

# Who is the Holy Spirit?

# PREVIEW

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth.”

—John 14:15-17a

Dive

Year 1, Unit 5



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# Q&A

How does Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead" comfort you?



I know that my Savior will come as the Judge. He will condemn all his enemies and welcome me and all his chosen ones into the joy and glory of heaven. — Q&A31

**NOTHING** I try  
is working!

Just shake it off -  
bend your knees a little more.  
You've done it before,  
you can do it again!

# PREVIEW

## com·fort

verb \kəm(p)-fərt \

- 1: to give strength and hope to: cheer
  - 2: to ease the grief or trouble of: console
- Middle English, from Anglo-French *cunforter*, *comforter*; from Late Latin *confortare*, to strengthen greatly; from Latin *com-* + *fortis*, strong

—[www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/comfort](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/comfort)



I'VE GOT IT!



# P O I N T • O

## "The Unrighteous"

- What came to mind when Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me?"

- How did you feel when you heard those words?

- How does the unrighteous person's experience relate to your life?

## Someone Ignored Forgotten or In Need of Help & Neglected

- How did it feel when Jesus said, "For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and you did not look after me, I was in prison and you did not visit me?"

- What does this tell you about...

- How does the neglected person's experience relate to your life?

# PREVIEW

I'm very busy.

?

?

I've stayed out of trouble!

But I was minding my own business.

# D F • V I E W

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id to the goats  
ve me nothing to  
ve me nothing to  
you did not in-  
es and you did  
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at Jesus?

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## “The Righteous”

# REVIEW

- What came to mind when Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me?”
- How did you feel when you heard those words?
- How does the righteous person’s experience relate to your life?

That was you!

No one should have to feel alone.

Of course I helped.

# The Parable of the SHEEP and the GOATS



## **Narrator**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right:

## **The King**

Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes

and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

## **The Righteous**

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?

## **The King**

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.

## **Narrator**

Then he will say to those on his left:

## **The King**

Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his

25:31-46

angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.

## **The Unrighteous**

Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?

## **The King**

Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.

## **Narrator**

Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

# Our World



# Belongs to God

## 5. God holds this world

with fierce love. Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world, pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news: sinners who repent and believe in Jesus live anew as members of the family of God—the firstfruits of a new creation.

## 56. We long for that day

when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

## 57. On that day

we will see our Savior face to face, sacrificed Lamb and triumphant King, just and gracious. He will set all things right, judge evil, and condemn the wicked. We face that day without fear, for the Judge is our Savior, whose shed blood declares us righteous. We live confidently, anticipating his coming, offering him our daily lives—our acts of kindness, our loyalty, and our love—knowing that he will weave even our sins and sorrows into his sovereign purpose. Come, Lord Jesus, come.



The earth belongs to the Lord.  
**And so does everything in it.**

*(Name some of your favorite parts of creation)*

The world belongs to him.  
**And so do all those who live in it. Amen!**

—Selections from *Our World Belongs to God*, a Contemporary Testimony of the Christian Reformed Church in North America.

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Life

as  
we

know

it ...

# PREVIEW

***What is our  
great hope?***

**We long for the time when Jesus will return as  
triumphant king to rule the universe. Then we will  
live with him in the new creation. — Q&A 32**

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Life  
in the  
new  
heaven  
and the  
new earth

# PREVIEW

A decorative background at the top of the page featuring light blue, swirling, wavy patterns that resemble water or smoke.

The Hol

PREVIEW

My Spirit

PREVIEW



# The Holy Spirit . . . . .

SOMETIMES people think that the Holy Spirit first began working in the lives of God's people at Pentecost. Actually, the Spirit has been on the move since the creation of the world. To see what the Holy Spirit has been doing, look up each Bible reference (NIV) to find out what word should be in the blank in the clue, and then put that word in the puzzle.

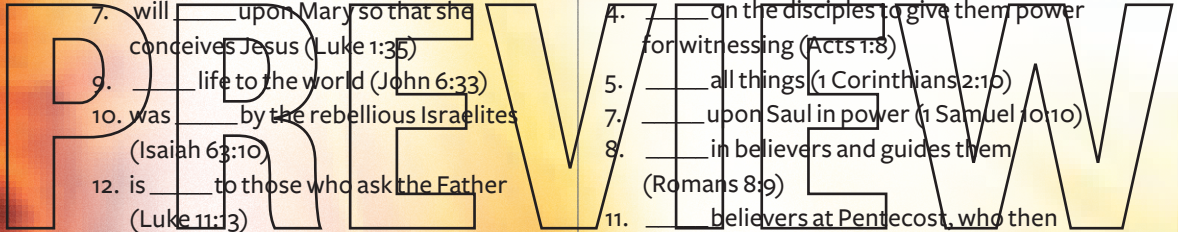
The HOLY SPIRIT . . .

