

This session's objectives:

- To encounter the Mystery of the Trinity and use symbols to experience mystery on a human level
- To explore and explain the symbols of the Holy Spirit (wind, breath, water, fire, anointing with oil, sealing, dove) through the Scriptural tradition and personal experiences of what these symbols mean

This session's program:

1. **Name-tag pick-up; turn in late forms** 5 min 6:45
2. **Secret Identity Icebreaker** 10 min 6:50
- icebreaker: if you had superpowers and a secret identity (like the comic book hero of your choice), what would you do with those powers that you do not ordinarily do? If time: share textbook p. 17
3. **Opening Prayer** *Glory Be (inside fr. cover of textbk) as embodied prayer* (Rachel) 5 min 7:00
4. **The Holy Spirit in the Trinity / What is a Symbol?** (Rachel) 10 min 7:05
- three persons in one God – different actions by different persons (connect to icebreaker)
- Father creates, Son saves, Holy Spirit moves, etc. – but triune as one God
- images from writings of different saints: rose, 3-leaf clover, loving relationship, music, light
- images of the Holy Spirit (textbook list, pp. 3, 6-7): water, anointing, fire, dove, wind, [breath]
- symbols/images mean different things according to context (+ as plus sign, cross, intersection)
- symbol is a representation, not the thing itself → the Holy Spirit is not literally a white pigeon eating birdseed, but there are some things about the Holy Spirit that are like a dove
- a Sacramental sign is more than just a symbol – touchable, accomplishes the work of God
- bread & wine → Body & Blood of Christ - Chrism → indelible seal of the Holy Spirit
5. **Breakout Session (At Tables)** 55 min 7:15
- each table group has a different aspect of the symbols of Confirmation / the Holy Spirit:
Example: seal (preservation) Red: water (nourishing/refreshing) Green: dove (lightness)
Orange: fire (light) Yellow: fire (powerful change) Pink: Breath (spark of life)
Black: wind (creating/shaping) Purple: oil (perfume/purity) Blue: oil (protection)
- each table will have four kinds of tools to discuss the aspect:
- tangible, modern-day examples of the aspect - a question sheet to guide discussion
- pictures/videos/samples that place the aspect in a larger context
- Scripture passages of that aspect's meaning in the Biblical tradition
- each table should:
- select notetaker(s) and spokesperson(s) to report their findings to the bigger group
- make poster(s) (pairs or trios of youth) about their Spirit symbol to demonstrate its meaning
- choose one of the posters to represent your table's work
- each table should be able to report on their symbol (oil, water, fire, dove, breath, wind):
- summarize what this symbol tells us about the Holy Spirit in light of what they saw/read/talked/thought about
- share chosen poster representing that symbol (if not finished, should explain plan)
6. **Tables Report to the Larger Group** (~2 minutes each) 15 min 8:10
7. **Prayer & Homework** (Rachel) 5 min 8:25
Prayer of the Holy Spirit (from the textbook, p. iv)

Homework for Candidates:

- **RISE UP Retreat** is this Friday! 8:30 a.m. at church basement, pick up 2:30 p.m. from church
- read/do **textbook pp. 6-7** and **journal pp. 44-47**, due at next class:
 - o Track A Mon. evening 10/30; Track B Wed. 11/1 & Friday 11/3 in Religion class
 - o **bring back to next class** your folder, Bible, textbook, & journal

PREPARATION SUMMARY BY TABLE

EXAMPLE (Ms. Rachel Hohner) WITH WHOLE CLASS

Spirit Theme: Seal as preservation/security

Tangible Object(s): #10-sized envelopes, tamper-evident bag or zip-ties

Photograph(s): safety seal on a bottle cap; bride & groom hands wearing wedding rings

Scripture Passage(s): “set me as a seal on your heart,” the Scroll sealed with seven seals, “he has also put his seal upon us,” “sealed for the day of redemption”

Take-home Token(s): gold certificate seal stickers

BLACK TABLE (Mr. J. Keenan Fix)

