

Chapter 23

The Holy Spirit Comes

The Holy Spirit guides us and comforts us.

Chapter Summary

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he promised to send someone to guide the Apostles. Jesus had commissioned the Apostles to go and spread the Good News to the world (see Matthew 28:19–20), but they were filled with fear. Mary and the Apostles were praying for nine days. The Holy Spirit descended upon them on Pentecost and filled them with his gifts to help them to participate in Jesus' mission on earth (see Acts 2:1–13). The Holy Spirit guided the Apostles and continues to guide the Church today. When we are baptized, we too are filled with the Holy Spirit and we become children of God.

More for Parents

Living out all that Jesus is asking may seem difficult and overwhelming. It is difficult; in fact, it is impossible—at least, it is impossible for us to do on our own. However, God is not asking us to do this on our own. He gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit to set us on fire with holiness. It is the Holy Spirit who will make our hearts and our families into God's kingdom. When we are moved to love, serve others, ask for forgiveness, read the Scriptures, or bring our children to the sacraments, it is the movement of the Holy Spirit in our hearts carrying out Jesus' work of redemption in us. What can your family do this week to be more aware of the movements of the Holy Spirit in your lives? What can you do to be more responsive to him?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear God, you sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles to help them proclaim the Gospel to all the world. Thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we can come to know you. Amen.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- **Who came to the Apostles on Pentecost to help them build up the Church?** (*The Holy Spirit.*)
- **Who is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity?** (*Holy Spirit.*)
- **The Church is the People of _____** (*God.*)
- **What do we call the birthday of the Church?** (*Pentecost.*)
- **Does Baptism make someone a child of God?** (*Yes.*)

Let's Live Our Faith

The Holy Spirit comes to us to teach us, to comfort, and to guide us so that we can be children of God who guide and comfort others.

- Discuss how your family can comfort others in the following situations:
 - When someone is feeling sad or alone.
 - When someone is sick.
- Discuss other examples of when you should comfort others.

Family Faith Activities

Choose one or more of the following to do as a family:

- Include praying to the Holy Spirit as part of your family prayer. Ask for the Holy Spirit to increase his gifts in each member of your family.
- After Mass, show your children the symbols of the Holy Spirit that you can find in the church: fire, dove, oil, water, etc.
- Practice making the Sign of the Cross with your children before and after all prayer.

For more family faith formation resources go to www.wordoflifeseries.org/parents.

Small Wonders



The Toys begin a middle-of-the-night adventure, in spite of their fear.

Read the full Small Wonders story at www.wordoflifeseries.org/parents.