



Holy Spirit and Spirit Baptism by Dick Gruber

Main Idea: Holy Spirit Baptism is for me.

Scripture: Acts 4:31 (NLT) “After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”

Bible Story: Acts 19:1-6

Welcome

Pray to be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit as you present this lesson.

- **Welcome**—Welcome them to the best hour of their week. Smile and show enthusiasm for God and for the kids during your welcome time. Let them know that you love them and are excited to enter God’s presence with them.
- **Introduce the Main Idea**—Read the main idea as projected and have them read it once with you. Some leaders blow a train whistle or horn and have the kids stand and shout this idea. Do this multiple times throughout the service. You want them walking away knowing the “Holy Spirit Baptism is for me.” To change this up, have the kids stand and whisper, stand and say it with an accent, or with a character voice. (I.E.: cartoon or puppet voices they know.) You may want to tell them what they will pray about at the end of the service. “Today we are talking about God’s Holy Spirit Baptism. At the end of this service, we will pray to receive this Holy Spirit baptism. If you love Jesus and are living for him, you can pray and receive this. I can hardly wait for our prayer time today.” This builds anticipation from the start of your lesson.
- **Rules**—Every children’s leader should have simple, easy-to-obey rules for every service. Examples include, “No walk, no talk,” or, “1. Honor God, 2. Honor your leaders, 3. Honor your friends.” Remind them of your rules for the service and encourage them to obey. Tell them that you believe they can follow the rules and in doing so, will have a better time than they could imagine.
- **Prayer**—Pray for God’s anointing and their self-control. Pray that each will receive more of Jesus as a result of this service.

Worship

- **Singing**—Sing one or two slow and fast songs. Choose songs that point the children toward Jesus. Scripture songs produced by JumpStart3, and Seeds Family Worship, are good for this. Some leaders utilize the same worship music being sung in the adult and youth services.
- **Testify**—Never open a children’s service to unrehearsed testimonies from the audience. Doing so only invites every child to share anything related to God or not. You can video a testimony or share a true story at this time. If a child has a valid testimony to share, practice with them before church. You may also have children finish a sentence with one word. I.E.: “I thank God for _____.” Children fill in the blank.
- **Praise Break**—Take 30 seconds to do what God’s word says. During this praise break have the kids “be still and know that He is God.” You might say, “When I say go, I want



everyone to do what the Bible says. The Bible says, “Be still and know that I am God.” For just 30 seconds we are all going to be still and know that He is God. Maybe you’ve never done this before. That’s okay. Everyone around you will be doing it so you won’t feel silly. Ready, Set, Go! Other praise breaks using Scriptural patterns include, “Shout unto God with a voice of triumph,” or, “O Lord open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.”

- **Prayer**—Pray for needs of those in the room. Encourage any child with a need or worry bigger than they are to raise their hands. It is not necessary that they share with the entire room. Pray for all with uplifted hands.
- **Giving**—Giving is part of every worship service. Giving tithe to God is an act of worship and surrender. It says, “I love God and want Him to have the first fruits of all I have and all I am.” Giving generously to missions or other needs beyond tithing is worship as well.

Word

Scripture: Acts 4:31 (NLT) “After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.”

- **Excite**—Exciting the kids about God’s Word begins with speaking it aloud. Faith does come by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Recite and repeat the verse multiple times with the kids. Say it loud and say it soft. “God’s Word is true whether we shout it or whisper it.” Repetition is the key to learning...repetition is the key to learning...repetition is the key to learning. Get it? Good!
- **Eyeful**—Illustrate the verse in a way that is comfortable for you. The revelation method is an easy one that can be done in a variety of ways. Basically, you reveal one word at a time, or you take one away. Every time a new word is revealed or discarded; you repeat the verse with the kids. This can be analog or digital. **Analog:** Draw, write, or print the words on any surface. (I.E.: paper plates, poster board, balloons, old T-shirts.) Have kids hold these as you begin the teaching. Add or take away each word as the kids repeat it. **Digital:** The same can be done virtually by projecting words or pictures for all to see. Prepare a series of slides that reveal the words in your verse. These can be reversed as kids learn the verse.
- **Explain**—Take time while learning the verse to teach its meaning. Tie the meaning to your Main Idea of the day. Kids will retain what they’ve repeated much longer because you took the time to help them understand the meaning behind what they are saying.