## ACROSS

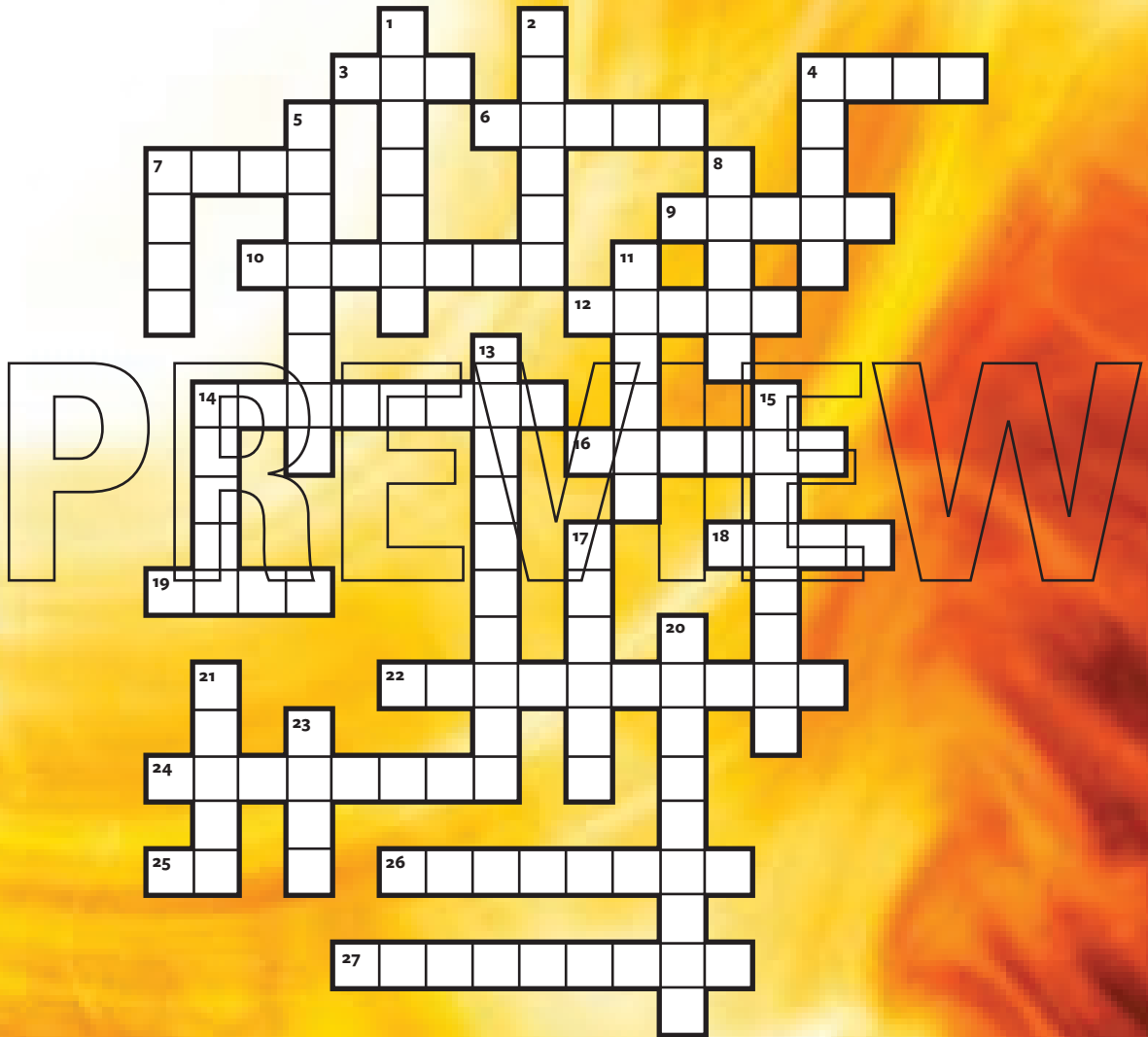
3. \_\_\_\_ Jesus into the desert to be tempted (Matthew 4:1)
4. \_\_\_\_ on Gideon (Judges 6:34)
6. will \_\_\_\_ you into all truth (John 16:13)
7. will \_\_\_\_ upon Mary so that she conceives Jesus (Luke 1:35)
9. \_\_\_\_ life to the world (John 6:33)
10. was \_\_\_\_ by the rebellious Israelites (Isaiah 63:10)
12. is \_\_\_\_ to those who ask the Father (Luke 11:13)
14. was \_\_\_\_ through the disciples (Matthew 10:20)
16. \_\_\_\_ on seventy elders of Israel (Numbers 11:25)
18. \_\_\_\_ to the church at Antioch: "Set apart Barnabas and Saul" (Acts 13:2)
19. will \_\_\_\_ on the promised Messiah (Isaiah 11:2)
22. \_\_\_\_ for us with groans that words cannot express (Romans 8:26)
24. \_\_\_\_ all of us into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
25. \_\_\_\_ in our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19)
26. was \_\_\_\_ over the waters at creation (Genesis 1:2)
27. \_\_\_\_ that we are God's children (Romans 8:16)

