



Date: _____
Series: Holy Spirit Blaze
Summer Year 1, Lesson 3

The Holy Spirit Brings Us to Faith

Take Home Point: *The Holy Spirit brings us to faith. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 10:19-48

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:3b, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit."

We will help kids know:

- The Holy Spirit brings us to faith; only by his power, can we believe.
- The Holy Spirit always uses the gospel message to bring us to faith.
- The Bible event of Cornelius coming to faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident that they can trust God's power working faith in their lives.
- Empowered to receive Christ as their Savior, if they never have.

We will help kids do:

- Play a game blowing feathers that illustrates God giving us faith.
- Experience what faith feels like in a trust fall.
- Watch a video of Cornelius's conversion and make observations in the Bible.
- Share with others where they are spiritually in their faith walk.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids have a contest to see who can keep their feather in the air the longest and discuss what it means to have faith.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one-half of a straw per kid • small down feather per triad • small candy reward for winners
Large Group 	5 8 10 10	<p>Overview</p> <p>Teaching point: Coach Widaspirit challenges the kids to see who can hold their breath the longest. His point is that we need air to fill us to live, just like we need the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's presence to live eternally.</p> <p>Video: <i>Visual Bible Acts 10:19-48</i>—The Bible event of Cornelius and how he came to faith.</p> <p>Audience Participation Skit: Coach Widaspirit invites Busy Betty, Slick Sam, Terrible Tony, and Faithful Frank to share how to receive Jesus as Savior.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coach's outfit: a baseball cap, whistle and a t-shirt or jersey with—HOLY SPIRIT BLAZE on it • small feather • masking tape • clear tape • straws (<i>one for each triad</i>) • scissors • small treats for winners • video: <i>Visual Bible: Acts</i> produced by Visual Bible International, 1997—order from www.christiancinema.com • response cards for Busy Betty, Slick Sam, Terrible Tony, and Faithful Frank (<i>see appendix p. 13-14</i>) • four bags: one is a duffle bag overflowing with sports equipment, one duffle bag with a nice sports outfit inside, one <i>brown</i> bag with an old t-shirt in it, one duffle bag that is empty
Small Group Application 	6	Kids discuss the playing field and where they are on the bases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running the Bases of Faith sheet for each student (<i>p. 15</i>)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Summertime Options

Regular Shepherd Option: Do the Warm-Up activity as a small group. If you like, you can still divide into triads within your small group. This helps each child participate more.

Easier Summer Option: Instead of having kids in small groups with an assigned shepherd, the kids can meet all together and divide themselves into triads (groups of three). This allows for larger ratios between students and shepherds. Shepherds will monitor the kids' activity as needed by roaming from group to group. The questions and directions for all the kids and their groups are by the large group presenter. If this is used, go to the introduction of large group to introduce the main character used in this series.

Supplies: straws (cut in half), small down feather per triad, small candy reward for winners

Divide kids into triads and give each triad one feather. Say:

We will have a contest to see who can keep their feather in the air the longest without having any body parts touch it. You are only allowed to keep it in the air by blowing on it. When your feather hits the ground your group must sit down. Are we ready to begin?

Large group presenter blows his whistle for the contest to begin. Try this several times. Give the group that is the winner in each contest a small candy reward.

A second variation of this is to have the triads go to their knees and try to keep the feather in the air.

A third variation is to give each person a straw and have the group suspend the feather by blowing air through the straw.

Please sit down in your triads and talk about some things that you used to believe about the tooth fairy, or Santa Claus, or the Easter bunny.

Let kids discuss for a few minutes. Then say:

When you talked about how you used to believe in the Easter bunny or Santa Claus, is that the same as having *faith* in them? No, not

really. Having faith means more than believing, but also placing your trust in something or someone.

To trust means that you are willing to rely on someone in complete confidence. Let's see what that feels like.

Have every triad stand up. Explain that everyone falling needs to stand very stiff with their arms to their sides and fall backwards while their two partners catch them. The trick is for the person falling back to keep their feet in the same place and not bend their knees or back.

