

## Family Formation

### Session 4: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Possible song: “Come Holy Spirit” (Fr. Mike Semana)

#### Background for Parents

Read the “With the Family” section. There are many good books on how the Charismatic Renewal began in the Catholic Church—one book we recommend is Kevin and Dorothy Ranaghan’s *Catholic Pentecostals Today*. If you have never been Baptized in the Holy Spirit yourself, we recommend that if you know someone that has been baptized in the Holy Spirit, ask them to pray over you for this Baptism. If you do not know of anyone, we recommend that you spend time pondering Acts 2:1-41 and Acts 10:1-49. You might ask at your local parish if the pastor knows of anyone who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and then contact them. If you still cannot find anyone, then in all humility, pray the same prayer that your family will be praying and ask for the Holy Spirit to come and fill you up.

#### With the family

Start with the “Come Holy Spirit” prayer. Talk about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Tell the children about when you were baptized in the Holy Spirit and what difference it made in your life (possibly giving you an insatiable thirst to read Scriptures, confidence, love, trust, hunger to know the Lord, forgiveness, etc.—the list is inexhaustible!). If you have never been Baptized in the Holy Spirit, then tell how you are looking forward to this experience. The Holy Spirit comes and cleans up the ugly things inside of me, like jealousy, anger, hatred, etc. so He can create a bigger place inside of me for Jesus to live.

The Holy Spirit is gentle—He will not force us to accept Him. Mention the picture of Jesus standing at the door knocking; this is like Jesus standing, knocking at the door of our hearts, wanting to come live inside our heart and love other people through us.

The Holy Spirit wants to make us holy (make us more like Jesus) and wants to use us to help encourage others to be holy, too.

What can the family expect? So often we think of God as a “dripper”—only giving us a little drop of water after we beg Him for help. Will God only give us one little drop when we pray? Is this how God fills us? (If you want to make this example more graphic, have a water dropper and have one of the family members begging God for His graces and help. After they beg, drop on little drop of water on their head, and ask, “Is this how God fills us? One little drop at a time?” Then have the same family member begging for God to help them, saying “That was nice God but I need more.” Then say, “No, when we go to pray, ask for help, or are filled with the Holy Spirit. . . we are filled to overflowing!” At this point you can pour water from a pitcher over the child’s head (of course with the child’s earlier approval) but don’t tell the rest of the family!! This really gets the concept of how God is willing to fill us to overflowing, plus it adds some fun to the session!! You can always do this on a linoleum floor, or have towels on the floor, or

go outside if the weather permits.) The whole point is: God wants to and will fill us to overflowing if we allow Him. God loves us and He wants to fill us to overflowing—we have to want to receive Him.

The biggest part is SURRENDER—“Take over my life, Jesus. I can’t do it by myself anymore.” Sometimes we still want to do things our way but God’s way is the best way for our life. Give an example of surrender from your personal life.

Have you ever been at a Charismatic Conference and heard people praying in language that you never heard before? Read Acts 2:4, 6-8. This prayer language is called “tongues.”

- It is a prayer language—people are praying but the Holy Spirit is giving them the words to pray.
- Same as when the disciples in the Upper Room prayed in languages they did not understand.
- Don’t be afraid of the gift of tongues—you can start & stop it whenever you want to.
- It’s a beautiful gift to be able to pray as the Holy Spirit wants to pray.
- While you pray in tongues, keep your focus on praising God.
- Give an example of how you use the gift of tongues.

The Holy Spirit comes with His 7 Gifts—Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Any time the Holy Spirit touches you, you **will** be changed, even if you don’t necessarily feel it! (You do not have to list all of these but here are some suggestions.)

- You may want to pray more. You might feel a deep love and compassion for others as your  
brothers and sisters in Christ (PIETY).
- You might begin to understand the Bible for the first time in your life (UNDERSTANDING).
- You might feel a strong sense of peace and joy that you have never felt before and you might  
begin to understand things from God’s point of view (WISDOM).
- You might be filled with super-duper courage (FORTITUDE).
- You might know what to do in certain situations that you didn’t know what to do in before  
(COUNSEL).
- You might be filled with a distaste for sin—you only want to do what pleases God (FEAR of the  
LORD)
- You might begin to appreciate and see God’s presence in people, nature, and things  
(KNOWLEDGE).

There is a simple process to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

- 1) We have to admit that I am a sinner and that I am sorry for my sins.
- 2) We acknowledge that I need God to be in charge of my life.
- 3) I can not do it by myself anymore; I need God's help.
- 4) Please come fill me with Your Holy Spirit!

Then pray over each of the children individually for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, remembering to ask for those gifts that were indicated on last week's handout. You can ask each one individually to repeat the 4 points above if this is where they are at, and then you can call down the Holy Spirit. If your children have already been baptized in the Holy Spirit, pray over them for the stirring up of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. If your child is not ready to make this commitment in their heart, then you can pray with them for the desire for Jesus to fill their heart.

Now it's time to celebrate!! Maybe make sundaes together as a family and answer any questions they may have. Encourage the children to discuss their experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, and talk about how the Baptism in the Holy Spirit will help them in their day-to-day living. Sometimes they might not notice the impact of the Baptism but that doesn't mean that nothing happened. They may have felt an awareness of the Lord's presence with them, or super-duper Holy Spirit courage to do what they know they should do, maybe they will have a craving to pray or read the Bible—the list goes on and on.

Throughout the week:

Point out the gifts of the Holy Spirit as you see them operating within yourself and others throughout the week. Make an extra effort to ask for these gifts yourself and then share with your family the fruits. As incidences arise in your family that need the Holy Spirit's presence, make an effort to stop with your family and ask for the Holy Spirit and His gifts to come. Oftentimes it can take awhile for us to see the fruits of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. From time to time throughout this week, ask the children if they notice any difference within themselves from being baptized in the Holy Spirit. For shy children, it may be more beneficial to discuss with them in private. Encourage them to journal their experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Incorporate the "Come Holy Spirit" prayer into your family prayers.