## DOWN

1. \_\_\_\_ and reminds believers of everything Jesus said (John 14:26)
2. would be \_\_\_\_ out on Israel's offspring (Isaiah 44:3)
4. \_\_\_\_ on the disciples to give them power for witnessing (Acts 1:8)
5. \_\_\_\_ all things (1 Corinthians 2:10)
7. \_\_\_\_ upon Saul in power (1 Samuel 10:10)
8. \_\_\_\_ in believers and guides them (Romans 8:9)
11. \_\_\_\_ believers at Pentecost, who then spoke in other languages (Acts 2:4)
13. \_\_\_\_ the Israelites in the desert (Nehemiah 9:20)
14. \_\_\_\_ through David (2 Samuel 23:2)
15. \_\_\_\_ from Saul (1 Samuel 16:14)
17. would be \_\_\_\_ out on all people (Joel 2:28)
20. \_\_\_\_ upon Jesus at his baptism (Matthew 3:16)
21. \_\_\_\_ the psalmist on level ground (Psalm 143:10)
23. began to \_\_\_\_ Samson (Judges 13:25)



# ..... on the Move!



# God's SPIRIT in Me

*Because the Spirit is  
eternal God, I . . .*

# PREVIEW

*Because the Spirit  
makes me belong to  
Jesus Christ, I . . .*

*I have known the Spirit's  
comfort when . . .*

*Because the Spirit stays  
with me forever, I . . .*

**What do you believe  
about "the Holy Spirit"?**

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Once I built a time machine and it took me to the Stone Age. The dinosaurs were cool, but my phone didn't even get service. So I was like, "Why would anyone want to live here?"

**You LIE!**



# Two Truths and a LIE

Illustration by Warner McGee



It's your turn to play *Two Truths and a Lie!* In the space below, write three statements about yourself—two that are completely true, and one that's a tall tale. The others in your group will have a chance to guess which ones are true and which is a lie. Can you fool them?

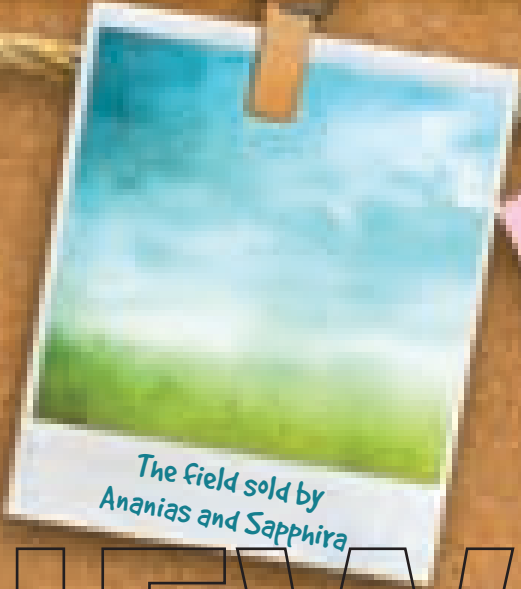
**1.** \_\_\_\_\_

**2.** \_\_\_\_\_

**3.** \_\_\_\_\_



To order copies, visit [DwellCurriculum.org](http://DwellCurriculum.org) or call 800-333-8300.



# PREVIEW

## **A Caring Community, a Tragic Lie**

This story has two parts—the joy and love expressed in the Christian community and the tragic lie that betrayed the sacrificial love the church embodies. In your report, summarize what we know about the early Christian community and why the actions of Ananias and Sapphira were so offensive to God and hurtful to God’s people.

People to interview:

Consider featuring an interview with Peter or another one of the believers. You might ask what the church has learned from all this and what advice he would give us for living in unity and holiness. List other questions you’d like to ask on the “Questions” sheet on the bulletin board. Use all the scraps of paper there jot down your ideas. Then assign roles among your group members. Decide who will report on what and who will be the interviewee. Then practice what you’ll say during your report.



