

What are some of the signs of the Holy Spirit's presence in us?

Objectives

By the end of this lesson, the students should be able to

- recognize signs of the Holy Spirit's presence in us.
- state that we look to Jesus and the saints to learn how to be Christian.
- find the reference to the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:16-25.
- recognize that learning to live in the Holy Spirit takes a lifetime.

For the Catechist

In the Gospels Jesus speaks of people predicting the weather by telltale signs: the budding fig tree signals the approach of summer (Matthew 24:32), and clouds announce an imminent shower (Luke 12:54-56). Jesus also pointed to telltale signs that are part of our spiritual life. The believer He compares to a branch which bears fruit and is joined to the vine (John 15:2-6, ft). The spiritual leaders He compares to trees and their works to the tree's fruit: "You can tell a tree by its fruit" (Matthew 7:16-20). God is glorified, Jesus says, when His followers manifest signs that they are His disciples by bearing fruit.

Saint Paul carries this symbolism one step further. In Galatians 5, he compares the characteristics of one in Christ with those of unbelievers. Those who live in the Holy Spirit manifest the "fruit" of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit's gift of wisdom enables us to grasp what is our birthright and to manifest this "fruit" of the Spirit.

This last lesson of Unit 1 ends with this reference to the "fruit" of the Spirit to help the children realize we can be recognized as Christians if we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. "We Have Been Called by God" is the title for this unit, and appropriately the unit ends with the children learning about the "fruit"

Materials Needed

Opening and Closing Prayers: Prayer page

Review: Paper, pens, or pencils

Introduction: Note cards with the words *fear, anger, happiness, excitement* written on them

The Message: Pens, note cards, New Testament

Application: White paper or construction paper, markers and pens or pencils

Icons and Pictures

Come Bless the Lord: The Theophany

For Next Week's Lesson

Invite your priest to the next class, Lesson 6, for an interview. Call him or write an invitation that tells him the date and the time—ten minutes planned at the beginning or the end of the class. (More information is on back of the Unit 2 title page.)

Connections

1. Opening Prayer (2 minutes)

Materials: Prayer Page

Invite the class to stand by the icon and remain silent for a few seconds before making the sign of the cross.

- Pray or sing "We have seen the True Light. . ."

2. Review (Baptism) (3 minute)

Have the students turn to this unit's title page in their books. Work in groups and have each group answer the question under the title of one of the lessons. Let all the groups guess at the answer for this lesson.

Alternate: Use Teaching Pics S1-S7, Baptism. Give each student one picture and have the student explain what is happening in the picture.

3. Introduction (2 minutes)

Hand out note cards with the following words: *fear; anger; happiness, excitement*. Have the students work in groups to plan a short scene that shows this emotion. Present the scene and guess the emotion.

- *Is it easy to recognize what the people are feeling? Why? (Sometimes their actions are obvious.)*
- *Can we recognize Christian people just as easily? (We should be able to, but it is not always obvious.)*

Connect this idea of recognizing what we feel or what we are by what we do to the idea of the lesson: We can recognize Christians by their actions and attitude.

Notes for the lesson:

(Use this space to write helpful hints to use each year)

The Message

4. Our Actions

(5 minutes)

a) Before the reading, write the words "Actions speak louder than words" on the board. Ask the students what that means.

b) Have the students read this page silently or aloud.
Ask:

- *Can you think of any other times that we say something and then we can show the same with our actions?*
- *Does anyone have any "church " examples? (We say we will and we do pay attention the entire Liturgy; we say we will pray every morning and we do pray every morning.)*

Supplementary Activity:

(Activity 1 on the back of the unit page) Write the question for this lesson on the board or on a poster board: *What are some signs of the Holy Spirit's presence in us?* Write the following answers after you read them in the text:

1. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is part of our life.
2. We help other people.
3. We do what we say we are going to do.
4. We pray to the Holy Spirit to help us live God's way.

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A Christian Is...

What are some of the signs of the Holy Spirit's presence in us?