Make sure the two people catching are in a proper position to catch the person falling back: one on each side holding each other's hands with arms extended. To break the fall, have the catchers place their hands about 12 inches from the mid-back of the faller.

This requires quite a bit of faith for those falling. They cannot see who is behind them—but they still believe they will be caught.

Let the partners switch roles until each student has had a chance to participate in the trust fall. Then (presenter) blow a whistle to get everyone's attention.

Please sit down in your triads again to discuss the following. When we talk about having faith in Jesus as our Savior, it means not only believing that Jesus is God's Son, but also trusting him to be the Savior and Lord of your life.

In your triads, discuss the earliest time you can remember trusting Jesus as your Savior.

After discussion say:

Today we will learn that **the Holy Spirit brings us to faith.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Teaching Point: Coach Widaspirit challenges the kids to see who can hold their breath the longest. His point is that we need air to fill us to live, just like we need the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's presence to live eternally.

Video: *Visual Bible Acts 10:19-48*—The Bible event of Cornelius and how he came to faith.

Audience Participation Skit: Coach Widaspirit invites Busy Betty, Slick Sam, Terrible Tony, and Faithful Frank to share how to receive Jesus as Savior.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Supplies: one "Run the Bases of Faith" sheet per child

Give each kid a Run the Bases of Faith sheet.

As you look at this paper, what base do you see yourself on? Why?

What base were you on last year?

Maybe you are on a different place on the playing field. If so, where are you?

The key verse for today from 1 Corinthians 12:3 says, "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit." And we learned today that **the Holy Spirit brings us to faith.*

So, if you want to move along further on the playing field, all you need to do is ask God to send the Holy Spirit to move you there.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father, thank you that **your Holy Spirit brings us to faith.* We really do want to trust Jesus as our Savior.

Maybe there are some kids here who have never trusted Jesus as their Savior. Maybe they have never prayed asking Jesus to rescue them from their sins and live in their lives.

So, today, we have an opportunity to place our trust in Jesus. First, we admit that we need you. By ourselves, we are sinners that fall far short of your glory. But you still love us. Thank you for that.

Now at second base, we realize that Jesus truly is who he said he is. He is God's Son, and he gave his life for us on the cross. He paid the debt of our sin. He rose again so that he could be with us now. We admit that this is the truth.

At third base, we want to not only believe in Jesus, but we also want to trust him as our Savior. Jesus, please forgive our sin. Lift it off of us so that in your sight, we can be completely holy.

Now we run home and ask Jesus to be Lord of our lives. Live in our hearts so we are able to follow you in all that we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

If you have placed your trust in Jesus, we want you to know for sure that because of God's promise in his word, you are a Christian—a true follower of Jesus. You will always have Jesus living in your heart. He will be with you day by day.

Maybe you would like to talk with one of the shepherds or myself after class to let us know the decision you have made. We will help you continue to grow in your faith as you read the Bible and pray every day.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The Holy Spirit Brings Us to Faith

The character for this series is dressed in a coach's outfit including a baseball cap and whistle. Across the presenter's t-shirt or jersey is the team's name—HOLY SPIRIT BLAZE. This could be as simple as taping the words to the t-shirt or as elaborate as painting them on. The coach is a visual reminder of the Holy Spirit as one who teaches and coaches us. His/her name is Coach Philip/Phyllis Widaspirit. (Saying the first and last name together will sound like "fill up with the Spirit" or "fill us with the Spirit.")

Supplies:

- a small feather
- masking tape to mark a start and finish line
- clear tape
- straws (one for each triad)
- scissors
- small treats for winners
- video Visual Bible: Acts. Show the clip covering chapter 10:19-48, produced by Visual Bible International, 1997
- response cards for Busy Betty, Slick Sam, Terrible Tony, and Faithful Frank (see appendix p. 13-14)
- four duffle bags: one (for Busy Betty) overflowing with sports equipment like tennis racket and a variety of balls, another bag (for Slick Sam) with only one very nice sports outfit or equipment piece, a brown paper bag (for Terrible Tony) with an old t-shirt in it, the last bag (for Faithful Frank) is empty

Introduction

Blow the whistle to get everyone's attention.