**Timeline  
of Events:**

- Barnabas sells land and gives money to disciples for those in need

**Timeline  
Continued:**



# PREVIEW

*Questions to ask:*

*What does this  
story mean for us?*

*More questions:*

**What do you believe about  
“the holy catholic church” and  
“the communion of saints”?**

The Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, gathers a community out of the entire human race. This community



is chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. As a living member of this

community, I must use the gifts God has given me to serve him in the church and the world. — Q&A<sub>35</sub>

Lord, Help us to Be a  
Sharing and Caring  
Community

# PREVIEW

Romans 12:4-18

**Reader 1:** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

**Reader 2:** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

**Reader 3:** If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

**Reader 2:** if it is serving, then serve;

**Reader 3:** if it is teaching,

then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;

**Reader 2:** if it is giving, then give generously;

**Reader 3:** if it is to lead, do it diligently;

**Reader 2:** if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**All:** Love must be sincere.

**Reader 1:** Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

**Reader 4:** Be devoted to one another in love.

**All:** Honor one another above yourselves.

**Reader 4:** Never be lacking in zeal,

**Reader 1:** but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

**Reader 3:** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

**Reader 1:** Share with the Lord's people who are in need.

**All:** Practice hospitality.

**Reader 2:** Bless those who persecute you;

**Reader 1:** bless and do not curse.

**Reader 3:** Rejoice with those who rejoice;

**Reader 2:** mourn with those who mourn.

**All:** Live in harmony with one another.

**Reader 1:** Do not be proud

**Reader 4:** but be willing to associate with people of low position.

**All:** Do not be conceited.

**Reader 1:** Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

**Reader 4:** Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

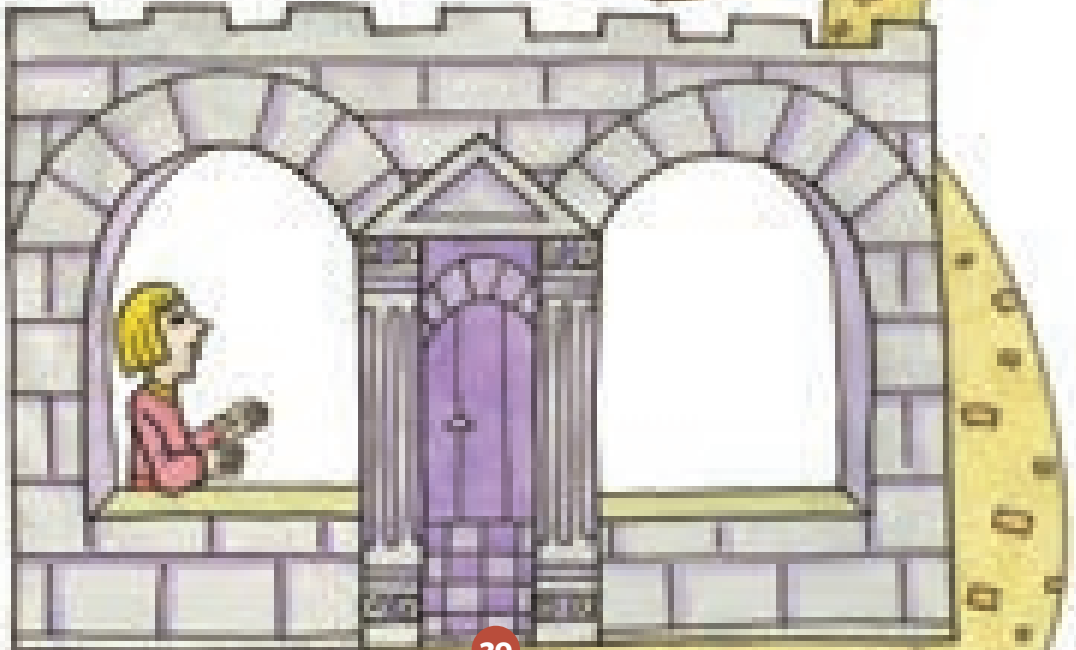
**Reader 1:** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,

