize our attempts to love people.*
 - *Slowly pour water through the tubing to dissolve the salt. When water begins to flow freely into the container, straighten out the tubing and let the marbles roll into the container.*
- We often don't realize how much our own selfishness, bitterness, pain, or anger affects our ability to love others. Maybe it used to seem easier to love people, but then . . .
 - Difficult things happened to you. Maybe someone said something ugly to you, or your parents got a divorce, or your best friend stopped talking to you.
 - Sometimes our hurt changes us. It makes us less trusting, quicker to judge, or maybe even bitter. When that happens, love doesn't move through our hearts very well. Sometimes people stay stuck like this for a long time — even their whole lives!
 - But God doesn't leave us like this. The Holy Spirit has the power to dissolve the things that keep us from letting the love of Jesus flow freely in us and through us.

4 STEPS TO FREEDOM

- We sometimes explain our lack of love for others by saying things like, "Well, they're just unlikable!" or "It's all their fault." But Scripture never says the Holy Spirit would only help us love people who deserve it. It says God's Spirit helps us love. Period. But how?
 - **ASK FOR HELP.** Just like we can ask the Spirit to show us truth and give us wisdom, we can ask for help developing the "fruit" of the Spirit. That's exactly the kind of prayer God wants to answer with a yes! So ask!
 - **GET HONEST.** Sometimes it's hard to be honest about why it's hard for us to love, but remember, the Holy Spirit shows us the truth — not just about God, but about ourselves too. Ask why this is hard for you and listen humbly for the answer.
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MUSIC | Listening for the Holy Spirit

- For the past few weeks, we've been listening to songs that help us better understand the Holy Spirit. As we listen to this one, think about one person (just one) the Spirit is asking you to love.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, choose a song to play about God's Spirit, like "Love Changes Everything" (Red Rocks Worship), "Praying" (Kesha), or whatever song you'd like, but make sure you have purchased any licenses required to do so. For more information, [read this!](#) During the song, have students participate in the following reflection.*

REFLECTION | Bitterness Dissolving

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, print and cut the handouts provided in your Week 4 folder and set up a few stations around the room with large bowls filled with water. Give each student a handout and a [washable marker](#). Instruct them to write the name of someone they struggle to love and why, then fold their card in half, walk to one of the water bowls, and submerge the card. As they hold the card underwater, ask them to pray for the Holy Spirit to help them love. The card should come out of the water with little to no markings on it.*
- When we allow God's love to change us and fill our hearts, we find our anger and bitterness begin to dissolve. It doesn't mean we'll never again struggle to love others. But when we are struggling to love like Jesus loved, we have a Helper who has already made it possible.
- The Holy Spirit might seem mysterious or unknowable at first, but hopefully our conversations in the last few weeks have helped you see just how available God's Spirit is to you.
- The Holy Spirit isn't just an impersonal force that fills the universe. If you know Jesus, you know his Spirit is alive around us and within us, because the Holy Spirit . . .
 - Is a gift from God.
 - Shows us the truth.
 - Gives us wisdom.
 - And helps us love.

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



Whether you're not sure what you think about God just yet or your faith in Jesus runs deep, let's be honest – things would be a lot easier if God spoke to us in really obvious ways. Audible words. Obvious signs. Guiding lights. It would be so much easier to find guidance, feel comforted, or make difficult decisions if we could actually see God with our eyes and hear God's voice with our ears. Well, there's some good news. Jesus couldn't stick around on earth forever, but He hasn't left us alone. He sent the Holy Spirit in His place. In this 4-week series about wisdom, we'll get better acquainted with how God's Spirit guides us as we discover how the Holy Spirit is **God's gift to us who shows us truth, gives us wisdom, and helps us love.**

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

The Holy Spirit helps us love.