Welcome, players. I hope you are ready to be a part of our Holy Spirit Blaze team. Today we will discover that **the Holy Spirit brings us to faith.*

I need one person from each of the triads to come forward and represent your group in a contest. The contest will be to see who can hold their breath the longest.

Bring the volunteers up.

The Holy Spirit Brings Us to Faith

First, tell me how long do you think you can hold your breath?

Take several answers from the volunteers.

Obviously, we cannot live without breathing. We cannot see the air around us, but we must have it to survive. The same is true spiritually. We must have the Holy Spirit who spiritually fills us with the presence of God. He is the one who brings us to faith so we can trust Jesus as our Savior.

Say to the volunteers:

Make sure you pinch your nose and keep your mouth shut. When you hear the whistle, time will begin.

Keep track of the seconds. Give the winner small treats to give to his/her group. Contestants go back to seats in audience.

The Holy Spirit Uses the Message of the Cross to Bring Us to Faith

Show kids the feather.

Imagine that this feather is faith. This feather would never move unless wind was blown on it. Likewise, we would never have faith unless the Holy Spirit works in our life.

How does he get into our lives? He always uses the cross.

Using a straw from the Warm-Up activity, cut 1/3 of it off and tape it to the other part of the straw to make a cross.

When I blow with this straw, it is a demonstration of how God uses the gospel for the Holy Spirit to give us faith and lead us on our journey of faith.

We are going to have another contest.

Pass out scissors and tape to each triad. Say:

Turn your straw into a cross just as I have. We will then have a relay race in which one member of the team will blow his/her feather from the starting line to the finish line and back. He/she will then tag the next person on the team to do the next round. The relay will continue until all three people have had a turn. If the feather drops to the ground, you must pick it up, take one step backwards and start again.

A second option would be for each triad to work together as a team to get the feather from one end of the room to the other.

Cornelius Lesson

After the relay contest, continue with:

In the Bible event today, Peter has just received a vision from God. God now permits foods that were considered unclean and forbidden to be eaten by the Jews. God demonstrates that now he is pouring out his Spirit on people who are not Jewish, which was the nationality of the first disciples.

Peter was called to Cornelius's house. Cornelius was not a follower of Jesus, but he did fear God. He was searching for God.

Video

Show the video, *Visual Bible: Acts* produced by Visual Bible International, 1997. Show the clip covering Acts 10:19-48.

When the Holy Spirit Knocks on Your Heart, You Need to Respond Audience Participation Skit

After the video, choose four helpers from the audience to do a skit. Place the corresponding nametag on each volunteer and give each a sports bag. The helpers include: Busy Betty, Slick Sam, Terrible Tony, and Faithful Frank

Give each volunteer a response card. This is the only response they are allowed to say when talking with the presenter, Coach Widaspirit. The response cards are as follows:

- Busy Betty's response is, "I'm too busy, busy, busy!"
- Slick Sam's response is, "I'm slick and quick. I'm good enough."
- Terrible Tony's is, "I'm just no good."
- Faithful Frank's response is, "Yes!"

C. Widaspirit: **It's recruitment season here at Camp Holy Spirit Blaze. I have invited a few people to join our team. Now this is not an ordinary team. This is a team in which there is a friendship with God.**

The first person I have invited is Busy Betty. Would you please come forward? You must be having a great summer. You sure have a lot of stuff in your bag. What do you have to say to us today?

Busy Betty: **I'm too busy, busy, busy.**

C. Widaspirit: I do understand that you are busy. But here at this camp, we want everyone to slow down and ask themselves some important questions about God.

Busy Betty: I'm too busy, busy, busy.

C. Widaspirit: The Holy Spirit may be moving in your heart to show you that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior who is Jesus.

Busy Betty: I'm too busy, busy, busy.