Our Actions
All Christians have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, but not all Christians act in a way that shows it. They are the ones who are not aware of the great treasure that has been given to them. These people have been given the Holy Spirit, but they do not reflect His presence.

When people are aware that the Holy Spirit is within them, they let the Holy Spirit guide their lives. When a Christian follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it shows! Their lives are different, and people can see the signs of the Holy Spirit's presence in them.

Have you ever heard the saying "Actions speak louder than words?" Our actions tell other people what we are willing to do. Sometimes we only say that we will study and get better grades, but when we sit at our desk and read our textbook, we show that we are trying to get better grades.

Promising to help our parents over the weekend is easy, but actually getting up early on Saturday morning to clean shows our parents we mean it. Also, our actions show our parents that we care about them. When we say we love you to our parents but we do not listen or help them, we are not showing our love. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us to show our love always.

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Background Reading:

(Christian Initiation)

"We are not fully alive or human until we receive the life of the Spirit. A light bulb is not fulfilling its purpose unless it is connected to a power source and electricity courses through it. A stained glass window is not all it is meant to be until sunlight is pouring through it. While the electricity and sunlight are not part of the bulb or window, these things are not complete until the light or power actually do pass through and fill them. Unless our spirit is united to the Spirit of God, we do not have the life that enables us to recover the likeness. By uniting ourselves to Christ in the Mysteries of Christian Initiation, we are put back on track, we are born again as adopted children of the Father, fulfilling His plan for us:

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' (Galatians 4:4-6)" (LLIII 19).

5. Our Examples

(5 minutes)

a) Have the students read the first two paragraphs. Ask:

- *What is a parable? (A story that teaches a lesson)*
- *Why did Jesus tell parables? (To teach us how to act the way God asks of us)*
- *What can we learn by reading about the lives of the saints? (How to follow God's way)*

b) Read the last paragraphs.

Ask: *Can you think of any other times when people your age worry more about what other people think rather than what God wants? What should we do when that happens to us?*

Background Reading:

(Cooperation between God and People)

"Clement of Alexandria coined the word synergy, which indicates the cooperation between the divine energy and the human will. The greatest example of this is the fiat of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Such cooperation exists between God and a human person and in the communion of people among themselves. We share our life within the Church, which is a source of divine energy. Those on earth pray together with those in heaven. This communion of saints binds us all together in love. As we ask others on earth to join us in prayer, so, too, we ask the saints in heaven to join us in prayer" (UCD 38-39).

6. Let us remember that...

(2 minutes)

Have the students read the sidebar on this page. Ask:

What words would you use to describe prayer?

Supplementary Activity:

(Activity 2 on the back of the unit page) Have the students make note cards to be used for review.

7. My Story

(5 minutes)

Read this section aloud. Ask the students to become silent for a few seconds as they think about the Holy Spirit being one with them. Tell them to ask the Holy Spirit to help them write their prayer. Give them a few minutes to write the prayer.

Our Examples
Christians look to Jesus to learn how to show God's love in everything they do. In the New Testament we hear Jesus tell parables that help people learn how to act in the way God asks. Also, we read stories about Jesus feeding the hungry and healing the sick. When we read the Word of God, we see Jesus act the way God wants all of us to behave.

Also, we can learn how to be Christian by reading about the lives of the saints. We see how, as they became aware of God's love for them, their lives changed. We can start by looking to the Theotokos, the Mother of God. Once she said "Yes" to God, her life changed. After Jesus called the Apostles, their lives, too, were changed. For our lives to change now that we are members of God's family, we have to make choices every day that show we are following God's way.

But that is difficult some days. We worry about what other people might say about us. What would our friends say if we asked the new student in school to sit at our lunch table? What would our friends do if we volunteered to help someone study after school rather than run to the soccer field?

When we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we do not worry what our friends will say about us. Instead we think about what Jesus would want us to do. As Christians we spend our lives learning how to follow Jesus' example.