THE BIBLE

Galatians 5:22–26; Matthew 5:14–16;
Romans 5:5

- **What do you love about the people who are closest to you?**
- **What are some things that would make it hard for you to be loving to someone?**
- **Without naming names, have you ever struggled to love someone because of how they hurt you? What did you learn from that experience?**
- **If you've been hurt by someone, how has it changed you? If you haven't been hurt, how have you seen other people change after they were hurt?**
- **Do you think you should forgive someone if they don't ask for your forgiveness? Why or why not?**
- **Who do you think holding onto grudges hurts more: us or the person we're angry at? Why do you think so?**
- **Have you ever seen the Holy Spirit help someone (maybe you) love when it was difficult? What happened?**
- **In your experience, how well do you think Christians usually love each other? What about people who aren't Christians? Why do you think so?**
- **Read Galatians 5:22-23. Which of these qualities is the most difficult for you demonstrate? How could that quality help you love others better?**
- **This week, who is one person you want the Holy Spirit to help you love? What will you do about it?**

WEEK 4

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

→ for middle schoolers



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WEEK 4 HYBRID TEACHING GUIDE



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Romans 5:5

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Group Story Time

- It's our final week of *Guiding Light*, where we've been talking about how to find guidance when life is hard to navigate.
- I don't know about you, but I think some of the most challenging things to navigate sometimes are our relationships with other people. So let's see how you do with some team-building challenges.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before your teaching time, make one set of [index cards](#) for every five students. Each set should have at least six cards. On each card, write one word. Each set should include at least two nouns, two verbs, and two adjectives. The words you choose don't matter, but all the sets should include the same words! Divide your group into teams of five and give each group a set of cards. Give them five minutes to construct a story about a conflict, fight, or battle, using all the words in the deck. When time is up, have students read their stories dramatically and vote for their favorite story.*

ACTIVITY | Group Vote

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using the same groups as before, read these "Would You Rather" scenarios. Each group must come to an unanimous decision before sharing their answer.*
- **Would you rather . . .**

- Never eat pizza again or share one room with your whole family forever?
 - Share a toothbrush with someone or listen to someone tell a boring story for two straight hours?
 - Never wear jeans again or dress exactly like your mom or dad for the rest of your life?
 - Never talk again or be constantly interrupted every time you talk?
 - Have a permanent mustache or a permanent unibrow?
 - Be an amazing athlete on the worst team or be the worst athlete on an amazing team?
- In life, we often have to have to find ways to be agreeable with others even when we don't agree with (or even like) them. Sometimes that even means choosing to give up something we want for the benefit of others.

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break for discussion. If you have more than ten students, split into groups so everyone can share. The starred questions are designed for high schoolers, so you may want to skip them if you're working only with middle schoolers.
 - What do you love about the people who are closest to you?
 - What are some things that would make it hard for you to be loving to someone?

STORY | Talk about a time you struggled to love someone who hurt you.

- It's easy getting along with people we agree with, but not so much with those we disagree with – or those who have hurt us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a story from your own life (or ask a volunteer or student to tell a story) about a time you struggled to love someone who hurt you. Emphasize why you felt hurt, how you held onto your pain, and how holding onto that grudge or bitterness affected you. Don't share how the story ends. **NOTE: Don't tell a story about trying to love an abusive person, unless you have time to discuss this in a trauma-informed way. Without that sensitivity, students who are experiencing abuse may choose not to seek help as an act of "love" toward their abuser.**
- We all have stories about people who are hard to love, maybe because . . .
 - It can be difficult to show we care.
 - We've been hurt by them.
 - We don't agree with them.
 - Or just because they annoy us.
- Whatever the reason, it's easy to get stuck holding onto feelings like irritation, anger, sadness, or bitterness. The problem is: God tells us to love people. But what do we do when it's really hard to love *certain* people?

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

VIDEO | A Clip from Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker

- Throughout this series, we've been watching clips from *Star Wars* about how Rey, a young Jedi, learns to use the force — a mysterious power that fills their universe and can be wielded for good or evil.
 - While Rey is committed to using the force for good, another Jedi named Kylo Ren has chosen the dark side.
 - Even though they're enemies, and Kylo Ren has hurt Rey in unforgivable ways, she never stops believing he can choose a different path.
 - Eventually, they confront each other in battle. Rey wins, fatally wounding him. But then . . .
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- The book of Galatians is a letter Paul wrote to the Galatian church filled with advice for how to process things like anger, hurt, and confusion.
 - See, the Galatians were having a tough time agreeing on how to follow Jesus. They pointed fingers at who they thought was right and who was wrong. In Galatia, there was plenty of bitterness and hurt to go around.
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DISCUSSION