Bible Story: Acts 19:1-6

“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.” Paul said, “John’s baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.” As soon as they heard this,



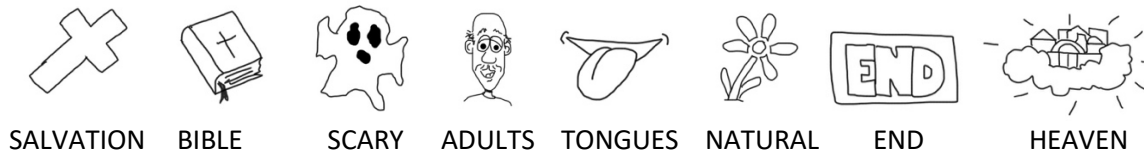
they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.” (NLT)

- **Storytelling Tips**—Know the story. Read it over and over until you know the main points and characters. There is nothing wrong with reading a Bible story, but it comes across better to the kids if you know it ahead of time. Involve the children as you tell the story. Have them act it out or reenact your telling of it. This can be done by dressing characters in bathrobes or hats, using action figures, or telling it with stuffed animal actors. Some have even used snacks to act out the story then encouraged children to act it out with their snack. Tie this story to the Main Idea of the lesson.

Message:

8 Things the Baptism in the Holy Spirit Baptism Is Not

- *When I teach this lesson, I draw the eight pictures on poster board and invite eight children to come up and hold these while I explain each. I write one word on the back of each and have the child holding it shout that word any time I point to him/her. Here are the pictures and the words to shout.*



Holy Spirit Baptism is for you. Today we are going to talk about 8 things the Holy Spirit Baptism is not. You heard me right. When you understand what this experience is not, you'll better understand what it is. First, you should know that we call this the "Baptism in the Holy Spirit," because John the Baptist and Jesus both used that name to describe this gift.

John: "I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit'" (John 1:33, NLT).

Jesus: "John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5, NLT).

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not... (This is where you start to share the pictures and words they stand for.)

- **The same as salvation**—We heard in today's Bible story that the Ephesian disciples listened to Paul talk about Jesus, believed, and were baptized in water, and then had hands laid on them to receive he Holy Spirit baptism. This baptism in the Spirit is a second unique gift available for everyone who knows Jesus. It is not the same as salvation.
- **For Bible times only**—Holy Spirit baptism is for every believer today. It is not a blessing for Bible characters only. You can receive this gift from God. On the Day of Pentecost, Peter said, "This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God" (Acts 2:39, NLT). We are those who are far away. We have been called by the Lord our God. We can receive this promise.



- **Scary**—God will not do anything scary to you. Our leaders will not do anything scary. When a girl is baptized in the Holy Spirit, she uses her own brain, tongue, and vocal cords. She can begin to speak or stop at any time. It would be scary if God moved your lips, and you had no control. Scripture says, “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline” (2 Timothy 1:7, NLT). And, talking about God’s love, John writes, “Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear” (1 John 4:18a, NLT).
- **For adults only**—Again, we look to Peter’s message on the day of Pentecost. He mentions “children, sons, daughters, and everyone” in Acts 2:17, 21, and 39. This promise is for all who believe, young or old.
- **An experience where speaking in tongues is optional**—The common New Testament experience of those baptized in the Holy Spirit was speaking with other tongues. This prayer language is given as a sign that you have received the gift. We find this happening in Acts 2, 10, and 19. In Acts 8, Simon saw and heard what was happening when Peter and John prayed for the believers to receive the Holy Spirit. Whatever he witnessed caused him to want to buy the ability to distribute this gift. When Saul/Paul came to Christ in Acts 9, Ananias obeyed the Lord and went to see him. He said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit” (vs 17, NLT). We don’t know for sure if Simon heard tongues or Paul spoke in tongues as evidence of his Holy Spirit baptism. We do know that Paul spoke in tongues later. The Biblical record shows in Acts that believers received power and a prayer language when baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- **Natural**—This is not a natural gift. No adult in this room can baptize you in the Holy Spirit. We cannot give you power to witness or teach you how to speak in tongues. Only Holy Spirit can do this. The adults cannot pray harder or louder to make this happen faster. That’s why when we pray today, we will simply ask Jesus to baptize you in His sweet Spirit. Jesus said, “So if you sinful people (*fathers*) know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him,” (Luke 11:13, NLT).
- **The end**—Being baptized in God’s Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift and a beginning. Once baptized in the Spirit, the disciples began to share the good news of Jesus with everybody. God gave them boldness and the words to say. Some kids receive this and feel that they have arrived. This is only the start of a wonderful Spirit-led life that will change your world. In Acts chapter 4, the disciples prayed. Acts 4:31 says, ““After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31, NLT). The disciples knew that they could go back to God again and again to be renewed, empowered, and filled to overflowing. This is not a one and done experience. You can receive more from Jesus every day.
- **Necessary to get you to heaven**—Remember earlier, when I said this is a second unique gift for you? Like the gift of salvation, Jesus doesn’t force anyone to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. If you know and love Jesus, you are going to heaven. Holy Spirit is with you, guiding and teaching you. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is an overflowing