C. Widaspirit: If you do not stop to listen about Jesus, the Holy Spirit will not be able to work in your heart.

Busy Betty: I'm too busy, busy, busy.

C. Widaspirit: Well, we have heard from Busy Betty.

Busy Betty steps back or walks back to her seat.

Let's go to Slick Sam. Slick Sam would you please step forward. I am so glad you are at camp where you will hear about having a relationship with God. Slick Sam can you tell us about your sports bag?

Slick Sam: I'm slick and quick. I'm good enough!

C. Widaspirit: I can see that you are slick and quick. But are you really good enough for everything? Would you say so?

Slick Sam: I'm slick and quick. I'm good enough!

C. Widaspirit: But, Slick Sam, there are some things that no one is good enough to accomplish. The Bible tells us that no person is perfect. Everyone has fallen short of God's glory. What do you have to say?

Slick Sam: I'm slick and quick. I'm good enough!

C. Widaspirit: Until you get to the point that you can admit you are a sinner, you will not see the need for Jesus as your Savior. Do you agree?

Slick Sam: I'm slick and quick. I'm good enough!

C. Widaspirit: You are not letting the Holy Spirit speak to you. Is this true?

Slick Sam: I'm slick and quick. I'm good enough!

C. Widaspirit: Well, that is all the talking we can do right now. I am going to need to move on to Terrible Tony.

Slick Sam moves back and Terrible Tony steps forward.

Terrible Tony, everyone else here has a sports bag, why do only have a brown paper bag?

Terrible Tony: I'm just no good!

C. Widaspirit: It can't be all that bad. Let's see what items you have in your bag. What would you have to say about your sports ability?

Pull out the old shirt from the bag.

Terrible Tony: I'm just no good!

C. Widaspirit: I'm so sorry that you feel so bad about yourself. Did you know that God wants you to feel good about yourself?

Terrible Tony: I'm just no good!

C. Widaspirit: Even if you feel like you are just no good, God wants to take away your sin so you can feel good about yourself. First, you must admit to him you are a sinner, and receive his love by trusting in Jesus.

Terrible Tony: I'm just no good!

C. Widaspirit: Do you really believe that you are no good? Do you believe that you are not good enough for God to love you?

Terrible Tony: I'm just no good!

C. Widaspirit: Sorry that you are not able to accept and receive God's love. I am going to move on and talk with Faithful Frank.

Terrible Tony steps back and Faithful Frank steps forward.

Hello, Faithful Frank. Can we see what is in your bag?

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: I see that it is empty. I suppose you want someone to fill it.

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: Maybe you are willing to let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart and have a relationship with God.

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: This is FANTASTIC! Let's go through the game plan that will allow this to happen. To go to first base you need to admit that you are a sinner. Do you admit that you are a sinner?

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: At second base, I ask if you recognize that Jesus is God's Son?

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: Next on to third base. Do you trust that Jesus paid the price for your sins by dying on the cross and being raised from the dead three days later?

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: Because of this, are you willing to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins?

Faithful Frank: Yes!

C. Widaspirit: Your sins are forgiven. Let's go all the way home. Are you willing to ask Jesus to be Lord of your life?

Faithful Frank: YES!

C. Widaspirit: Well, congratulations! You are now a part of the Holy Spirit Blaze team. The Holy Spirit has worked faith in your life. I bet you are happy about that!

Faithful Frank: YES!

C. Widaspirit: I bet you have to admit that I am the best large group presenter that you have ever seen.

Faithful Frank: YES!

Have all volunteers sit down and dismiss kids to return to their triads or small groups where they will continue.

APPENDIX A: Responses for Volunteers

(two pages)

BUSY BETTY

No matter what is asked, respond with the following:

“I’m too busy, busy, busy!”

