

NEW FIRE IS COMING

A Small Group Edge Night on New Fire

SMALL GROUP EDGE NIGHT AT A GLANCE



Scripture

Luke 12:49, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 8:15



Catechism

688, 1265-1270, 1302-1303

GOAL

The goal of this Small Group Edge Night is for the youth to be inspired to live in the new fire of the Holy Spirit.

ENGAGE

The youth play a game where they have to describe words that are associated with the Holy Spirit while the other youth try to guess the word. The purpose of this game is for the youth to have fun as well as learn about some of the words that are commonly associated with the Holy Spirit.

REFLECT

The core members discuss the following main ideas:

- Particularly through our baptism and confirmation, we are made temples of the Holy Spirit.

- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are powerful and transform us if we are willing to let Him work in our lives and show us our unique path to holiness.
- The Holy Spirit enables us to go forth as a new fire, boldly proclaiming the great love Jesus has for us so we can transform the world.

RESPOND

The youth are given notecards to write down situations in their lives that need transformation. As a group, they share which gifts of the Holy Spirit they think would help in that situation and then pray for each situation. The purpose of this activity is for the youth to see how the Holy Spirit is at work in our everyday lives and the challenges we face.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Pray the Come, Holy Spirit prayer on your way to school every day this week. For an added challenge, teach it to everyone who is with you so they can pray it, too.

SUPPLIES

Each small group needs the following supplies:

- Notecards with images of the Holy Spirit written on them (made before the Small Group Edge Night)
- Notecards
- Writing utensils

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SMALL GROUP EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

ENGAGE

Introduction (10 min)

Welcome the youth, introduce any youth who are there for the first time, and begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the Small Group Edge Night using the following as an example:

Pentecost shifted history when the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to go forth and tell the world about the love of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is still with us, igniting our hearts so we can bring a new fire into the world. You are a part of this new fire. You are a part of the Church, and the Holy Spirit dwells within you. Each of you has a unique path to holiness, and the way you live your life with the Holy Spirit will transform the world.

Weekly Challenge Check In (5 min)

Ask any youth who are willing to share their experience with the weekly challenge from the previous Small Group Edge Night: Find one thing this week outside of the church that represents the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Assignment (5 min)

After beginning the small group in prayer, ask for one youth to volunteer to close the small group time in prayer at the end of the Small Group Edge Night. This prayer will be the Come, Holy Spirit prayer. By assigning this role at the beginning of the small group time, you give the youth time to prepare and prevent them from being put on the spot.



Hispanic Inculturation

Keep in mind that some Hispanic/Latino youth may have learned the Come Holy Spirit prayer in Spanish. Allow the youth to lead the prayer in Spanish if they are more comfortable. Alternatively, have printed copies of this prayer in English for the youth to read from or allow the youth to pull it up on their phone if needed.

Say What?! (15 min)

Before the Small Group Edge Night, use the list below and write each word on a notecard that has to do with the Holy Spirit.

1. Place the stack of notecards face down in a pile in the middle of the circle.
2. The youth draw a card from the pile and must describe the word on the notecard without actually saying the word.
3. If the group cannot guess the word after 30 seconds, put the card on the bottom of the pile and move on to the next youth.
4. The other youth in the group guess what the word is, and the first youth to guess correctly receives a point.
5. Play until time runs out, and give a prize to the youth who guessed the most correctly.

Use the following list of words for the Holy Spirit:

- Dove
- Fire
- Tongues of fire

- Paraclete
- Counselor
- Holy Spirit
- Spirit of Truth
- Advocate
- Water
- Seal
- Hand
- Finger

REFLECT

“New Fire is Coming” Teaching Reflection (20 min)

Use the following as a guide for a time of reflection:

Dwelling in Us

Fire is necessary for life; when human beings first discovered fire, it drastically changed the way they lived. Because of fire we have heat for our homes, sources to cook our food, and light for when it is dark. Fire is also used to refine and mold things. For example, glass blowers use fire to melt and mold glass, and some metals are melted in order to be purified. It is no coincidence that the Holy Spirit came down on Pentecost as tongues of fire and one of the symbols of the Holy Spirit is fire. The Holy Spirit is necessary for our life, and through the Holy Spirit we are transformed, molded, and refined to become holy and who God created us to be.