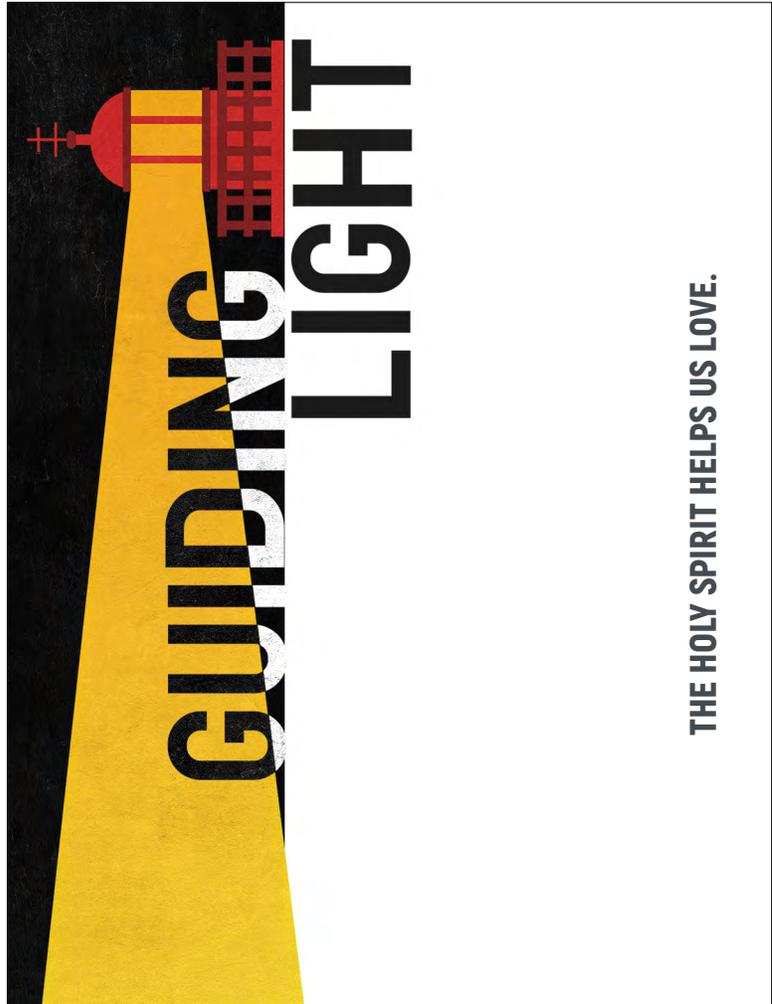
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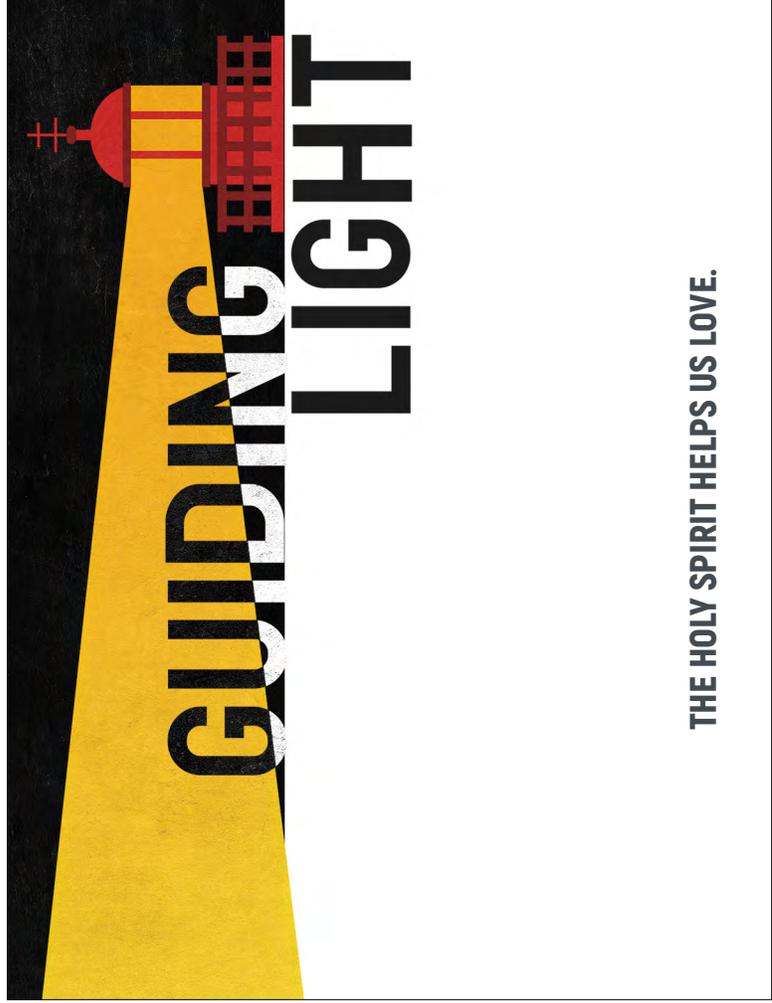
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ONE-MINUTE SERMON SCRIPTS