Let us remember that . . .
The Way is the name used for Christianity in the Acts of the Apostles. It was used to show that our faith is a complete "way of life."
"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God."
(Saint John Damascene)
"Without frequent prayer it is not possible to find one's way to God Only being faithful to prayer will lead a person to enlightenment and union with Christ."
(The Way of the Pilgrim)

My Story
Some days we worry more about what other people are saying about us rather than what Jesus would want us to do. Those are the times we need to ask the Holy Spirit to guide us.
Think about one time that happened to you. On the lines below write a prayer to the Holy Spirit asking for His guidance. Then memorize that prayer and say it whenever you are in a situation that you need the courage to be Christian.
Prayer to the Holy Spirit

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8. Fruit of the Holy Spirit (10 minutes)

- a) Have the students read the first paragraph and turn to the Scripture. Have them read verse 16 aloud together.
- b) Tell the students to pick any four words and write them. Help them realize that all the words are about physical pleasure.
- c) Have the children read the first paragraph in the second column and then read Galatians 5:22-23 again. Write the words in the blanks and discuss how each one positively affects other people.
- d) Read the remaining paragraphs and ask:
 - *How many of you have relatives who are older than your parents? Let's be silent for a few seconds and think how even they are trying to become one with God just as you are.*
 - *Why does it take a lifetime to learn to live in union with God? (Because each day we have new experiences and new choices)*

Supplementary Activity:

Materials: Coat hanger, construction paper, ribbon, yarn, markers, scissors, hole punch, glue

Make a mobile called "Signs of a Christian."

1. Wrap ribbon around to cover the metal of the coat hanger and tie in a bow at the center of the bottom part.
2. Write each fruit of the Holy Spirit on construction paper and cut out the words in different shapes.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the shape and pull the yarn through the hole, hang the yarn from the hanger, and tie the ends together.
4. Continue with steps 2 and 3 until all the characteristics are placed.
5. On construction paper write "Signs of a Christian" on two strips of paper. Place the strips across the entire open space of the hanger and glue the ends to the hanger.

Fruit of the Holy Spirit
From the Scripture we learn how we are to live. We also hear about what we should not do. Let's turn to the New Testament.
Galatians 5:16-23. This passage starts by telling us we are to "live by the Spirit." Read verse 16 to hear how it is said.

Saint Paul goes on to tell us what we are interested in if we are guided by our flesh, our bodies. List only four of the "works of the flesh" that Saint Paul identifies:

1. hatreds
2. rivalry
3. jealousy
4. envy

What will the people who live this way not inherit?
_____ (v. 22)

But if we live by the Holy Spirit, we will inherit the Kingdom of God. Also, Saint Paul tells us we will experience the "fruit of the Spirit." List the "fruit" Saint Paul identifies:

1. love
2. joy
3. peace
4. patience
5. kindness
6. generosity
7. faithfulness
8. gentleness
9. self-control

We are not the only ones who benefit from the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Everyone with whom we come in contact benefits. Other people see our joy and love as a sign of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Also, we share with them our joy and love and make them happy.

God asks all Christians to live every day showing that He is most important in our lives. One way we can do that is by making choices that show God is with us. Actually ten- and eleven-year-old Christians and eighty-year-old Christians are expected to make the same choice every day—to follow God's way in everything they do. That means learning to live in union with God takes a lifetime!

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Background Reading:

(Fruit of the Spirit)

"He does not say 'the work of the Spirit,' but 'the fruit of the Spirit.' . . . Why the 'fruit' of the Spirit—because evil works originate in ourselves alone, and therefore he calls them 'works.' Godliness, however, requires not only our diligence but God's own loving kindness. He first mentions the source of these good things, then proceeds to number them in these words, 'Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, temperance; against such there is no law.' He completely and strikingly puts aside the law, not as bad, but as inferior to the wisdom given by the Spirit" (Saint John Chrysostom, Commentary on Galatians 5:22).

(Spiritual Growth)

"Likewise, the celebration of the Mysteries of Initiation marks the beginning of a process that lasts for all eternity. In fact, spiritual growth can be viewed as the actualization of the dynamic potential of these Mysteries within us: our gradual transformation and assimilation into Christ by the power of the Spirit in them ..."
(LLIII 29).