The Holy Spirit moves and refines us from the inside out, meaning our hearts change when the Holy Spirit transforms us. The Holy Spirit dwells in us, and we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit first through Baptism and then again in a deeper way in Confirmation. When we are baptized, all of our sins are forgiven, we become new creations as God’s children, we are made a part of the family of the Church, and we are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not only poured out upon us in our baptism but also through the Sacrament of Confirmation. When we are confirmed,

we are rooted more deeply as children of God, we are united even more closely to Jesus, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are deepened in us, our bond with Jesus is made even more firm, and we are given special strength to share our faith.

Through Baptism and Confirmation, the Holy Spirit marks us with an indelible mark; we will always belong to Christ and nothing can change that. Sin may lead us away from Jesus and we may choose not to follow the movements of the Holy Spirit, but sin can never undo what was done in our baptism and confirmation. Baptism and Confirmation work together in our lives to help us grow in holiness.

- What is the coolest thing you have ever seen done with fire?
- Is there something you learned about Baptism that you did not know before? Explain.
- Why do we choose a saint for Confirmation? How are saints an example to us of what happens in Baptism and Confirmation?

When we are baptized, we are given the gifts of the Holy Spirit; these gifts are deepened in us when we are confirmed. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. The gifts of wisdom and understanding help us know God’s will for our lives and what He is calling us to. The gift of counsel calls us to make the best choices that will lead us closer to God. The gift of fortitude leads us to act and do what is right, even if it is hard. The gift of knowledge guides us to think more about God and all He has revealed to us. The gift of piety moves us to always approach God with the love and respect due to Him. The gift of fear of the Lord inspires us to always be amazed by the greatness of God and the desire to always follow Him. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to us so we are able to respond to the movements and promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Pass out seven notecards and a writing utensil to each youth, and invite them to write down the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be used during the Respond activity.

- What is the best gift you have ever received?
- If you could have one gift of the Holy Spirit in its fullness in your life right now, which one would you choose? Why?

The Fruits of the Spirit

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we are brought into the loving relationship and life of the Holy Trinity and are given specific gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us in our daily lives. When we live our lives in the Holy Spirit and use these gifts, our lives will be transformed and we will see the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are what we experience and see in one another as a result of a life lived in the Holy Spirit. When you choose to respond to the Holy Spirit and allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to be at work in your life, every difficult situation will not just go away. However, the outcome of those situations may change because, through the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we learn how to respond to difficulties. For example, if we are moved by the gift of the Holy Spirit of counsel, which calls us to make the best choices that will lead us closer to God, we may experience the fruit of self-control so we make a good choice instead of a bad choice. We are still faced with a difficult decision, but the outcome will be different because the gift of counsel is at work. Or when we are faced with challenges in our friendships, we may find that the gift of the Holy Spirit of fortitude, which helps us do the right thing even when it is hard, leads us to confront a friend who is treating us poorly. We may experience the fruit of the Holy Spirit and continue to be gentle and kind, even if our friend is not. Remaining gentle and kind through a challenge in our friendship may help the situation to be resolved more quickly rather than escalating it. When our responses to different situations are transformed by the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, the outcome of a situation may change entirely. This type of transformation is real; while we may never see the full results, the choices we make to allow the Holy Spirit to move in and through us will make a positive difference in our lives and the lives of those around us.

- If you could only eat one fruit again in your life, which fruit would you choose?
- Which fruit of the Holy Spirit would you want to see in your life right now? Why?
- Is there a specific situation in your life that you could respond differently to? How?

While the fruits of the Holy Spirit remain the same, the way they manifest themselves in our lives will look different because we are all different. We all have unique personalities, and the way the fruits transform our lives will vary from person to person. God has a specific path for you that will lead you to holiness, and the Holy Spirit will work in your life according to that plan. Whatever path of holiness God has planned for you, it will be accompanied by an abundance of these gifts and fruits. Living your life in the Holy Spirit is exciting and a true adventure because you may not always fully understand what God is doing in your life. But, eventually, as events continue to unfold, you will see amazing things that God has done that you could never have imagined.