**All:** live at peace with everyone.



# PREVIEW

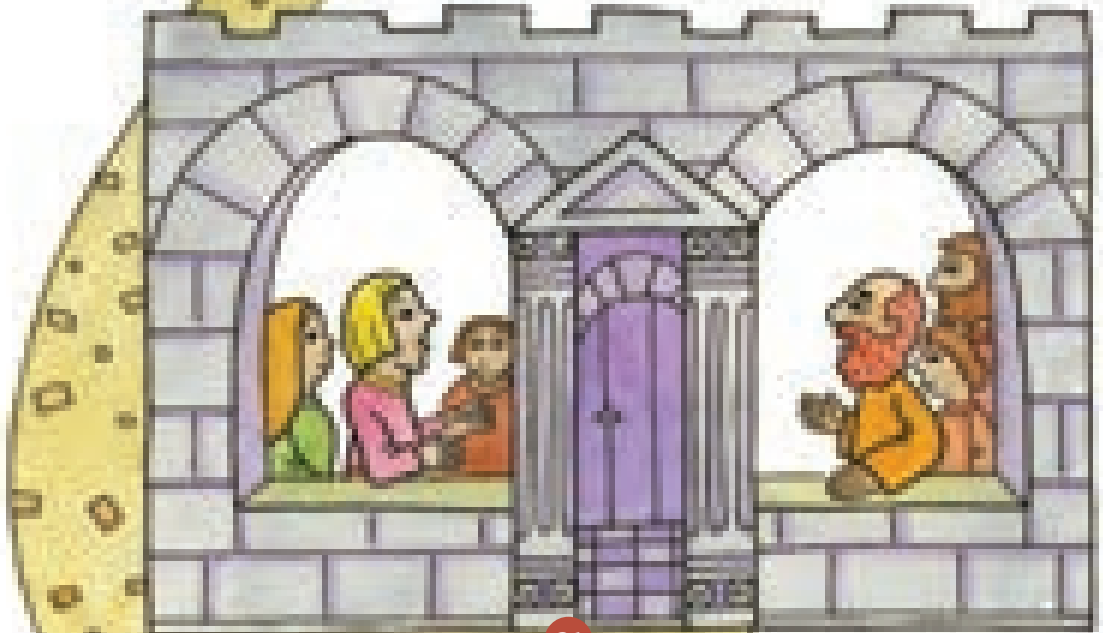
Cornelius Sees an Angel





# PREVIEW

At Cornelius's House



**WHENEVER** you read the Bible, you're having a conversation with God. The Holy Spirit speaks through the Word, and you

have the chance to listen and respond. Spend the next few minutes on a prayer journey with God. As you visit each station,

## Station #1 Talk with God

The Spirit leads us in the truth, breaks our stubborn habits, and makes us obedient to God. (from Q&A 34)



### Read Acts 10:1-8

God's Spirit was preparing Cornelius's heart to receive Jesus even before Peter arrived. Use the scraps of paper to write a prayer for anyone you hope will come to know the love of Jesus. Place the papers in the offering plate.

## Station #2 Hear from God

The Spirit equips the church to carry out its mission: to make disciples from all nations and to tell everyone, by word and deed, the good news. (from Q&A 36)

### Read Acts 10:9-16

As Peter was praying, the Lord called him on a mission. Kneel down on the sheet and spend a quiet moment in prayer. Ask what God is calling you to do. Listen for God's voice speaking to your heart.

Illustration by Pamela Becker

read the box below and do what it says. Don't worry about going to the stations in order—start with whichever one you want.

If you don't make it to all of them, that's okay. Just be sure to make the most of each one you visit.

## Station #3 Follow God's Plan

The Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, gathers a community out of the entire human race. This community is chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. *(from Q&A 35)*



### Read Acts 10:17-29

God's vision for the church was MUCH BIGGER than Peter's vision. Jesus didn't come just for one kind of people—he came for all kinds of people. Jesus calls people from every race and culture with different ages and different abilities.

Start making a mural at this station by adding a sketch that shows God's diverse family. Then say a silent prayer that your church will be a place where everyone feels welcome and everyone has a way to serve.

## Station #4 Celebrate!

The good news is that God in Jesus Christ forgives our sins and gives us new life now and forever. *(from Q&A 36)*

### Read Acts 10:30-48

Peter was surprised that God poured out his Spirit on Cornelius and other Gentiles. But when Peter saw it was true, he said that Cornelius and the other Gentiles should be baptized into God's family. Dip your fingers in the water and think about all that God has done for you—and the surprising ways God has shown you his love.

COME Holy Spirit,  
COME!

**What do you believe about “the holy catholic church” and “the communion of saints”?**

The Son of God, through his Spirit and Word, gathers a community out of the entire human race. This community is chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. As a living member of the community, I must use the gifts God has given me to serve him in the church and in the world.  
—Q&A 35

**What do you believe about “the Holy Spirit”?**

The Holy Spirit is eternal God. Given to me personally, the Spirit unites me with Jesus Christ, comforts me, and stays with me forever.  
—Q&A 33

PREVIEW



Use these Q&A's to write prayers from your heart.

**How does Jesus' Spirit help the church?**

The Spirit equips the church to carry out its mission: to make disciples from all nations and to tell everyone, by word and deed, the good news. This good news is that God in Jesus Christ forgives our sins and gives us new life now and forever.

—C&A 36

**How does the Spirit help us to be true children of God?**

The Spirit leads us in the truth, breaks our stubborn habits, and makes us obedient to God (sanctification).

—Q&A 34

PREVIEW

# Deep in Wonder. Full of Joy

## Matthew 28:1-15, *The Message*

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed."

"Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message!"

The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

Meanwhile, the guards had scattered, but a few of them went into the city and told the high priests everything that had happened. They called a meeting of the religious leaders and came up with a plan: They took a large sum of money and gave it to the soldiers, bribing them to say, "His disciples came in the night and stole the body while we were sleeping." They assured them, "If the governor hears about your sleeping on duty, we will make sure you don't get blamed." The soldiers took the bribe and did as they were told. That story, cooked up in the Jewish High Council, is still going around.

