

# **Yesterday. Today. Forever.**

## **Module: Telling The Story**

### **Lesson 4: Living With Consistently Spirit-Filled Faith**

#### **Objectives:**

- Students will learn about Paul's example of Spirit-filled faith.
- Students will see that with the help of the Holy Spirit they can tell the story of God's love
- Students will understand that Spirit-filled faith should be consistent.

#### **Materials Needed**

- ☐ Items to obstruct someone walking (e.g. chairs, boxes, tables etc.)
- ☐ 5 blindfolds
- ☐ 6 simple puzzles that are each colour coded. (A simple way to do this is to tape all the pieces of one puzzle to sheets of the same coloured paper so each group has one colour.
- ☐ 2 half-sheets of paper per student.
- ☐ 1 pen for each student.
- ☐ A picture or drawing of a bird's eye view of a baseball stadium (including the field, the dugout, the crowd, the car park and the local street)
- ☐ Reflective music
- ☐ Flip chart (or a large roll newsprint) and markers
- ☐ optional: small prizes for the winner of "Minds On"

## Minds On

Ask students to share their answer to this question: “In Star Wars, what would be your favourite thing about having ‘the force’?” Invite as many responses as you’d like.

**Prompt:** In Star Wars, the force guided the Jedi Knights. You often hear them say things such as, “The force is strong with this one” and “I sense a disturbance in the force.” As Christians, we don’t believe in the force, but we do believe in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit guided Jesus and we read in the Bible that the Spirit is also available to guide each one of us. We have looked at having consistently contagious, active and Christ-like faith and how we tell the story through that. However, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can become aware of where God is at work around us and join in. We can learn to let the Holy Spirit guide our words and actions and be sensitive to contexts and situations that we find ourselves.

Divide students into 6 teams (you can use fewer if your group is smaller). Give each group a blindfold and a colour to be looking for. Then take the puzzle pieces and spread them throughout the room, making sure all the pieces have their colour codes face up. (A large space like a gym or parking lot would be recommended.) Have each team gather in one spot in the room; they need to remain there the entire game. When you say “go”, one member of each team will put on the blindfold while the other team members verbally give directions to a piece of the team’s puzzle. The team must stay at their designated spot in the room. After the piece is retrieved, the person returns to the group, still blindfolded. Once they have made it back, the blindfold is passed to another person and they repeat the process. Once all the pieces have been retrieved, the group can put the puzzle together. The first team to finish wins. You can award prizes to the winning team if appropriate.

Gather everyone into the larger group. Debrief by asking student about the experience.

What made it difficult?

What would have made it easier?

Would it have helped if your team could have travelled with you? Why?  
(They should say something like it would have been easier to hear instructions or follow their direction if they were walking with them.)

**Prompt:** Today, we're going to explore what a Spirit-filled faith is.

## **Action**

Have the group read John 14:16-17, 26 together.

**Prompt:** There are many times we wish we had Jesus in front of us so we could ask Him what we should do in certain situations. However, Jesus reassured His disciples (us included) that He will not leave us on our own. He promised that He would leave a helper to help guide us through life. As we live our day-to-day lives we have the Holy Spirit to help us tell the story. What does that look like exactly?

(Leader's note: It may be helpful to explain to the students some of the ways we can feel the Spirit guiding us e.g. an internal feelings in our heart, little nudging from our conscience, affirmation from another person, coincidental openings in our life, dreams, pictures in our minds, etc. If appropriate, allow students to discuss or ask questions. You may also choose to share how the Holy Spirit has led you.)

Divide students into groups of 3-4. Each group will read Acts 16:6-10 together and answer the following question, "How did Paul follow the Spirit? (How did he know?)" Afterwards, gather everyone into the larger group and have each group report their answer.

**Prompt:** Sometimes, it can appear a little intimidating as it reads that Paul just knew what the Spirit wanted. It can be much tougher than that for some of us. However, sometimes we're in situations we recognize we shouldn't be in (e.g. gossiping about

another person behind their back, watching something we shouldn't, etc.). Perhaps that is the Holy Spirit. If we have a faith that tells the story we must listen to our Guide.

Back in their groups, have students discuss two questions:

- What are some other examples where the Spirit might be letting us know we are somewhere we shouldn't be?
- How can we avoid being in these situations in future?

**Prompt:** When you let the Holy Spirit guide you, you will become a different person. In the following passage Paul tells us what the visible signs are that we are being Spirit led consistently.

Have a student read Galatians 5:22-26 to the group.

Invite them to come and write the fruits of the Spirit they remember on a flip chart. It does not matter if words are repeated.

**Prompt:** If you're wondering whether you are being guided by the Holy Spirit, ask yourself if these characteristics are evident in you. (Better yet, ask someone else if they see them in you.) It will help you to see where you can still improve as you more intentionally listen to the Holy Spirit.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

**Prompt:** A faith that is consistently Spirit Filled takes time and practice. It takes prayer, action and support around you. We may see that we are actually hearing from God's Spirit already and are perhaps choosing to ignore it or listening to it. Whatever stage we are at it is important to understand that God wants to interact with us and He hasn't left us on our own. He wants to help us tell the story through lives. We have a helper who is

there to guide us in every aspect of life. When we live a life that is consistently Spirit filled, it will not go unnoticed to others.

Bring out your (birds-eye view) drawing of a baseball field.

**Prompt:** We're all at different stages of our journey with God. This picture represents the faith journey that we are on. Some of us might feel like we are in the game and right in the thick of it and doing really well. Some of us might feel like we are just watching in the audience. Some of us might have been ejected from the game and are having an early shower. Some of us might still be in the car, we have the ticket but we just cannot bring ourselves to go inside.

Invite students to take a pen, and draw themselves onto the drawing. (Leader's note: Make a note of where the young people place themselves on the field. This could be a helpful tool for you to know how students see themselves and to help guide them through their next steps.)

Play some reflective music.

Invite students to write a short note to the Holy Spirit. These will stay private. In this note write honestly and openly about what, if anything, you would like the Spirit's help with in your life. This is a great first step in being guided by the Spirit.

Close in prayer.