Application

9. Heroes of Eastern Christianity

(*St John the Almsgiver*)
(10 minutes)

Ask for eight volunteers to read this story about Saint John aloud. Each student reads a paragraph because the story is about the different people talking about Saint John.

Have the students write their answers for the "What do you think?" section.

Possible answer for the first question:

1. His life reflects kindness and faithfulness.

Optional Activity 1

(*Life of St John the Almsgiver*)

Materials: White paper, construction paper, glue, scissors, copy of the icon.

Have the students write a summary about the life of Saint John the Almsgiver. Paste a copy of his icon on a sheet of construction paper, and under it paste the summary. Display this page in the classroom or on a church bulletin board. Also, the page can be laminated and placed in a notebook or folder that can be called *Our Book of Christian Heroes*.

Optional Activity 2

(*Your Questions*)

Have the students work in groups as they answer the following questions:

- What question would you have asked Saint John if you could have talked to him when he was alive?
- What do you think he would have answered?

Let the students share their answers with the entire class.

Heroes of Eastern Christianity



Saint John the Almsgiver
One day in Alexandria everyone was very excited over the election of the new bishop. The following conversation among friends explains the reason for the excitement.

"I have never heard of an election of a bishop like this before. Names were brought forth as candidates to be our new bishop—devout monks from the desert and well-known priests from the city's churches—but no one was approved. Finally someone in the crowd called out, 'We want John of Cyprus.'

"Everyone began shouting: 'John of Cyprus—let him be our bishop!' When it was clear that the people would have no other, the priests sent a message to John telling him of the people's decision.

"Praise God! John is a good man, one who truly follows Christ, but this action is very unusual. When we select a bishop, it is usually a very solemn affair with nominations, ballots, and other formalities. But you heard how everyone in the church just kept calling out for John.

"But there is something even more unusual. For many years now the bishop has been picked from among holy monks or at least from among the priests or deacons. This is the first time I ever heard that a layman has been elected bishop.

"John is so special for many reasons. He came from a wealthy family in Cyprus. In fact, his father was the governor there for many years. When John grew up, he married and began raising a family, but his wife and children soon died, and John was left alone. People say that when his family died like that, John realized that nothing on earth is ours to keep. And so he began to share all that he had with those in need.

"Remember how during the great sickness, John opened his house to the sick and dying and turned it into a hospital! He provided food and medicine, and even helped take care of the sick himself. Even now, people in need know that they will never be refused help if they turn to John. He is so well known for his generosity that people have nicknamed him 'John Who Shares His Wealth.'"

The people continued to be pleased with everything John did as Patriarch of Alexandria. When the Persian armies invaded Syria, many refugees fled to Egypt. John organized the relief operations for them and saved many lives. His kindness to the Syrians was so well known that when the Persians finally invaded Egypt as well, John was forced to flee to his native Cyprus where he died, an exile from the city which loved him so much.

What do you think?

1. How does Saint John's life reflect the following fruit of the Holy Spirit—kindness and goodness?

2. How does your life reflect the fruit of the Spirit?

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10. Action Plan

(8 minutes)

Use this page to help the students visualize themselves being Christian. If a student cannot think of something he or she did, ask:

- *Did you ever help a new person in school? How?*
- *Do you help take care of your brothers or sisters? How?*
- *Do you visit your grandparents? What do you do there?*

After they are done, have the students show their drawings and read their scripts. Praise each one by applauding. [Another way to praise is by adding a sticker after it is read.]

11. Summary

(4 minutes)

Give each person a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to draw something that will remind them of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Under the drawing have them write why this will remind them. Have them share their drawings in class. While they are sharing, help them review the following:

1. We cannot visibly see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the signs that the Holy Spirit is present.
2. We can learn to recognize the signs by looking to the saints and learning about how they acted.
3. Throughout our lifetime we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

12. Closing Prayer

(2 Minutes)

Have the students say the prayer to the Holy Spirit that they wrote for "My Story" and/or
Pray the Vespers Sticheron for Saint John the Almsgiver, November 12 (page 124).