—Scripture taken from *The Message*. © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002.  
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# PREVIEW

# Celebrate!

*Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.*

*Do you believe this?”*

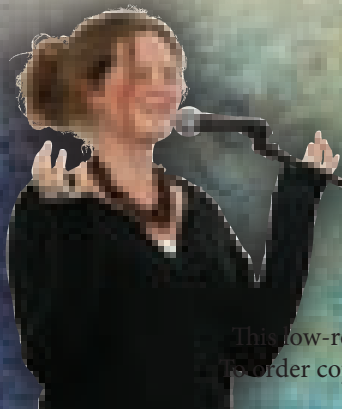
*—John 11:25-26*

## **Worship**

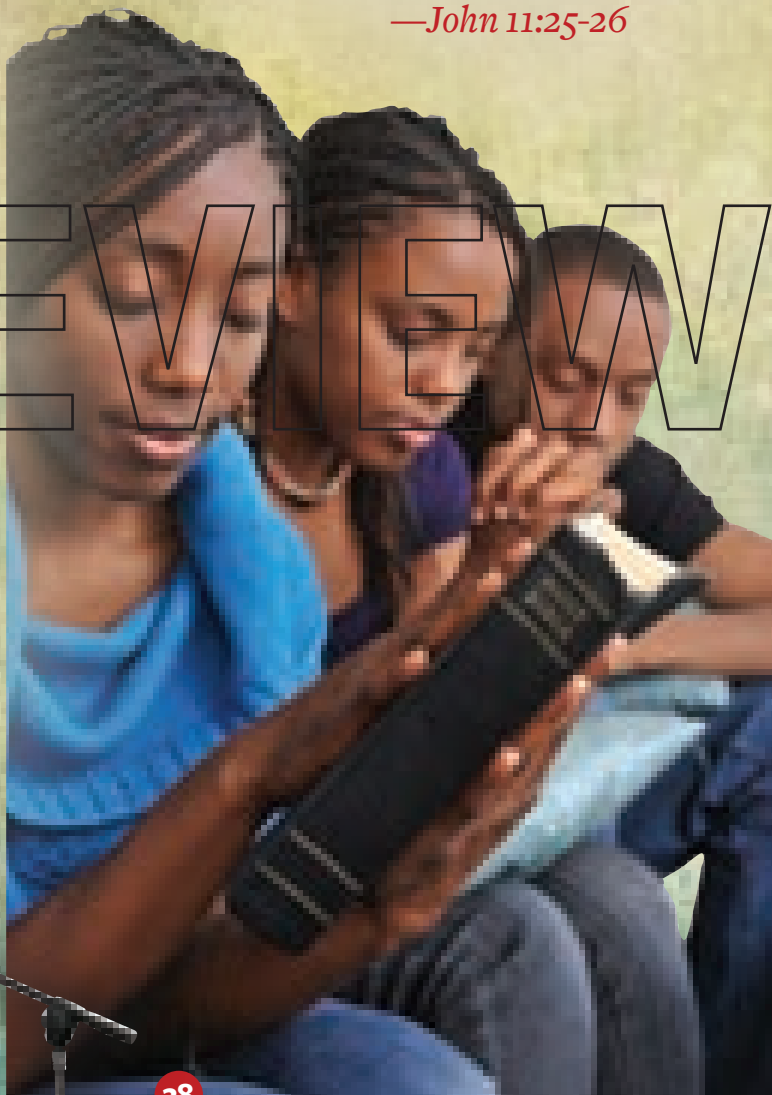
The God who raised Jesus from the dead and who will someday raise us after our death is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. That’s why we worship—to praise our amazing God.

Worship is active. It is singing, praying, reading Scripture, confessing our faith, participating in the sacraments of baptism and communion, listening, giving gifts of thanksgiving, and being quiet before God. As we worship we act out our gratitude to God, listen to God speak to us, and decide again to live as God’s chosen people.

For the next few minutes we’ll plan—and then celebrate together—an Easter worship service. Directions are written in italics.



PREVIEW



# Approach to God

We often begin a worship service by acknowledging that we are entering into God's presence. God invites us into worship, and we let God know that we want to worship the God we call Creator, Savior, and Helper. The approach to God you plan will include a call to worship, song of praise, prayer of confession, and assurance of God's forgiveness.

## Call to Worship

Using short phrases, write an Easter call to worship that will be read out loud by three different groups. For example, Group 1 could give the invitation from God, such as "Come and worship!" Group 2 could respond with words of praise, such as "He is risen!" Group 3 could affirm their desire to worship, such as "We worship our risen King!" Use the pattern in the next column or make up your own pattern for the call to worship. Look through the book of Psalms for some more ideas and write your call to worship on a large sheet of paper so everyone can read it.

