

**WEEK:**

Pentecost Sunday (May 31, 2020)

**MASS READINGS:****FIRST READING:**

Acts 2:1-11

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34

**SECOND READING:**

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

**GOSPEL:**

John 20:19-23

**KEY WORDS:**

Empowerment, Identity, Grace, Fortitude, Mercy, Mission

**KEY THEMES:**

- When God gives us a mission, He gives us what we need to accomplish it in His name.
- The Holy Spirit is how we come to know Christ; Christ is how we come to know the Father.
- We must never grow slack in our zeal — this gift of Christ is designed for ALL to share, not for a select few. The Church always has room for more souls!

*As you work through these readings, reflections, and questions as a family, encourage everyone to write down any questions that come up. If you are able to answer the questions, great, but do not feel like you have to have all the answers. Encourage your teen(s) and explain that we are all growing in our understanding. Remind them that together, as a family, you will work to find the answers*

*through online research, by asking your parish priest, by contacting your youth minister, etc.*

**THE ASCENT****Welcome and Introduction (5 min)**

Pick a comfortable place in your home and gather together. Ask each family member to share one “high point” and one “low point” from their week.

**Guess That Icon (10 min)**

Invite each family member to draw a symbol of the Holy Spirit within several other items, so the symbol is not obvious. When everyone is ready, invite one person to show their collage to the family. The first person to identify the symbol of the Holy Spirit in the image receives one point. Repeat until each person has shown their collage. Come up with a creative prize for the person with the most points at the end of the game.

*If you have younger children, help them by telling them a symbol of the Holy Spirit that is easy to draw (a flame, a dove, etc.).*

**LECTIO****Opening Prayer**

Invite one member of your family to lead an opening prayer, either creating their own prayer or using the following:

Come, Holy Spirit. Show us the way to the Father. Teach us how to pray. Inspire us to follow Jesus' example. Fill us with your presence, here in this moment. Help us ensure that our actions point others to God. Amen.

**Our Voice (10 min)**

One by one, have each member of your family answer the following questions to prepare for the topic of the session:

- When you think of the Holy Spirit, what is the first thing you think of? Why?
- What is your relationship like with the Holy Spirit?

### **Reflection: Pentecost Sunday (5 min)**

Watch the *Summit* reflection video for Pentecost Sunday, which can be found on the Life Teen YouTube channel under the Summit Teaching Videos playlist. This video provides a thematic overview to the session.

### **God's Voice (5 min)**

Read Acts 2:1-11 aloud. Before reading, encourage everyone to actively listen to the passage. Invite another person to read the passage a second time. After the second read-through, invite everyone to open their Bibles and silently read the passage a third time. Allow time to pause and reflect between read-throughs.

*If your family does not have access to a Bible, use the online Bible from the USCCB. If you have younger children, ask them to prayerfully listen to the readings as they use orange, red, or yellow construction paper or tissue paper to make a tongue of fire for each member of the family.*

## **MEDITATIO**

### **Reflecting on God's Voice (10 min)**

Offer the following questions for silent reflection and journaling:

- Is it easy or difficult for you to pray to the Holy Spirit? Why?
- Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit stirring in you prompting you to do something? What were you being prompted to do? Did you listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Why or why not?

*If you have younger children, challenge them to use a picture Bible and find symbols or stories of the Holy Spirit. If you do not have a picture or children's Bible at home,*

*ask them to color the symbol of the Holy Spirit collages you made during the opening activity.*

## **ORATIO**

### **Discussing God's Voice (30 min)**

Following the silent reflection, discuss the reading. The following questions are a great starting point for the discussion, but be open to where the Holy Spirit may guide it. Consider alternating who asks the question, giving each person a chance to ask a question and lead the discussion. As a parent, you should also participate in the conversation in an honest way and offer guidance based on your life experience, but use discretion on what you do and do not want to share about your personal life with your teen(s).

- What does today's first reading teach us about the Church? What does it teach us about unity and how we are to treat one another?
- In what ways do you feel empowered by the Holy Spirit? Do you feel empowered to go out like the disciples did? Why or why not?
- What gifts has the Holy Spirit bestowed upon you? How do you use these gifts to build the Kingdom of God on Earth?
- What keeps you from using the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you?
- Is there a gift of the Holy Spirit you would like more of? How would this gift help you become a better disciple?

*If you have younger children, consider having this discussion with your teen(s) after your younger children have gone to bed.*

## **CONTEMPLATIO**

### **Litany of the Saints (10 min)**

Explain to your children how the Holy Spirit is poured out upon them in their baptism and confirmation, and remind

them that we are all called to live a life in the Holy Spirit. However, the workings of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives looks different, and one of the greatest examples we have of this is the lives of the saints.

At this time, have each family member share which saint they chose for their confirmation and why. If someone has not been confirmed, simply have them share about a saint they like or know about. After everyone has shared, ask for the saints to pray for you all as you learn to follow the Holy Spirit and grow in holiness. Using the saints that were mentioned, any family saints, and any saints family members were named after, close by having one family member say, "St. (fill in the saint's name)." The rest of the family responds, "Pray for us."

### **Weekly Challenge**

Look up a different saint each day this week; learn about their life and pray for their intercession.