Share a brief story from your life about a time when you followed a prompting of the Holy Spirit that led to a blessing you could not have imagined. If you cannot think of a specific story, share a brief story about a saint who followed the Holy Spirit.

- Who do you know that lives a life in the Holy Spirit?
- What is one thing about their life that you admire or one fruit of the Holy Spirit that is obvious in their life?

New Fire Is Coming

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in tongues of fire, and that fire set the world ablaze as the good news of the love of Jesus spread throughout the whole world. At Pentecost, everything changed, but that spirit and fire have not burned out. We are a part of this new fire, and we are called to live a life in the Holy Spirit and share the good news of Jesus with others. Pentecost

did not just happen a long time ago; it is still happening now. The Holy Spirit is not just a fire we see in sacred art; He is a real and powerful person. The world needs us now — your generation needs you now — to live a life in the Holy Spirit that will transform us internally and give us the ability to do great things in our immediate and global communities.

The world needs you to live a life filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit that brings about the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The world needs you to bring those fruits of the Holy Spirit into the world. Imagine how our world would change if there was more peace, more kindness, more gentleness, more joy. The world needs you to be brave and courageous, to be a new fire. The world needs you to tell others how much God loves them and lead them to Jesus, who offers them new life.

- Who in your generation have you seen making a difference in the world?
- Do you believe you can make a difference in the world? Why or why not?
- How can the love of Jesus change someone's life?
- What is one way you can uniquely share about the love of Jesus with someone this week?



Hispanic Inculturation

Youth from Hispanic/Latino backgrounds might need to hear that the Holy Spirit's gifts can help them navigate their bicultural reality and the tension they might experience in navigating the hopes of their immigrant parents/family members with their hopes in dreams before they can start to consider how they will let the Holy Spirit work through them to transform the world. Ask them to reflect on how the Holy Spirit's peace, kindness, gentleness, joy, etc. can help them transform their reality from a burden into an opportunity to share Jesus with others.

RESPOND

Gifts of the Holy Spirit Activity (15 min)

Give each youth three notecards, and ask them to write down on a notecard at least one general situation youth face that represents something that needs transformation. For example, a feeling of isolation in friendships, struggles with school, disappointment in activities they used to be really good at or enjoy, etc.

The core member collects the notecards from the youth and silently reads them as they are turned in. There will not be enough time to go through all of the cards, so choose the ones that are most appropriate. (Make sure core members follow up with the youth minister if any youth turn in cards that indicate a situation might need further pastoral care.)

After the youth have turned in their cards, ask them to take out their notecards on which they wrote the gifts of the Holy Spirit during the talk. Place one of the notecards with a situation written on it in the middle of the circle, and ask the youth to put down a notecard with a gift of the Holy Spirit on it that they think would be most helpful in the situation. Use the following

to remind them what each gift of the Holy Spirit does:

- Wisdom: to know God's plan for my life
- Understanding: to comprehend what God is calling me to
- Knowledge: to think more about God and all He has revealed to us
- Counsel: the ability to make the best choices that will lead me closer to God
- Fortitude: the ability to act and do what is right, even if it is hard
- Piety: to always approach God with the love and respect that is due to Him
- Fear of the Lord: to always be amazed by the greatness of God and desire always to follow Him

Take a few minutes to note any similarities and differences in the cards — if there is a majority or a variety of answers — and ask two to three youth to share why they chose that gift. After the discussion, take a moment to pray for the situation, that the Holy Spirit would pour out the gift of “___” upon all those involved in the situation.

Continue to do this for each card, asking different youth to share their responses each time, for as long as time allows.



Step It Up

If you have time, ask the youth to determine a fruit of the Holy Spirit that could come as a result of how the gift of the Holy Spirit directs a decision. For example, “a friendship with a lot of drama” needs the gift of counsel to help direct the friendship and conversation to things that will lead them closer to God and a result is the fruit of peace.

Closing Prayer (5 min)

End the Small Group Edge Night by allowing the youth who was chosen at the beginning of the small group time to close in prayer, using the Come, Holy Spirit prayer below. Following the prayer, give the youth their weekly challenge.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the Earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ, our Lord, amen.

Weekly Challenge

Pray the Come, Holy Spirit prayer on your way to school every day this week. For an added challenge, teach it to everyone who is with you so they can pray it, too.