For Next Week's Lesson:
Invite your priest to the next class, Lesson 6, for an interview.

Action Plan

One Day in My Life

Think of some of your actions that show you are a Christian. Now think about making a movie of your life and have it show your Christian acts. But before you would begin taping the movie, you would have to plan the scenes. Use the four squares on this page to plan out what you will show: In the square use stick figures for the people and write the words that they will say in the circles above the people. Add more circles and squares if you need them. Or you could use all four squares to show different parts of the same scene.

<p>At home:</p> <p>Mom, do you need help?</p> <p>Sure, help me put away the groceries.</p>	<p>Dad, I'd like to help Grandpa. I want to offer to mow his lawn.</p> <p>Great idea!</p>
<p>At school:</p> <p>May I sit at the table?</p> <p>Okay, aren't you the new girl? What to meet my friends?</p>	<p>What are they doing?</p> <p>Picking up the trash around the school. Let's help.</p>

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Background Reading

(Our Relationship with God)

“For the early Christian union with Christ in baptism was more enduring than the blood relationships in a family, as it lasted unto eternity.

"Our contemporary culture cannot envision such a union because it esteems neither relationships nor permanency as traditional cultures do. We characterize ourselves first and foremost as individuals. We see ourselves in terms of what separates us from others: our jobs, our status, our bank accounts, the kind of car we drive—all the things that set us apart from others. We value individual traits such as creativity or productivity over relationships. What relationships we do have are compartmentalized, particularly in urban life, and often of short duration. We seem to disconnect from friendships and even marriages as easily as we turn off the television" (ID 24-25).

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true
Light. We have received
the heavenly Spirit.
We have found the true
faith, worshipping the
undivided Trinity who
has saved us.

The Melkite Greek Catholic Church

We Have Seen The True Light

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The Melkite Greek Catholic Church

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true
light. We have received
the heavenly Spirit.
We have found the true
faith. We adore the
undivided Trinity for It
has saved us.

The Romanian Greek Catholic Diocese
of Canton

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The Romanian Greek Catholic Diocese
of Canton

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith; and we worship the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us.

The Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan Province

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit; we have found the true faith; and we worship the undivided Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us.

The Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic
Metropolitan Province

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.

The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of
Saint Josaphat

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.

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We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.

The Ukrainian Catholic Synod

We Have Seen The True Light

We have seen the true light. We have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith. We worship the undivided Trinity for having saved us.

The Ukrainian Catholic Synod

Vespers Sticheron November 12

Noting the purity and uprightness of your spirit and the divine direction of your way of life, O wise Father, He who sees in secret placed you on the patriarchal throne and consecrated your perfection with myrrh, O wondrous hierarch John. He entrusted to you the guidance of the flock which you led to the harbor of the divine will.

Vespers Sticheron November 12

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Unit 1

We Have Been Called by God

Review

Use the following review questions at the end of this unit or the beginning of the next unit. You can divide the students into two groups, and have them compete for points. Or, you can have them work in groups and have one question answered by each person. Then have them take turns to explain the answer for each question.

1. *What do we promise to do in the New Covenant?*
(Lesson 1) We promise to believe in Jesus Christ, to live as Jesus taught, and to follow the New Commandment.
2. *What can we learn from the saints?*
(Lesson 5) We can learn how to make choices that identify us as followers of Jesus Christ.
3. *What two saints are called the 'Leaders of the Apostles and Teachers of the World'?*
(Lesson 3) Saints Peter and Paul.
4. *Explain what it means to "put on Christ."*
(Lesson 2) In the Mystery of Baptism, we "put on Christ" which means that we become one with Christ. Also, we become a member of the Church, the Body of Christ.
5. *Who are the Church Fathers?*
Lesson 4: They are those teachers from the early centuries of the Church whose writings have been especially important in developing the Church's thinking. Some examples are Saint Anthony the Great, Saint Basil the Great, Saint John Chrysostom, and Saint John of Damascus.