SLICK SAM

No matter what is asked, respond with the following:

**“I’m slick and quick. I’m
good enough!”**

TERRIBLE TONY

No matter what is asked, respond with the following:

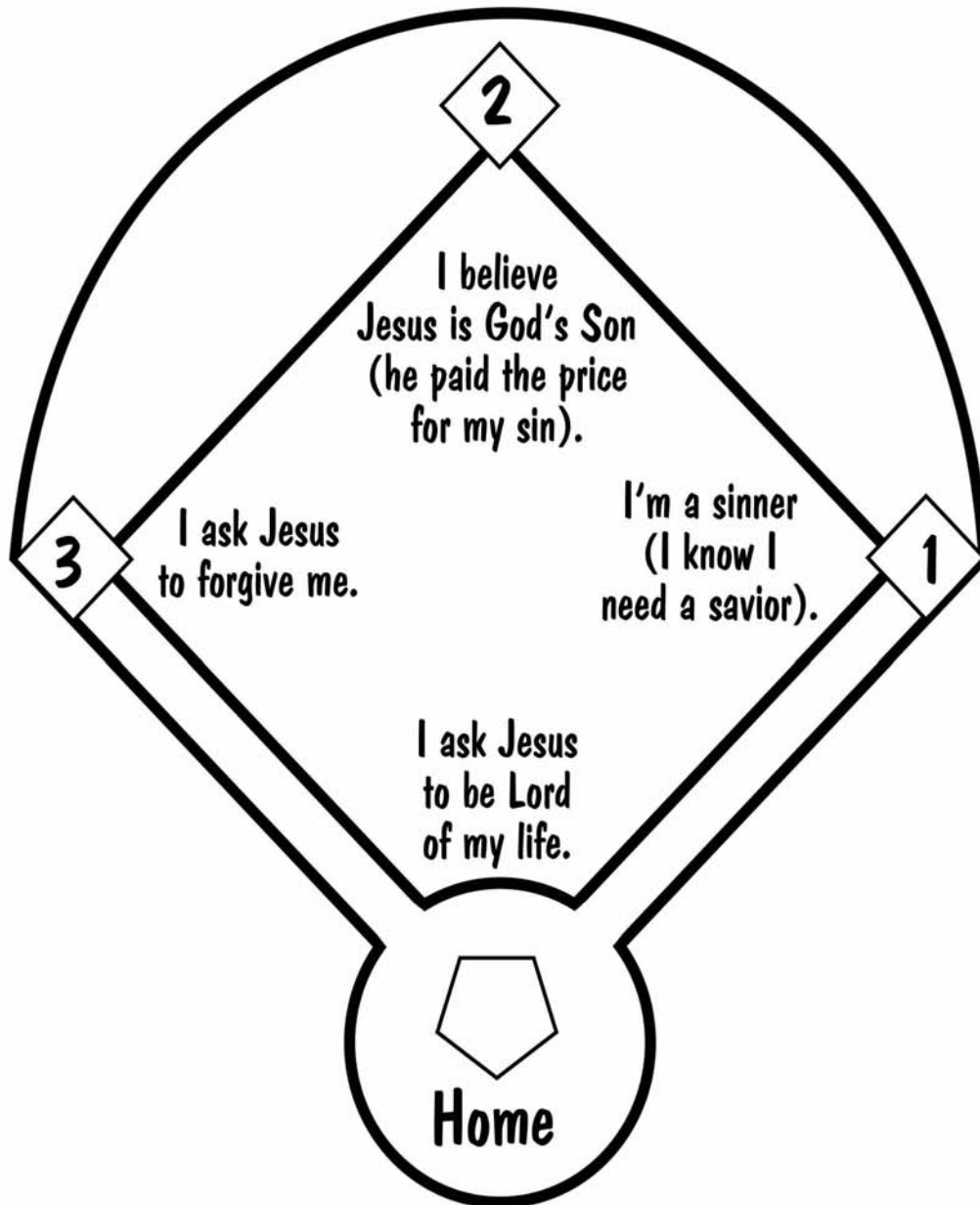
“I’m just no good!”

FAITHFUL FRANK

No matter what is asked, respond with the following:

“Yes”

Running the Bases of Faith



Where Are You in Running the Bases?