ONE-MINUTE SERMONS

After you teach each week, we recommend **filming a video of yourself re-teaching your message in one minute or less**. Then post it on social media! We've written the beginnings of a script for you each week, and we've also filmed complete [One-Minute Sermon Videos](#) for you too, in partnership with [Rescue a Generation](#). Make your own or post ours — whatever you want!

WEEK 1

When you were a kid, did you ever have one of those moments with your family, maybe in a busy store or at a crowded amusement park, when you suddenly looked up and thought, "Oh no. Where is everyone?" You'd been happily holding a grown-up's hand a minute ago, but somehow you got separated. That stomach-dropping feeling is what I imagine Jesus' followers experienced when they found out Jesus was going to be leaving them. The disciples loved and thought they needed Jesus to stick around forever, but Jesus told them often that wasn't God's plan. Jesus always knew He would need to leave earth eventually, but He never wanted to leave us alone. Instead, He promised to send us God's Holy Spirit to be with us, comfort us, teach us, help us, and so much more. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to us. So next time you're wondering where God is or if you're all alone, remember, **God gives us the Holy Spirit**.

WEEK 2

With so many places to get information these days, how do you know what's true? Is something true if you see it on the news? On TikTok? Wikipedia? Is it true if your parents say it? Your teachers? Your friends? What if two of those sources are telling you conflicting things? Then who do you believe? It's hard enough to find the truth when you're fighting with your friends about who still owes money for your pizza bill, or when you fall down an Internet rabbit hole trying to figure out if birds are even real, but what about when we want to know the truth about God? That's a tough one, but I've got some good news. Like Jesus promised, God sent us Someone to help us know what's true — the Holy Spirit. When we face conflicting messages about who we are, who God is, or how to understand the world, we can turn to the **Holy Spirit, who shows us truth**.

WEEK 3

Sometimes I wish things could be more simple. Clear cut. Yes-or-no answers. You know? There are so many issues, questions, and ideas that I wish were simple, but they're not. So many times I'm looking for "black and white" answers, but every possible answer is a shade of gray. That's especially true when we're trying to decide between what's right and what's wrong. If there's not a clear answer about what God would have us do in a certain situation, then what do we do? Who do we turn to? How do we know what's right, or at least best? Well, God has given us a few tools to help us develop and practice wisdom, including the gift of God's Spirit, who helps us understand what God wants from us and convicts us when we're getting it wrong. The truth is, figuring out how to honor God is sometimes complicated, but when things are confusing and not-so-simple, we've got help, because **the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom.**

WEEK 4

No matter how kind, patient, loving, or easy-going you are, I'm sure we can all think of people who are sometimes hard for us to love. Maybe they're hard to love because they've hurt you, or because you disagree with them about something, or maybe it's just because they annoy you. Whatever the reason, we can sometimes feel really stuck in our anger, frustration, or sadness when it comes to these hard-to-love people. The problem is God tells us to love everyone, even our enemies. So what do we do when we just don't feel like we can? The apostle Paul, who wrote the letter to the Galatians in the Bible, reminds us that Jesus doesn't just *tell* us to love people — He gives us the Holy Spirit to help us do it. We can't love people like Jesus loves them in our own strength, but guess what. We don't have to! God has already sent a Helper — **the Holy Spirit helps us love.**

MARKETING CHECKLIST



BEFORE THE SERIES

✓ TO DO

	Print your Series Promo Poster and Series Promo Cards and display them where families and volunteers can see them.
	Customize your Volunteer Hub and Family Hub web pages for this series.
	Customize and send the Family Email for this series.
	Send the Volunteer Email for Week 1 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.
	Review the suggested Social Media Posts and Captions for this series.
	Post the Bumper Video on social media with this caption: A new series drops this week! This one's called Guiding Light. We'll be talking about how to find help and direction when life's a little confusing. See you there!