Spirit Theme: Wind as the shaper of life

Tangible Object(s): electric fan

Photograph(s): wind-swept tree, sand dunes

Scripture Passage(s): Genesis 1:1-2

“a mighty wind sweeping over the waters”

Genesis 7:24-8:1

winds blowing away Flood water

John 3:3-8

“the wind blows where it wills”

Acts 2:1-4

Pentecost

Take-home Token(s): folding fan

BLUE TABLE (Mrs. Stella Peters)

Spirit Theme: Oil as Protection

Tangible Object(s): bottle of motor oil, bottle of hand lotion

Photograph(s): car engine, hands with lotion

Scripture Passage(s): 1 Samuel 10:1

Samuel anoints Saul as king

2 Chronicles 28:14-15

prisoners’ wounds are tended

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anoints David as king

Take-home Token(s): lip balm

GREEN TABLE (Mr. J. Keenan Fix for Ms. Rachel Hohner)

Spirit Theme: Dove as Lightness

Tangible Object(s): dove figurine and white feathers

Photograph(s): dove in flight

Video(s): doves leaving a dovecote & flying away

Scripture Passage(s): Psalm 55:6-7

“wish I had wings like a dove”

Matthew 10:16

“be gentle as doves”

Matthew 3:16-17

Baptism of Jesus

Take-home Token(s): feather and Dove™ chocolate candy

ORANGE TABLE (Mr. Scott Michaels)

Spirit Theme: Fire as Light

Tangible Object(s): Lighter/matches and a candle to light (*please be careful with these!*)

Photograph(s): Lit candles in a dark room, campfire

Scripture Passage(s): Isaiah 9:1-3

“The people who walked in darkness”

Exodus 13:21-22

Columns of Cloud & Fire

Acts 2:1-4

Pentecost (*see box p. 1443*)

Take-home Token(s): Candle in candle-holder

CONTINUED →

PINK TABLE (Ms. Janet Fernandez for Mrs. Karina Chan)

Spirit Theme: Breath as the spark of life

Tangible Object(s): one bottle of bubbles

Photograph(s): checking for breath while giving CPR, blowing dandelion seeds

Scripture Passage(s): Genesis 2:7 God breathes life into Adam
1 Kings 19:11-13 Elijah finds God in the tiny whispering sound
Luke 8:40-42, 49-55 Jairus' daughter returns to life
John 20:19-23 "receive the Holy Spirit"

Take-home Token(s): party blowers

PURPLE TABLE (Mrs. Roine Dryer-Michaels)

Spirit Theme: Oil as Scent

Tangible Object(s): Glade™ scented oil refills, perfume samples

Photograph(s): priest incensing an altar, woman spraying perfume

Scripture Passage(s): Ruth 3:3 Ruth puts on perfume
Psalm 45:8-9 "anointed... with the oil of gladness"
Proverbs 27:9 "perfume and incense bring joy"
1 Samuel 16:1-13 Samuel anoints David as king

Take-home Token(s): car air fresheners; breath-freshening mints infused with peppermint oil

RED TABLE (Ms. Leticia Solache)

Spirit Theme: Water as Life-Giving (Nourishing & Refreshing)

Tangible Object(s): ice-water and cups, seashells

Photograph(s): life in a coral reef, seascape, desert oasis landscape

Scripture Passage(s): Psalm 42:2-3 "as the deer longs for streams of water"
Ezekiel 36:24-25 "I will sprinkle clean water over you"
Psalm 36:8-10 "the fountain of life"
Matthew 10:42 "whoever gives... a cup of cold water"
**John 7:37-39 "rivers of living water will flow from him" /
"let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink"**

Take-home Token(s): tiny bottles of water, pretty seashells

YELLOW TABLE (Ms. Isabel Lopez)

Spirit Theme: Fire as Powerful Change

Tangible Object(s): dish of ashes ***Photo(s):*** muffins being baked, burgers being grilled

Scripture Passage(s): Exodus 3:1-6, (7-12) Moses and the burning bush
2 Kings 2:9-11, (12-15) Elijah, Elisha & the Fiery Chariot
Acts 2:1-4 Pentecost

Take-home Token(s): home-baked blueberry muffins