



**elev8**

life on another level

# Student Workbook

**YEAR 1**

**Seasons and  
Celebrations**

**Pentecost**

**– Come, Holy Spirit**

**Bible Readings**

Acts 1

Acts 2

1 Corinthians 12

John 14



### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate references to the person and work of the Holy Spirit in the Bible.
- Express the way that the Holy Spirit works in your life and in the world.
- Apply attitudes and approaches that will help to develop a greater awareness of, and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit.

### Notes from Bible Reading

**Scripture** A word or phrase that stood out to me:

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**Observation** What is happening in this Bible reading?

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**Application** Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

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**Prayer** What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

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**Key Question** Who or what is the Holy Spirit and what difference does he make?

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### Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

#### Activity

Ask one or two of the students to leave the room (or leave the room yourself (if appropriate)). The remaining students are to draw a picture of the person/s that have left the room and include as much detail as possible.

Include: eye colour, hair style, clothes – design, colour, wear and tear, jewellery, shoes, everything they can think of...

The person/s then return and the students check their picture to see how accurate they were.

Today we are learning about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God who is with us now.

What do you know about the Holy Spirit?

Why is it important that God is with us now?

How do you think God is present with us?

How do we know that God is present?

What do you think the holy spirit is like?

What does the Holy Spirit do?

What experiences have you had of God's Holy Spirit?

#### 6 Fast Facts:

1. When the Holy Spirit poured out on the first believers, people thought that they were drunk – even though it was only 9 in the morning! (Acts 2)
2. The Holy Spirit is usually pictured as a dove or as fire
3. A man called Simon was scolded by the Apostle Peter when he tried to buy his gift of the Holy Spirit from him (Acts 8). Ever since then the sin of trying to sell or buy sacred things has been called 'Simony'.
4. In 1906 a small African American church in Los Angeles experienced the Holy Spirit in a new way. People began speaking in strange languages and whites and blacks started mixing together openly. The church was Azusa Street and it is seen as the start of one of the most significant people movements in history – the Pentecostal movement of the church.
5. The Apostle Paul cautioned the church at Corinth about being too expressive in their spiritual gifts when they were all together because non-Christians would think that they were crazy!  
(1 Corinthians 14)
6. Pentecost literally means "50 days" – it is celebrated 7 weeks (7 x 7 days = 49 days) after Easter.

### Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

**Read together:** John 14:15-31

The Holy Spirit is God fully present and active in the world and in our lives today. We know God as the Father – creator and sustainer of the universe, all powerful and all knowing. We know God in Christ – who came to us as a human being, who was born, lived, suffered, died and was raised to life.

And we know God as Holy Spirit, with us, in us, beside us, knowing us fully and intimately, strengthening and sustaining us day by day.

The story of Pentecost, as told in the book of Acts, tells of how God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit, was poured out on the first group of believers. Just after Jesus had ascended into heaven, and as they gathered together, the Holy Spirit 'came on them'.

This is generally regarded as the birth of the church. This was the moment when the power of God began to move amongst this small group of believers who went on to lead a revolution of love that transformed the world.

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### Explore – Locate *(...continued)*

From that time on the Holy Spirit has continued, and continues to this day, to transform lives and empower people to fulfil the work of God in this world. It makes sense that when we meet with God remarkable things are liable to happen! The Holy Spirit is the fullness of God, and so when we encounter the Holy Spirit that's what we see.

This list is not exhaustive, but some of the things that happen include:

- We are comforted by the presence of God and are given assurance (John 14)
- We are given 'spiritual gifts' – supernatural abilities to effect God's purposes in the world (evangelism, prophecy, administration, leadership, Mercy, craftsmanship etc.)
- We become part of the Body of Christ and find real belonging and purpose (1 Corinthians 12)
- Spiritual 'fruit' begins to grow in our lives (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control) (Galatians 5)
- Signs, wonders and miracles occur – physical healing, inexplicable changes in people and events (the book of Acts)
- We discover a deeper awareness of what is real and true (John 16)

The Holy Spirit blows where it will – it is not for us to control. But Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us (John 14).

If we love Jesus, and are open to the Holy Spirit then we can trust that God will be faithful and will pour out his Spirit on us.

### Explore – Express

The Holy Spirit makes us part of the Body of Christ  
Draw the outline of a body on a large sheet of paper.

Everyone write their name on the part of the body that represents what they would be. In selecting the part of the body that you are consider:

- What are the special gifts, abilities or talents that God has given to you?  
(E.g. if it is helping others then you might be the hands; if it is courage and strength then it might be a bicep!) Be imaginative.
- What are some of the things that you really enjoy doing?
- What are some specific times when you have experienced God at work in your life?

Students are encouraged to add life and colour to the picture by drawing in more detail, colouring in and adding words to describe the body parts that they have identified with.

Go round the group and have each person explain what their body part is and why they have chosen it.

### Explore – Integrate

- What do you think of when you hear the words “Holy Spirit”?
- In what way do you experience God in your life? Any specific examples?
- What would it mean for you to know God’s presence with you in every moment of your life? How would this affect you? If you already experience this, what is it like and how does it affect your life?
- How can we be more open to the Holy Spirit in our lives?
- What gifts or fruit would you like to see more of in your life?

### Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need.

#### Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

### Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Draw a large picture of a tree. Write a list of the fruits of the spirit – Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, self control.

Each student is to spend a moment cutting out of coloured sheets of paper a fruit (as in a banana, apple, orange, grapes... whatever). Write on the fruit their name and the fruit that they would like to develop more of in their life.

Students take it in turn to stick their fruit onto the tree. As they stick the fruit to the tree they can say out loud their name and what they are praying for. They may also explain why they are praying for that (optional)

Pray Psalm 51:10-12

*Create in me a pure heart, O God  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me  
Do not cast me from your presence  
Or take your Holy Spirit from me  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me  
Amen*