**Group 1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Group 2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Group 3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Song of Joy

Use your church's hymnal or songbook to pick out an Easter song for the group to sing or read aloud. Perhaps your small group can lead the singing for the worship service. Practice the song together or choose one person to lead the singing or reading.

## Confession of Sin

Write a short prayer asking God to forgive our sins. In the prayer, mention some of the kinds of sins we often commit. Then appoint a group member to read the prayer aloud during the worship time.

## Assurance of Pardon

Write the following Assurance of Pardon on a large sheet of paper so everyone will be able to read it:

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us all our sin and purify us from all unrighteousness. —1 John 1:9

After you've prepared each piece in the Approach to God, make sure everyone knows who will be doing what. Your group will come forward first to begin the worship service. Be ready to move smoothly from one person to the next doing each part you've prepared for the Approach to God.



# Hearing from God

## Scripture

As you prepare to share the Easter story during the worship service, take turns reading the story aloud from Matthew 28:1-15 in your Bibles. Then do one of the following:

- Prepare a skit of the Easter story that you could act out for the rest of the group during the worship service. First decide what characters you'll need and who will play them (you could include Mary Magdalene, Mary, earthquake, angel, stone, guards, Jesus, and chief priests). Then decide what props (if any) you'll want to

use. Be as creative as you wish.  
Practice

the skit so everyone knows what to do and say.

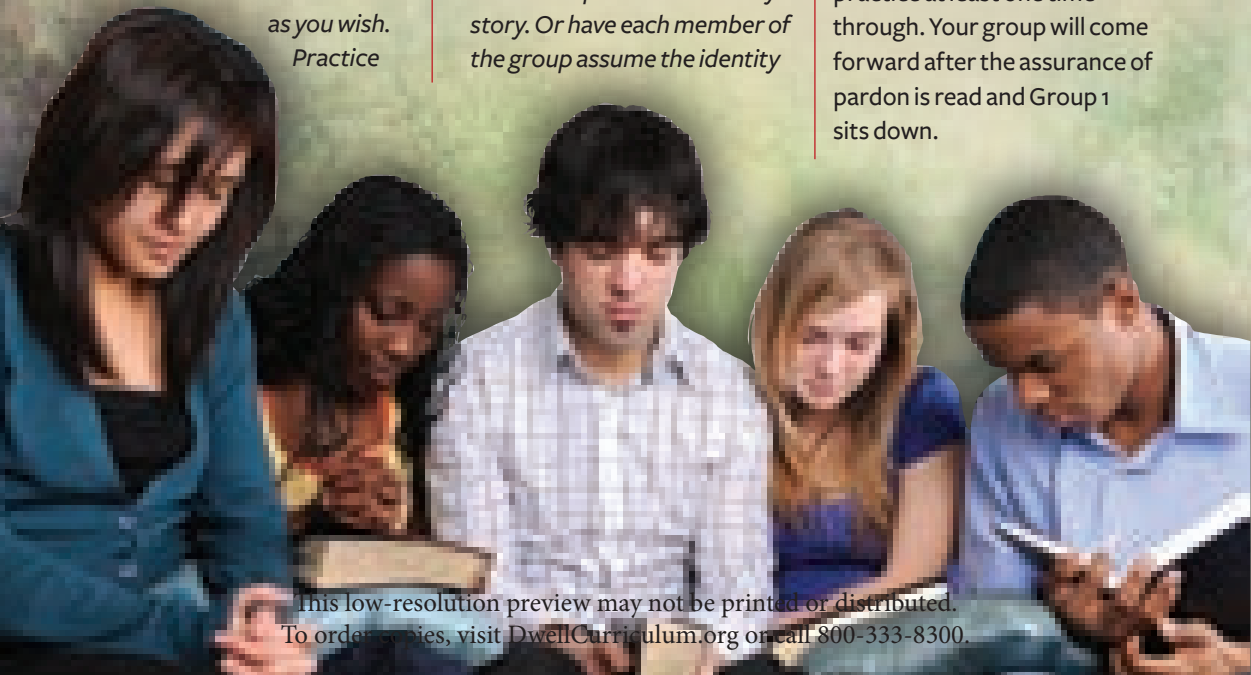
- Create a pantomime of the Easter story. Seeing the story without words will give everyone the chance to remember and reflect on what the story means.

- As a group, choose a couple of verses from this story that really help us see what great things God has done and what God is telling us in this passage. Appoint a group member to read the verses and tell why your group picked them.

- Make a freeze frame of one of the scenes presented in today's story. Or have each member of the group assume the identity

of someone in the story, and then pose as that person and freeze in place. Check each other's facial expression and body language as you try to show the feelings of the people involved. Then have someone in your group read the story from Scripture, moving to each person as he or she is described in the story. If there are more people in the story than there are in your group, assign more than one part to each person in your group.