AFTER WEEK 1

✓ TO DO

	Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 1 on social media with this caption: In case you missed it, this week we talked about how the Holy Spirit is always with us. Here's a recap!
	Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 1 on social media and/or send with this caption: Next time you're wondering what to do, where God is, or if you're all alone, remember, Jesus has left us with a guiding light – the Holy Spirit.
	Send the Volunteer Email for Week 2 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.

AFTER WEEK 2

✓ **TO DO**

	<p>Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 2 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In case you missed it, this week we talked about how the Holy Spirit shows us what's true about God and ourselves. Here's a recap!</p>
	<p>Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 2 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Remember, when we're faced with questions, confusion, or conflicting messages about who God is, we don't have to figure it out all alone. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us.</p>
	<p>Send the Volunteer Email for Week 3 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 3

✓ **TO DO**

	<p>Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 3 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In case you missed it, this week we saw how the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom when we're not sure which choice to make. Here's a recap!</p>
	<p>Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 3 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Remember, figuring out how to honor God is sometimes complicated, but when things are confusing and not-so-simple, we've got help from the Holy Spirit.</p>
	<p>Send the Volunteer Email for Week 4 of this series. Then text your volunteers a link to the email.</p>

AFTER WEEK 4

✓ **TO DO**

	<p>Post the 1-Minute Sermon Video for Week 4 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>In case you missed it, this week we saw that, when dealing with people is difficult, the Holy Spirit helps us love.</p>
	<p>Post the Big Idea Graphic for Week 4 on social media with this caption:</p> <p>Remember, Jesus doesn't just tell us to love people – he knows we can't. That's why he sent us the Holy Spirit who can help us.</p>
	<p>Get ready for the next series!</p>

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS & CAPTIONS

GUIDING LIGHT

Need some help deciding what to post on social media before and during this series? Here's our suggestion: each week, share the media we've provided in your Graphics and Videos folder using the captions below.

BEFORE THE SERIES



BUMPER VIDEO

A new series drops this week! This one's called Guiding Light. We'll be talking about how to find help and direction when life's a little confusing. See you there!

AFTER WEEK 1



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 1)

In case you missed it, this week we talked about how the Holy Spirit is always with us. Here's a recap!

AFTER WEEK 2



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 2)

In case you missed it, this week we talked about how the Holy Spirit shows us what's true about God and ourselves. Here's a recap!

**GOD GIVES US THE
HOLY SPIRIT.**

GUIDING LIGHT

BIG IDEA (WEEK 1)

Next time you're wondering what to do, where God is, or if you're all alone, remember, Jesus has left us with a guiding light – the Holy Spirit.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOWS US
TRUTH.**

GUIDING LIGHT

BIG IDEA (WEEK 2)

Remember, when we're faced with questions, confusion, or conflicting messages about who God is, we don't have to figure it out all alone. The Holy Spirit is there to guide us.

AFTER WEEK 3



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 3)

In case you missed it, this week we saw how the Holy Spirit gives us wisdom when we're not sure which choice to make. Here's a recap!

AFTER WEEK 4



1-MINUTE SERMON (WEEK 4)

In case you missed it, this week we saw that, when dealing with people is difficult, the Holy Spirit helps us love.



BIG IDEA (WEEK 3)

Remember, figuring out how to honor God is sometimes complicated, but when things are confusing and not-so-simple, we've got help from the Holy Spirit.



BIG IDEA (WEEK 4)

Remember, Jesus doesn't just tell us to love people — he knows we can't. That's why he sent us the Holy Spirit who can help us.

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE

What We're Teaching



ADD YOUR LOGO HERE