experience that will renew your prayer life and give you boldness to tell others about Christ. There are plenty of Believers going to heaven that have never been baptized in the Spirit.

Response Time

Things to remember:

- **Keep it simple.** Use kid-friendly language and explain what we are praying about using few words. Do what you can to prepare ahead of time with one or two sentences explaining the prayer time. This is no time to give an additional sermon to the kids. You have just preached the theme, “Holy Spirit Baptism is for me.” Let it be for, and about, the kids.
- **Force nothing.** Remember that this is a supernatural gift. You are not the baptizer. After preaching this message faithfully, provide a time where kids can respond on their own level. God will meet them. Will they all receive today? Some will and some won’t. Why? Because God is God, and He knows each child better than they know themselves. Not all are ready to receive. Spend some time encouraging them to ask and seek. Then let God do what He will do.
- **Posture and position.** Moving to an altar space in front is a good practice. Explain, *“The front of the room has been set aside as a place to meet with God. If you are here today and want to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit - walk right down here with me. We will pray for you. You can kneel, stand, or sit to pray. Music will be playing as you come down. Remember this is a gift for those who have already asked Jesus to be their Savior and King. If you haven’t done that yet, ask one of our leaders to pray with you. Then you can ask for the Holy Spirit baptism. Those coming to receive can begin asking God. After you ask Him, start to praise Him with your mouth. Tell Jesus how much you love Him. Most people are baptized in the Spirit when they are already using their voices to worship God. As you praise Him, Holy Spirit may give you some words to say that you never learned at home or school. It won’t be scary. You may just think of a word or two. When you do, say it. You can start coming down right now.”* There is no special sauce or magic formula that gets kids baptized in the Spirit. Jesus is the Baptizer, and He is pretty good at this. He has been doing it a long time. Teach a simple lesson, provide a place, and allow them to pray. Encourage them to ask God. A posture of humility is essential. Scripture encourages us to, “Come close to God and He will come close to us.” James 4:8
NLT
- **How long?** The length of altar/response time may be determined by how much time you have for your service. Try to leave fifteen minutes or more for this. If the kids pray for a few minutes and little happens, encourage them to continue seeking when they get home. If they really pray and God moves in their lives, you may need more time. The altar starts in the front of your room and extends to the kid’s neighborhoods, homes, and backyards. Close the prayer time when it seems right. Trust Holy Spirit to lead you in this. Occasionally, prayer time extends beyond the parent’s service. When parents come to check their children out of your room, invite those whose children are still praying to join their boy or girl in prayer.



- **Encourage every child.** Encouragement is so important when praying with kids. You must be calm, cool, and patient. Every child is different, and God works in their lives in different ways. You may have several children baptized in the Spirit immediately when you open the altar time. If so, encourage them to pray in their prayer language for others at the altar. When you must close the prayer time, encourage every child. *“Some of you were not ready to pray and receive today. That is okay. When you are ready, you can pray by yourself, or ask a leader to pray for you. We are here to help you receive more of Jesus every time we meet. Some of you prayed and didn’t feel anything happen. That is okay too. You did everything right. Walk away from here today knowing that God will fill you to overflowing with His Holy Spirit any minute. Don’t believe for a minute that you didn’t get it right or that you somehow are less loved by God. Jesus loves you and He will baptize you in His Spirit at a time that is perfect for you. For some, that is in this room. For others, it may be at home or in your car. Continue to seek more of Jesus and let us know when He baptizes you in His Spirit. Some of you were baptized in the Holy Spirit today. Pray in that prayer language before you go to bed tonight. You can start and stop praying in tongues any time. You can pray in tongues when riding your bike. Just don’t pray with your eyes closed. I am so proud of every one of you. You are seeking more of Jesus in your lives and that is the best thing you can ever do.”*

Dismiss the Kids