After you've prepared your story presentation, make sure everyone in your group understands their roles and practice at least one time through. Your group will come forward after the assurance of pardon is read and Group 1 sits down.



# Responding to God



During the last part of many worship services, people react with joy and thanks to God's Word. In our prayers, we give thanks for all God's gifts and we pray for other people. We also bring our offerings to God. Finally, we hear God's benediction or blessing.

## Prayer

Each group member should write a one-sentence prayer that expresses to God his or her feelings about Jesus' resurrection. When it's your group's turn to come forward during the worship service, you will read your prayer out loud. Consider using the line below as a starter:

Dear God, Because Jesus rose from the dead, I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Offering

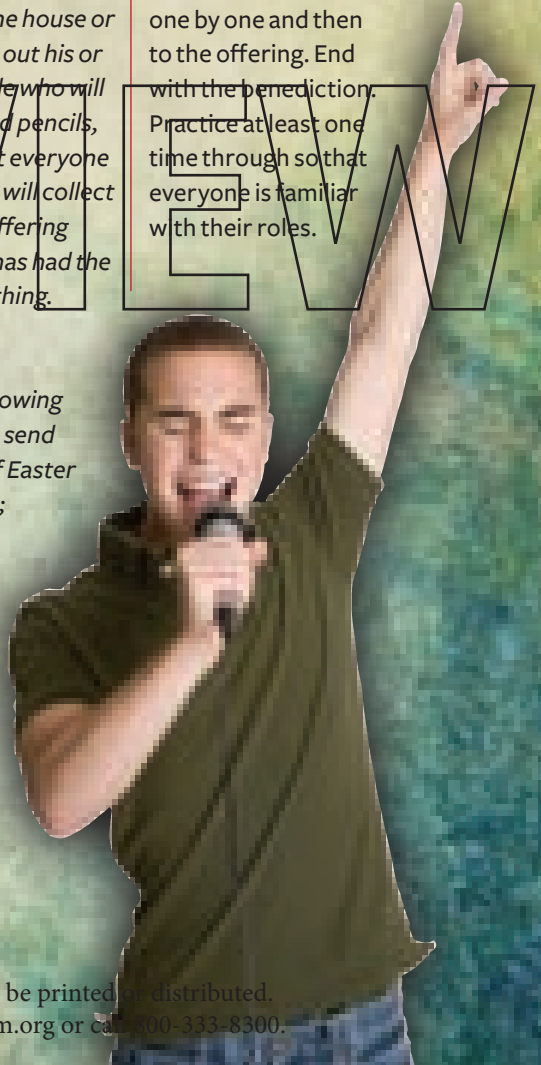
At this point in the service someone in your group will invite each person to place in the offering basket a description or drawing of something he or she would like to offer to God today. (For example, helping with a chore around the house or helping a friend figure out his or her homework.) Decide who will pass out notecards and pencils, who will describe what everyone should write, and who will collect the notecards in the offering plate when everyone has had the chance to write something.

section of the worship service, make sure everyone knows what they will be saying or doing. Your group will come forward last, after the Bible story has been shared by Group 2. Be ready to move directly into reading your sentence prayers one by one and then to the offering. End with the benediction. Practice at least one time through so that everyone is familiar with their roles.

## Benediction

Choose one of the following blessings from God to send the group home full of Easter joy: Numbers 6:24-26; 2 Corinthians 13:13; 2 Timothy 2:8a, 11. Write the passage on a large sheet of paper so everyone can read it in unison.

After you've prepared each portion of the Responding to God



# The Work <sup>of</sup> <sub>the</sub> Spirit

**Find the words** on this list in the puzzle below. Some words are backwards, some slanted to the right or left. Circle each word you find. When you've found them all, there will be twenty-six letters that haven't been used. Write the leftover letters in order (from left to right) at the bottom of the page.

## Word List

Holy Spirit  
Cornelius  
Gentiles  
Jews  
stubborn  
habits  
clean  
animals  
food  
truth  
birds  
soldiers  
rules

angel  
Peter  
obedient  
prayer  
give  
vision  
voice  
eat  
lie  
sinful  
sanctification  
pure  
servants

C S W E J T I R I P S Y L O H  
L O B E D I E N T I T R H E G  
E S R S E R V A N T S E P I E  
A S A N C T I F I C A T I O N  
N E R I E R U T A N G E L R T

T L L E E U E G I V E P O A I  
A U D Y D C I M S U S B I M L  
E R A O I T A U H E B P U R E  
T R O O R L L E S U B I R D S

P F V I S I O N T R U T H U T  
H S T I B A H S O L D I E R S

## Hidden Message!

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Dive, Year 1, Unit 5

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